From:	FLNR RSD ADM"s Office FLNR:EX
To:	president@bcinteriorsci.ca; secretary@bcinteriorsci.ca
Cc:	Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Subject:	Reference: 256712 - Caribou Recovery & Primary Prey Reduction Program
Date:	Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:00:47 PM
Attachments:	Caribou Recovery & PPRP Moose June 15 2020 Final.pdf

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Reference: 256712

July 14, 2020

VIA EMAIL: president@bcinteriorsci.ca

Robin Unrau, President
Interior Chapter SCI
Hunters for BC
5070 MacKinnon Road
Peachland, British Columbia

Dear Robin Unrau:

Thank you for your letter dated June 15, 2020 to Minister Donaldson regarding the caribou recovery and primary prey reduction program for moose. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

Mountain caribou recovery is a top priority for this government, as is improved wildlife management and habitat conservation more generally. With respect to moose, the province is taking steps to improve populations throughout most of its range and conducting a large-scale Provincial Research Program.

We do not currently have a stand-alone, prey reduction program implemented. There are two localised areas where moose population objectives require more liberal harvest approaches in conjunction with predator reduction and habitat management actions. Specifically, predator reduction began in 2017 in both the Parsnip and Revelstoke Caribou Recovery Areas. Moose populations have increased since management of wolves started, and cow/calf harvest is being implemented to stabilize moose populations in these overlapping areas. This multi-species approach is expected to be a better solution towards achieving caribou recovery along with habitat management actions. We appreciate your noted support for taking multiple management actions concurrently.

This management strategy of stabilising moose populations in caribou recovery areas continues to be closely monitored and contributes to research on the recovery of mountain caribou. We appreciate the BC Interior SCI's support on this science-based approach with clear management objectives.

Looking ahead, caribou recovery herd management objectives are being developed through regional caribou recovery planning processes and I encourage your organization to participate in these processes.

The Together for Wildlife Strategy is also nearing completion and many of the actions are directly related to your recommendations regarding scientific management practices, objective setting, population and habitat management decisions, transparency and accountability. Early implementation of the Strategy is already underway.

More information on predator/prey management within these two areas is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/moose/moosecaribou_two-pager.pdf

More information on the Together for Wildlife Strategy is available at: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/wildlifeandhabitat/

The most recent Fact Sheet summarizing moose management through the Province is available at:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/management-issues/docs/2019%20Moose%20Factsheet.pdf

Again, I appreciate your interest and concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Liesch
Executive Director of Natural Resources
Resource Stewardship Division

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

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From: secretary@bcinteriorsci.ca <secretary@bcinteriorsci.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: 'Robin unrau' <president@bcinteriorsci.ca>
Subject: Caribou Recovery & Primary Prey Reduction Program

Dear Minister Donaldson,

On behalf of our organization, Hunters for BC – Interior Chapter SCI, we have attached our response to the antlerless moose harvests in British Columbia and the Primary Prey Reduction Program as a management strategy for caribou recovery in this Province.

Regards,

Board of Directors & Members,
Hunters for BC – Interior Chapter SCI

cc Robin Unrau, President