



TO BE A VOICE AND ADVOCATE FOR WILDLIFE AND THE ECOSYSTEMS THAT SUSTAIN ALL LIFE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: AUGUST 14TH ANNOUNCEMENT “B.C. GOVERNMENT PUTTING AN END TO THE GRIZZLY BEAR TROPHY HUNT”

Politically motivated wildlife policies have led to management decisions that are not in the best interest of all wildlife and the people of B.C. The citizens of B.C. should be aware that the decision to end the grizzly hunt was made without benefit of scientific rationale or broad First Nations consultation. Some First Nations in B.C. have long engaged in guide outfitting as a way of life. Many others are now acquiring guide licenses to increase economic opportunities and management within traditional territories.

Every area of the province is unique; therefore, regionally unique management solutions make sense. One size does not fit all! B.C. needs a comprehensive, coordinated and collaborative approach to wildlife management. Isolating one species as the target of management does not acknowledge that everything is connected and does nothing to sustain that species. Efforts are underway around the province to start the recovery of Caribou and Moose populations. Grizzlies are a major Caribou and Moose predator in some areas and removing them from the overall management plan will not benefit wildlife populations broadly. Underfunded wildlife departments have led to gaps in our knowledge about the importance of a balance within wildlife populations.

All of us play a role in looking after wildlife in B.C. We all impact wildlife and the ecosystems which support their survival whether we are hunters, live in a wood home, or engage in ecotourism. We implore the Government of B.C. to adopt a roundtable approach to wildlife management where the rights and opportunities of First Nations are properly considered before ill-informed prohibition announcements are made that will impact wildlife negatively.

Ending a well-regulated commercial grizzly hunt will remove the value from these animals which will in turn have the unintended consequence of more grizzlies being killed as they become interpreted as a nuisance. Politically motivated unilateral decision making needs to be replaced with regionally appropriate, collaborative wildlife management so that wildlife in B.C. has a chance to thrive.

For more information please contact

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