



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AUGUST 17 2017

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. A most recent example is the proposed regulation change to the grizzly hunt that will require hunters to retrieve the meat, a change which the Wildlife Stewardship Council fully supports and has advocated for years. However, the citizens of B.C should also be aware that this same proposal will also force hunters to leave the hide, skull and claws behind, thus preventing the use of all parts of the animal. Substituting the retrieval of one part of a harvested animal for another part makes no sense. The WSC believes that any regulation requiring the wasting of any animal part is wrong.

The WSC also believes that the proposed regulation change devalues grizzlies by legislating this kind of waste. Experience from other jurisdictions around the world tells us that it will likely result in more grizzlies being killed as they become viewed as a nuisance rather than as a valuable resource. Politically motivated unilateral decision making needs to be replaced with regionally appropriate, collaborative wildlife management so that all wildlife in B.C. is valued and respected.

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 or not we are hunters, live in a rural home or a high rise, or engage in ecotourism. This proposed regulation change was made without benefit of scientific rationale or consultation with user groups, including First Nations. We implore the Government of B.C. to adopt a roundtable approach to wildlife management where the rights and opportunities of First Nations and other stakeholders are properly considered before ill-advised regulation changes are proposed that will impact wildlife negatively.

For more information please contact

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