

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BULLETS**

Date: August 24, 2017

File: 280/20 BN

CLIFF: 230007

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

ISSUE: Meeting with the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia:

- 1) Grizzly bear hunting
- 2) The future of the outfitting industry
- 3) Wildlife management in British Columbia

BULLETS:

1) Grizzly Bear Hunting

- Effective November 30, 2017, the British Columbia Government will end grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Guide outfitters outside the Great Bear Rainforest will still be issued grizzly bear quota and be permitted to guide grizzly bear hunters. However, there will not be an ability to remove or keep trophies.
- Over the next few months Government will consult with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms as B.C. moves toward ending the trophy hunt. Regulation amendments to end the trophy hunt are planned to be drafted by December.
- Historically the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia (GOABC) has supported regulation proposals that would require hunters to retrieve the edible portions of harvested grizzly bears (and cougar); many guide outfitters currently donate grizzly bear meat to food banks.
- GOABC may request compensation for guides related to the decision. There is no compensation scheme under the *Wildlife Act*. However, Government may want to consider the economic impacts to rural areas. In 2001, Government did provide compensation to the guides when a three-year grizzly bear moratorium was put in place.
- Grizzly bear harvest accounts for 2.8% percent of all guided big game harvest. There are approximately 87 guide outfitters in the province that provide guiding services for grizzly bears.
- Current estimates indicate there are two guide territory certificates containing First Nations' interest in the Great Bear Rainforest with a quota of 20 grizzly bears and 12 guide territory certificates outside the Great Bear Rainforest with a quota of 31 grizzly bears.

2) Ministry commitments to ensure future of the Guide Outfitting Industry

- Current Government policy on Commercial Hunting Interests includes statements that support the viability of the guide outfitting industry:
 - Requiring non-resident hunters to hire a guide outfitter to hunt big game, except when permits to accompany are issued.
 - Providing guided hunters with predictable, fair allocation shares.
 - Timely application of decision making processes regarding the transfer and disposition of guide territories.

- Timely review of the status of uncertificated areas.
- Creating and maintaining a regulatory framework that maximizes guided hunters' success, enjoyment and participation.
- The maintenance of exclusive guided hunting rights for guide outfitters.

3) Wildlife Management in B.C.

- The GOABC argues for science-based wildlife management and the provision of sustainable hunting opportunities.
- Government has committed to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation and collaborate with stakeholders to develop short and long term strategies to manage B.C.'s wildlife resources.
- Collaboration and consultation with First Nations and stakeholders will be foundational to finalizing B.C.'s goals and priority activities to improve wildlife management.
- Government programs are advancing work to:
 - recover moose and caribou populations;
 - develop a provincial strategy for inventory and monitoring big game species;
 - develop management plans for grizzly bear, thimhorn sheep and rocky mountain elk;
 - centralize and standardize harvest allocation for allocated big game species;
 - continue modernizing permit and licencing services to an online system.
- Past discussions with stakeholders identified the dedication of funding from hunting licence and permit revenue back into wildlife management activities as a starting point for increased stabilized funding.

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A/ADM	RWT	August 29, 2017
A/ PRGM Dir.	MR	August 25, 2017

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: August 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230574

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

ISSUE: First Nations and stakeholder consultation on ending the Grizzly Bear trophy hunt and enhanced wildlife management in BC

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017, government announced two initiatives: (1) that it will end Grizzly Bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, effective November 30, 2017 (2) that there will be a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

In the announcement, there was a commitment to consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms towards ending the trophy hunt. It also stated that government will be moving forward with a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province. This includes identifying dedicated funding for wildlife from hunting licence revenue and habitat conservation and a collaborative process in developing short and long-term plans for wildlife resources.

The Minister's mandate letter similarly contains instructions to "improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop long and short term strategies to manage BC's wildlife resources."

DISCUSSION:

The consultation process for both initiatives will be run concurrently.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch will consult on the end of Grizzly Bear trophy hunting and the end of all hunting of Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest in accordance with their standard process for consulting First Nations and stakeholders. This process will conclude by October 31, 2017. A timeline for this consultation process can be found in Appendix A.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch has entered into an agreement with the Fraser Basin Council to lead or support a consultation process with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to inform opinions on an enhanced wildlife management strategy. The deliverables from the consultation process are expected by March 2018.

There are three consultation options on an enhanced wildlife management strategy.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Investigative

- Led by Fraser Basin Council and the Fish and Wildlife Branch;
- Largely an online process;
- First Nations, stakeholders and the public invited to submit their views on enhanced wildlife management;
- Submissions are compiled into a report; and
- Based on the report recommendations are made to the Minister.

Pros:

- Relatively inexpensive and simple;
- Easily meets the proposed timeframe;
- Avoids open disagreement between First Nations, stakeholders and members of the public.

Cons:

- Less effective in obtaining collective ownership and “buy-in” of the recommended approach;
- Less collaborative;
- Expectations from public and stakeholders may be for extensive process.

Option 2: Minister’s Advisory Council

- Minister appoints an advisory council comprised of wildlife management experts and neutral professionals e.g. lawyer, accountant;
- If stakeholder representatives are included on the advisory council, it could jeopardize success;
- Advisory council travels the province to obtain input from First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public;
- Advisory council provides report and makes recommendations to the Minister.

Pros:

- Advisory Council will be more effective in drafting informed recommendations;
- More transparent process and increases the likelihood of implementing actions quickly and achieving a high level of buy-in among First Nations, stakeholders and members of the public.

Cons:

- More costly;
- May take time to appoint the Council. It is a tight timeframe;
- May appear inconsistent with the objective of full collaboration as final recommendations are made by the Advisory Council.

Option 3: Round Table

- An invitation to is sent to First Nations, stakeholders and the public to participate in a Round Table in a central location;
- Each group is asked to designate a representative to attend the Round Table;
- Fraser Basin Council facilitator will meet with representatives to clarify the Round Table process;
- Fraser Basin Council facilitator will conduct focus groups with First Nations, stakeholder and the public;

- Based on focus groups input recommendations will be made to the Minister.

Pros:

- More inclusive and collaborative process;
- Greater potential for obtaining collective ownership and buy-in of the recommended approach;
- Would appear to the public as the most inclusive consultative process.

Cons:

- Success will be dependent on a skilled process facilitator;
- Success will be dependent on the willingness of First Nations, stakeholder and the public to work towards a consensus;
- Choosing representatives from stakeholder organizations, First Nations and the public will be a divisive process;
- May take time to form the Round Table and work towards consensus;
- May not be able to form consensus and make focused recommendations to Minister.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Minister's Advisory Council

Approved / Not Approved

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

Date

Attachment(s): Grizzly Bear Regulation Consultation Process

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PRGM Mgr.	PL and MR	August 24, 2017
Author	CW	August 24, 2017

Grizzly Bear Regulations Consultation Process

Consultation

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 5th, conference calls starting week of September 25th. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13th. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20th.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – September 5th.

Stakeholders

- Engagement with stakeholders begins week of September 5th. Contact key stakeholders and arrange face to face meetings.
- Conclude face to face meetings by October 20th.

Public and Internal Government

- Engagement with internal government Ministers/agencies. September 1st to October 20th.
- Engagement with public. Public comment period via website September 11th - October 20th.

NOTE: The timeframe allows staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: August 28, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230691

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: First Nations and Stakeholder Consultation on ending the Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt and enhanced wildlife management in BC

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017, government announced that it was putting an end to grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, effective November 30, 2017. There was a commitment by Government to consult with First Nations and stakeholders to determine next steps and mechanisms towards ending the trophy hunt and that this would occur in September and October.

The announcement also stated that Government will be moving forward with a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province. This includes identifying dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation and a collaborative process in developing short and long-term plans for wildlife resources. The Minister's mandate letter contains similar instructions.

The purpose of this note is to outline the suggested method for conducting the consultation process for ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt. As well as provide some options for discussion on how to proceed with the broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

DISCUSSION:

Government's announcement in August indicated that it would consult on both the end of the grizzly bear trophy hunt and an renewed wildlife management strategy. Staff are suggesting that the consultation methods should be separated to recognize the different scope of discussion that will likely occur related to the grizzly bear versus a renewed strategy and to help ensure that the necessary regulatory amendments for the grizzly bear file can be completed within the expected timeframe.

Consultation on changes to Grizzly Bear Hunt

The Fish and Wildlife Branch is proposing to lead the consultation on the regulation amendment(s) to the end of grizzly bear trophy hunting and the end of all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The branch will consult with First Nations and engage stakeholders using the normal consultation process used for regulatory amendments. To have the regulation amendment(s) ready for a decision by December 2017, see Appendix A for outline of process and timing.

Consultation on an Enhanced Wildlife Management Strategy

British Columbians' and First Nations will welcome the opportunity to discuss and put forward their ideas on a renewed wildlife management strategy.

A consultation process on a renewed strategy will provide a venue to discuss the current acrimonious relationship concerning wildlife (e.g., Wolf, Cariboo and Moose management). Many of the concerns have been documented in public forums and government reports such as by Mike Morris in his review of wildlife habitat in August 2015 and by Al Gorley in his report on moose in October 2016.

These recent reports and other discussions have highlighted the importance of our province's wildlife resource which contributes to the cultural and economic fabric of the province. It is well documented that our wildlife plays a central role in First Nations' traditional culture, as well as recreational activities that enhance the health and well-being of British Columbians and visitors and the many forces influencing wildlife and the management of them.

A broader consultation will be seen by most people as an effort by government to reconcile many of the divergent attitudes, opinions, concerns and interests when it comes to our wildlife. As a first step to advance this initiative, the method and the timing of this broader consultation process needs to be determined.

There are various consultation methods available that could be used to solicit input on the enhanced strategy, a few examples are provided below for discussion purposes:

- **Independent Expert led**
(e.g., Al Gorley's lead process that led to a report on moose in 2016; Jim Snetsinger led process that led to report on volume to area conversion)
- **Parliamentary Secretary led**
(e.g., Mike Morris (2015) conducted a review of policies and strategies that guide the management of wildlife habitat, within the context of British Columbia's resource based economy)
- **Independent Investigative Approach**
(Led by a contractor (e.g., Fraser Basin Council; with support of the Fish and Wildlife Branch)
- **Minister's Advisory Council**
(e.g., Minister appoints an advisory council),
- **Round Table Approach**
(e.g., facilitated process where First Nations, stakeholders and the public invited to participate in a Round Table)

Each method has strengths and weaknesses and would require different time frames. The Fish and Wildlife Branch has an agreement with the Fraser Basin Council to lead or support a consultation process should a decision be made to utilize this service. This process could start in the fall and be completed with recommendations to the Minister by early 2018.

NEXT STEPS:

Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Stewardship Division to discuss consultation processes with the Deputy Minister and provide direction to staff.

Attachment:

- A. Grizzly Bear Regulation Consultation Process

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Attachment A: Grizzly Bear Regulations Consultation Process

Consultation

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 5, conference calls starting week of September 25. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – September 5.

Stakeholders

- Engagement with stakeholders begins week of September 5. Contact key stakeholders and arrange face to face meetings.
- Conclude face to face meetings by October 20.

Public and Internal Government

- Engagement with internal Government Ministers/Agencies. September 1 to October 20.
- Engagement with public. Public comment period via website September 11 to October 20.

NOTE: The timeframe will allow staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 8, 2017
File: 280-20
CLIFF: 230929

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

**ISSUE: Process to complete policy and regulation changes for the Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt
Ban and Great Bear Rainforest Grizzly Bear Hunt Closure**

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest. Government has committed to consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups in fall 2017 to determine next steps and mechanisms to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt. Hunting grizzly bear for meat will be allowed to continue.

The Fish & Wildlife Branch will lead the consultation on the regulatory amendments to end grizzly bear trophy hunting and on ending the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest. Consultation must commence immediately with First Nations and stakeholders and be completed by late October so the required regulatory changes (e.g., regulation drafting and treasury board submission) are ready for decision in December.

s.12,s.13

Closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest is done through a Minister's Regulation, which will be completed by late November for approval, and the package does not need to go to Cabinet.

Typically when regulation changes are needed, a select group of stakeholders and affected parties are consulted. A broader group of stakeholders will be engaged on the proposed regulations s.13
s.13

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DISCUSSION:

To support consultation, the Fish and Wildlife Branch has developed two policy intent papers: one on ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt (Attachment 3) and a second on closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest (Attachment 4). The purpose of the policy intent papers is to inform the reader about governments proposed regulatory and policy changes.

The papers are used to solicit feedback, comment and support for the proposed changes. This information will inform government of the overall support for the proposed changes as well as allowing the person consulted to provide other ideas that the government should consider. More details about the two papers follow.

TROPHY HUNTING BAN

To implement ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt, the government must determine what parts of the bear a hunter will not be allowed to possess. The Fish and Wildlife Branch proposes implementing the trophy ban by prohibiting possession of the following grizzly bear parts through regulation: skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide (including the head), paws with claws, and detached claws.

Any possession of these parts of a grizzly would be prohibited except for an exemption for a person to possess the parts for the purposes of removing them from the field to surrender them to Government.

Hunters who kill a grizzly bear under the new regulatory scheme will be required to remove edible portions of grizzly bear, including the four quarters, loins, neck and rib meat. The hunter must take edible portions to their dwelling place, to a meat cutter, or to a cold storage plant. To enhance the enforceability of the grizzly bear trophy hunt ban, taxidermists will be required to report their work on grizzly bears to government.

The ban on hunting grizzly bears for trophies will not apply to First Nations when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or Treaty rights. ^{s.14}

s.14

The possession of grizzly bear parts lawfully harvested prior to November 30th 2017 will not be prohibited. It will also remain lawful to import lawfully harvested grizzly bear parts from other jurisdictions into BC, and for British Columbians to export their lawfully attained grizzly bear parts. However, the sale within BC of grizzly bear parts, even lawfully attained in BC or another jurisdiction, will be prohibited. These parts may be gifted.

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The intent is that by eliminating the legal market for the sale of grizzly bear trophy parts, government may reduce the marketability of poached parts and the temptation to poach. Poaching may become a growing issue if the ban on grizzly bear parts results in an increase in their value.

Although there will be many areas of interest, 2 policy decisions related to grizzly bear trophy parts anticipated to attract attention by stakeholders and First Nations are:

1. What parts of a grizzly bear are prohibited from possession: There will be various options about what should be included as the prohibited parts of grizzly bear. Government staff and wildlife experts are recommending that the following grizzly bear parts be prohibited from possession: skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide (including the head), paws with claws, and detached claws.
2. Handling of prohibited parts, compulsory inspection and the collection of science data: Concerns regarding government's intention and stakeholder's interest about what is to be done with the prohibited parts of grizzly bear. Government staff and wildlife experts would like to continue to collect biological data from parts of the grizzly bear, including from prohibited parts. The options with respect to prohibited parts under consideration are:
 - Requiring the removal of all prohibited parts from the field and the surrender to government;
 - removing only specific prohibited parts to be surrendered to government and leaving other prohibited parts in the field; or
 - leaving all prohibited parts in the field and only minimal tissue/hair/teeth samples are submitted to government.

Stakeholders are interested in this issue. The removal of grizzly bear parts from the field for eventual destruction by government will be a substantial burden on hunters. All options may attract criticism for being wasteful. For example, the BC Wildlife Federation has posted an online position that forbidding possession of paws, hide and head "is inconsistent with the North American Wildlife Conservation Model...*"wildlife should be used for legitimate purposes, including retrieving the fur and meat where useable"*. First Nations have also expressed concern regarding wastage, s.14

s.14

Submitting prohibited grizzly bear parts to government ensures that they do not have an opportunity to enter the black market. However, there are challenges with the option to require hunters to remove all prohibited parts and turn them over to government.

Initial feedback from regional government offices indicate concern with this option due to lack of appropriate facilities and staffing resources. s.14

s.14

CLOSING THE GRIZZLY BEAR HUNT IN THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

The Great Bear Rainforest is structured around two unique boundaries: the Land Use Orders (2016) and the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* (2017). In August, Government announced it was closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest. At the time, no map or boundary definitions were provided with the announcement. The Ministry is proposing that the Great Bear Rainforest be defined as the area contained within the boundaries of the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, enacted through the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Orders. Staff considered a second option that would have included the Coastal First Nations territory in addition to the Land Use Order boundary. This option could still be considered after consultation if there is a desire from Executive.

Key policy decisions anticipated to attract comment by stakeholders and First Nations during the consultation and engagement include:

- The Ministry's recommended boundary of the Great Bear Rainforest is expected to be subject to discussion during consultation, because there are other boundaries (e.g. *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* (2017) that could have been used. Different boundaries will affect the Limited Entry Hunting areas and Guiding Territory Certificate areas to a different extent.
- There are approximately 40 First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest that have varying interests in hunting grizzly bear. Some First Nations, including the Coastal First Nations, have been vocally opposed to grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest, whereas other First Nations have an interest in guiding in the area. For example:
 - Collier Azak, CEO of the Nisga'a Lisims Government, holds a Guiding Territory Certificate in a trust-like arrangement for the Nisga'a Nation. Nisga'a purchased the Certificate in 2015 and the value of the Certificate was likely tied to its grizzly bear quota.
 - Leslie Ashton holds a Certificate on behalf of Raincoast and the Coastal First Nations, which was purchased with the intent to stop the hunting of grizzly bears, pursuant to the 2016 Great Bear Rainforest agreements.

Attachment 1: Regulation Consultation and Drafting Timeline

Attachment 2: Stakeholder Consultation List

Attachment 3: Policy Intent Paper: Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt Ban

Attachment 4: Policy Intent Paper: Closure of Grizzly Bear Hunt in Great Bear Rainforest

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Exec Dir	WT	Sept 11 2017
Dir	JP	Sept 11 2017
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	PL	Sept 11 2017

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Appendix 1: Regulation Consultation ^{s.12,s.13}

Consultation Phase

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 11th, conference calls starting week of September 25th. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13th. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20th.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – week of September 11th. Will treaty and SEA holders be included in the dates above?

Stakeholders

- ADM has approved list of stakeholders assembled by Fish & Wildlife staff.
- Engagement with stakeholders must begin the week of September 11th in order to meet project timelines.
- Contact stakeholder and initiate confidentiality agreements the week of September 11th. Send policy documents for review as soon as they are prepared. Arrange conference calls and conclude stakeholder engagement by October 20th.

Internal Government

- Engagement with internal government Ministers/agencies. September 1st to October 20th.

NOTE: The timeframe allows staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. ^{s.12,s.13}

^{s.12,s.13}

Drafting Phase

October 31st – November 3rd, 2017

- Finalization of drafting instructions.
^{s.12,s.13}
- Notify Spell out ICBC if Violation Tickets Administration and Fines Regulation tickets are involved

November 6th, 2017

- Submission of Regulatory Privacy Impact Assessment
^{s.12,s.13}

Page 017

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.14;s.13

APPENDIX 2

Stakeholder Consultation List

- British Columbia Trappers Association
- British Columbia Wildlife Federation
- Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia
- United Bowhunters of British Columbia
- Wildlife Stewardship Council
- Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia
- Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative
- Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC
- Grizzly Bear Foundation
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation
- Wilderness Tourism Association of BC
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- Selected taxidermists identified by permit applications through Front Counter BC

Attachment 3

Policy Intent Discussion Paper

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt Ban

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The press release for this announcement can be found online at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0232-001442>

This policy intent discussion paper is focused on the key issues related to implementation of ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in British Columbia. There is another policy intent discussion paper on ending the hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears does not mean that there is a total ban on grizzly bear hunting. While the possession of the “trophy parts” (e.g., specific prohibited parts) of grizzly bears will be prohibited, a sustenance hunt for grizzly bear meat will continue for both resident and non-resident hunters.

First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bears and possess all parts of grizzly bears (including the “trophy parts”) when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or treaty rights (i.e. for food, social, or ceremonial reasons).

Ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in a comprehensive manner requires a number of changes to the existing law governing the harvest and possession of grizzly bear parts. The remainder of this paper focuses on the proposed regulatory changes associated with ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears.

1) Prohibit the possession of grizzly bear parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

- Prohibit a person to possess the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear harvested after November 30th, 2017. There will be an exemption to possess these parts for the purposes of removing them from the field to surrender them to Government.
- Remove the ability to issue a permit authorizing the possession of the skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear.
- Establish that grizzly bear parts must be inspected by an officer prior to the issuance of a permit to prove lawfully ownership where the original documentation has been lost or destroyed.

Background:

There are existing prohibitions on the possession of grizzly bear parts. The Wildlife Act Commercial Activities Regulation prohibits the possession of grizzly bear genitalia (including the baculum) and gall bladders.

A permit can currently be issued to possess a grizzly bear or its parts where the grizzly bear has died of natural or accidental causes. There are existing limits on when these permits can be issued. For example, these permits cannot be issued for some species of wildlife (e.g. eagles) or where the wildlife has a value of over \$200. Removing the ability for issuing a permit for a grizzly bear in these instances is within the scope of existing authority in legislation.

Currently a person can acquire documentation establishing a right to possess grizzly bear parts (excluding the genitalia and gall bladder) by paying a fee and swearing an affidavit that it was legally acquired. This is intended to be used to replace lost or destroyed documentation.

Rationale:

These amendments will end the trophy hunt of grizzly bears by prohibiting the possession of what are commonly considered to be the “trophy parts” of the grizzly bear.

It is necessary to remove the ability for a person to acquire lawful possession of the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws by permit to ensure that grizzly bears are no longer harvested for a trophy.

Requiring an officer to inspect currently owned grizzly bear parts prior to the issuance of replacement documentation is necessary to ensure that this permit is not used to legitimize the possession of illegally possessed grizzly bear parts.

2) Expand the definition of edible portions and require them to be removed from a harvested grizzly bear

Proposed Regulation Changes:

- Amend the definition of edible portions in the Wildlife Act General Regulation to include the edible portions of the neck and ribs.
- Require hunters to remove the edible portions of a grizzly bear and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant.

Background:

Edible portions of big game (excluding grizzly bear, cougar, wolf, lynx, bobcat and wolverine) are currently considered to be the four quarters and loins of the animal.

Hunters are required to remove the edible portions of a harvested big game animal and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant unless there is an exemption in place for the particular species of wildlife. There is currently an exemption in place for

grizzly bear. The Ministry is proposing removing this exemption for grizzly bear, so that hunters will now have to remove the edible portions of grizzly bear and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant.

The edible portions requirement is in place to encourage use of harvested game for sustenance. The new definition of edible portions will apply to all big game, except for those excluded in the legislation (e.g. cougar).

Rationale:

Expanding the definition of edible portions will improve the utilization of harvested big game and reduce the waste of parts that are edible but not currently listed.

Grizzly bear meat is considered edible and requiring the edible portions to be removed aligns with the government's objective of a sustenance hunt for grizzly bear.

3) Approaches for Managing Prohibited Grizzly Bear Parts ("take parts out or leave them in")

Proposed Regulation Changes:

The Ministry is seeking input on how Government will manage the prohibited parts of grizzly bears (skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws). Some have discussed this debate as "(i) Take grizzly parts out of forest (ii) leave grizzly parts in forest or (iii) somewhere in the middle." Three options have been identified:

- i. Require all grizzly bear parts to be removed from the field including edible portions and all grizzly bear parts. Edible portions to be allowed to be retained by the hunter while other parts to be retained by government. Government will retain possession of the prohibited parts after the compulsory inspection is complete.
- ii. Require removal of edible portions but prohibit the removal of trophy parts ("leave grizzly parts in forest.") Hunters would still need to obtain minimal biological samples from a harvested bear and submit them for compulsory inspection. Government would retain possession of those biological samples.
- iii. Require removal of edible portions and certain parts that have scientific value. ("Somewhere in the middle") Government will retain possession of the parts with scientific value after the compulsory inspection is complete.

In addition to the options described above, the following changes could be made to compulsory inspection requirements:

- A hunter could be required to submit the edible portions of a grizzly bear for compulsory inspection.
- The number of days to comply with the compulsory inspection requirement for grizzly bear could be reduced (from the current 30 days).

Some factors that should be considered in the context of this policy decision are:

- The more grizzly bear parts that are submitted for compulsory inspection; the greater amount of scientific data that can be collected.
- If prohibited grizzly bear parts are submitted to government, the prohibited parts will not enter the black market.
- If prohibited grizzly parts are surrendered to government, they could be transferred to First Nations for social and ceremonial purposes.
- A hunter will be exempt from the prohibition on the possession of prohibited grizzly bear parts for the purposes of complying with compulsory inspection requirements.
- Additional handling of the prohibited parts adds burden to hunters and costs to government.

Background:

Currently, within 30 days of harvest, a hunter must submit the skull, the hide with evidence of sex attached, and a tooth of a harvested grizzly bear for compulsory inspection.

Rationale:

The scientific data obtained through compulsory inspection is crucial for monitoring the health and viability of grizzly bear populations. The parts of a grizzly bear that are submitted for compulsory inspection need to be reconsidered in light of the prohibition on the possession of certain grizzly bear parts (skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws).

4) Prohibition on the Trafficking of Grizzly Bear Parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

Prohibit the trafficking of the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear. Traffic is defined in the *Wildlife Act* as: to buy, sell, trade or distribute for gain or consideration or to offer to do so.

The ownership of a legally possessed skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear will be able to be transferred by gift or inheritance.

Background:

Currently, a person commits an offence for trafficking bear gall bladders, genitalia or bear paws separate from carcass or hide.

Rationale:

Ending the trafficking of the skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear is consistent with the Government's commitment to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt. Additionally, eliminating the legal market for the sale of these prohibited grizzly bear parts, will limit the ability of poachers to market illegally harvested grizzly bear parts.

5) Importation and Exportation of Grizzly Bear Parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

There are no proposed changes in relation to the export or import of lawfully possessed grizzly bear parts.

Background:

Currently, a person may lawfully possess wildlife that was lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction (including foreign countries) and lawfully brought into British Columbia. The province does not issue permits for importing wildlife, though the person may be required to get a permit from the originating jurisdiction.

To export grizzly bear parts within Canada, a person must have a provincial export permit or qualify for an exemption. An export permit will only be issued for legally possessed grizzly bear parts.

To export grizzly bear parts internationally, a person must have a Federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora permit. These permits will only be issued for legally possessed grizzly bear parts.

Rationale:

The current law provides sufficient regulation for the import and export of lawfully possessed grizzly bear parts.

6) New Reporting Requirements for Taxidermists

Proposed Regulation Changes:

Require taxidermists to report to government all work on grizzly bear parts.

Background:

Taxidermists are currently required to maintain records but are not required to submit any reports to government.

Rationale:

Continuing to allow taxidermists to work with grizzly bear parts acknowledges that a large number of British Columbians have a lawful right to possess grizzly bear parts and that these persons may want to hire the services of a taxidermist to preserve or display their grizzly bear parts.

Taxidermists may also be working with grizzly bear parts that have been lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction. Monitoring the taxidermist industry is warranted to ensure that illegally possessed grizzly bear parts are not being brought to taxidermists.

DRAFT Attachment 4 CONFIDENTIAL- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
Policy Intent Paper
Grizzly Bear Hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest

Introduction

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The press release for this announcement can be found online at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0232-001442>

Background

The current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the GBR is considered sustainable and the proposed closure is not a response to a conservation concern.

Closing the grizzly bear hunt in the GBR means that no licensed hunting of grizzly bears will be permitted within the GBR, however First Nations will still be able to harvest grizzly bears pursuant to aboriginal rights for food, social, or ceremonial purposes, or treaty rights.

The closure can be made with a Minister's order and does not require a cabinet submission.

Rationale:

Provincially, there are no general open seasons for the hunting of grizzly bear and grizzly bear can only be harvested during a limited entry hunting season as provided for in the Limited Entry Hunting Regulation. If the limited entry hunting (LEH) seasons are eliminated in the Great Bear Rainforest, the Province will no longer be authorizing the harvest of grizzly bear within that area.

Boundaries of the Great Bear Rainforest

The Great Bear Rainforest is structured around two unique boundaries: the Land Use Orders (2016) and the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) (Forest Management) Act (2017). The Land Use Order boundary follows the GBR Plan Area established through the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, concluded in 2006. The GBR Act boundary follows the reconfigured Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) in the North and Central Coast, now described as GBR North and GBR South. The government's recent announcement to end the Grizzly Bear hunt in the GBR did not specify which boundary the Ministerial Order (MO) would reference.

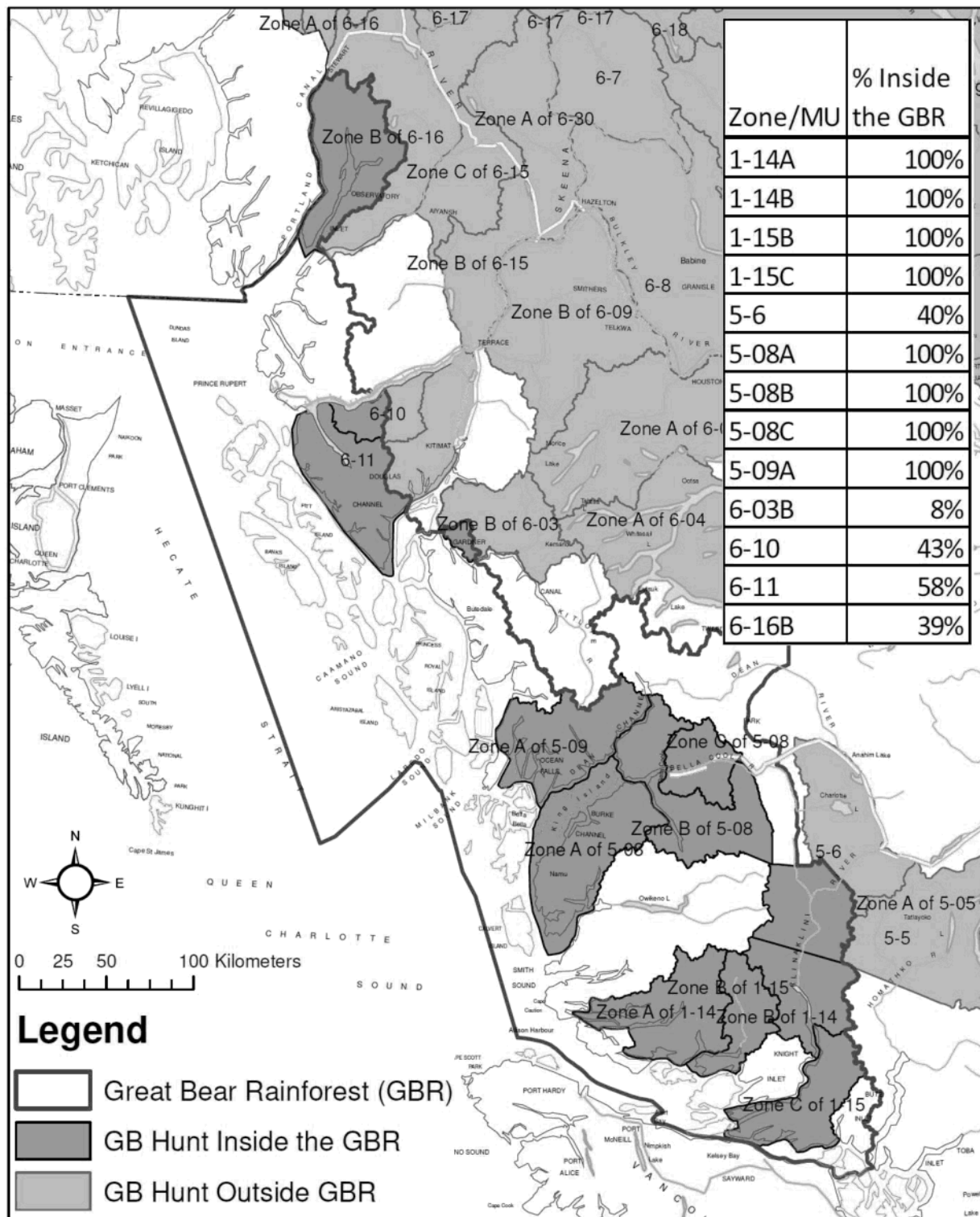
For the purpose of ending the grizzly bear hunt the Ministry is proposing that the Great Bear Rainforest be defined as the area contained within the boundaries of the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, enacted through the GBR Land Use Orders (see Map A).

Rationale:

Within the boundaries defined by the GBR Land Use Order, Coastal First Nations share the same values and opinion regarding trophy hunting grizzly bear. Outside of these boundaries, issues

and conflicts among First Nations holding different views on hunting grizzly bear may delay implementation of the closure.

Grizzly Bear Hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest



Proposed Closures

There are a total of 13 LEH areas currently open to grizzly bear hunting with overlap of the GBR: 8 of which lie completely within, and 5 of which lie partially within.

Zone/MU	Total Area	% Area Inside the GBR	% Area Outside the GBR	Total Population Estimate	Population Estimate Inside the GBR	Population Estimate Outside the GBR
1-14A	326372	100%	0%	120	120	0
1-14B	170458	100%	0%	64	64	0
1-15B	169020	100%	0%	66	66	0
1-15C	323705	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-6	586462	40%	60%	104	42	62
5-08A	459245	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-08B	371463	100%	0%	73	73	0
5-08C	152118	100%	0%	57	57	0
5-09A	347683	100%	0%	49	49	0
6-03B	294152	8%	92%	73	6	67
6-10	143790	43%	57%	24	10	14
6-11	573069	58%	42%	166	96	70
6-16B	902897	39%	61%	285	111	174

Closure of the grizzly bear hunt would require deleting the 8 LEH areas that lie completely within the GBR, and modifying the remaining 5 to exclude the GBR.

The 8 areas that fall completely within the closed area add up to approximately 230,000ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears in these areas combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 38; 30 harvested by resident hunters and 8 harvested by guided hunters.

The five hunt areas that would be modified are 5-6, 6-03B, 6-10, 6-11, and 6-16B. The portion of these five areas that fall within the GBR is approximately 100,000 ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears within the portions of these areas that lie within the GBR combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 9; 2 harvested by resident hunters and 7 harvested by guided hunters.

Hunts within the portions of the 5 areas that lie outside the closed area, and remain open to grizzly bear hunting (under the new trophy hunting regulations) would be managed in accordance with Grizzly Bear Harvest Management Procedure.

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 11, 2017
File: 280-20
XRef: 230929
CLIFF: 230260

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

ISSUE: Minister Donaldson's meeting with Humane Society International to discuss animal welfare issues under his portfolio and ending the grizzly bear hunt

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017, it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

On August 15, Rebecca Aldworth, Executive Director of Humane Society International/Canada, issued the following statement applauding the ban: "Trophy hunting is a disgraceful blood sport that flies in the face of Canadian values... that BC NDP has prohibited the trophy hunting of grizzly bears in the province is a crucial step forward in protecting these majestic animals from such senseless cruelty and in respecting the views of the overwhelming majority of BC residents, including Coastal First Nations. Much remains to be clarified about the measure, and we welcome the opportunity to work with the provincial government to ensure grizzlies are truly protected from all forms of trophy hunting."

Minister Donaldson is meeting with Humane Society International on September 18th. The Humane Society International Canada claims to have campaigned to end the trophy hunt for grizzlies in BC for more than a decade.

DISCUSSION:

Ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in a comprehensive manner requires a number of changes to the existing law governing the harvest and possession of grizzly bear parts. Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears does not mean that there is a total ban on grizzly bear hunting. While the possession of the "trophy parts" of grizzly bears will be prohibited, a hunt for grizzly bear meat will continue for both resident and non-resident hunters.

First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bears and possess all parts of grizzly bears (including the "trophy parts") when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or treaty rights (i.e. for food, social, or ceremonial reasons).

Government will consult with First Nations and many stakeholders to determine next steps and mechanisms as BC moves toward ending the trophy hunt. The Fish and Wildlife Branch will begin this consultation in September to discuss policy and operational options with provincial stakeholders and First Nations to inform the new regulations.

The consultation process will include organizations that have commercial, recreational and/or research interests in grizzly bears in an effort to maximize the input into the operational mechanics of policy change, while managing the potential for ‘out of context’ comments that could result from a broader process. The Humane Society International is not currently included in the planned consultation for grizzly bears, but could be invited to participate in the broader consultation process being planned for “improving wildlife management and habitat conservation” in British Columbia.

CONCLUSION:

The Humane Society International is one of several non-profit organizations or businesses that have expressed opposition to the grizzly bear trophy hunt. It is expected that they may oppose allowing grizzly bear to be hunted for sustenance. Other animal welfare issues to be raised by the Humane Society International may relate to trapping of furbearers in British Columbia.

While input from the Humane Society International (HSI) is welcomed, it is recommended that HSI be encouraged to participate in the broader consultation process on improving wildlife management and habitat conservation in British Columbia.

Ministry staff will follow up and inform HSI of the dates and timing of engagement opportunities on the engagement process for the renewed wildlife management strategy.

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PRGM Dir./Mgr.	JP	Sept 12/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2017 UBCM CONVENTION

I PREPARED FOR:

Minister Donaldson – request from District of Chetwynd

II ISSUE:

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017, it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The government has also committed to moving forward with a broad consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

A UBCM request was received from the District of Chetwynd: “The Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt has been cancelled for following years; many in the Peace Region feel the grizzly bear has been managed properly over the years, largely due to guides and outfitters taking care of the resource they are using. Cancelling the hunt may cost local jobs and reduce a component of stewardship of the grizzly bear as well. Cancelling the grizzly bear hunt may result in an increase in black market trophy hunting.”

IV SPEAKING / RESPONSE POINTS

- Grizzly bear hunt will still occur without the trophy component to the hunt
- Impacts to guides and outfitters with these changes is uncertain at this time
- Grizzly bear are managed by the Province with a high level of rigour and adequate safeguards are in place to ensure the long-term stability of grizzly bear populations
- Stewardship and management of grizzly bears is anticipated to increase with the government commitment to a renewed wildlife management strategy
- There is the potential for expanded alternative economic opportunities in the area of wildlife viewing and use
- Changes to legislation to implement changes should limit the potential for increases in black market trophy hunting

Michael Burwash, Assoc. Dir. Of Wildlife

September 11, 2017

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 15, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230250

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

ISSUE: In preparation for a meeting with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association to discuss the future of sustainable eco-tourism in BC and grizzly bear management

BACKGROUND:

The Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA) consists of 18 adventure tourism operations, 17 of which are located on the coast, one within the Kootenays, and was formed to “promote sustainable bear viewing in British Columbia and aid in the protection of wild bears and their ecosystems”. Among their programs are the development of the bear viewing industry, establishment of Best Management Practices for bear viewing, administration of the guide certification programs, advocacy of land access and management, and lobbying to close all grizzly bear hunting particularly in the vicinity of viewing operations.

On the hunt closure their position is that:

- 1) wildlife viewing and hunting are not compatible
- 2) the bear viewing industry contributes significantly more to the economy than grizzly bear hunting

Wildlife viewing is an industry that is not heavily regulated or managed by the province. Commercial operators on crown land are required to hold land use permits, however ocean based operations are within federal jurisdiction and no permits are required.

On July 19 and November 9, 2016, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Tourism Policy Branch hosted meetings with staff from FLNRO and the Ministry of Environment, as well as representatives from the broader stakeholder group (i.e., hunters, viewers, and conservation and special interest groups). The general objectives of these meetings were to gain better understanding of the commercial bear viewing business, stakeholder concerns and possible solutions including government actions.

The CBVA agreed on the need for a “bears-first” approach to emphasize their commitment to make sustainable bear populations a priority over the economic growth of their industries.

DISCUSSION:

To date, responses from the Province have stated that viewing and hunting are not mutually exclusive; this position is supported by the fact that the viewing industry is healthy and has experienced considerable growth in recent years. It is acknowledged that the viewing industry contributes significantly more to the provincial economy than hunting.

In 2012, the spring grizzly bear season in the Kootenay Region was extended from April 1-June 5 to April 1-June 15. The viewing operation in the Kootenay Region, Grizzly Bear Ranch, feels that the extended season was implemented without adequate consultation, and has had a significant negative impact on his business.

Government's announcement to close grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest, and end the trophy hunt in the remainder of the province on November 30, 2017 is likely supported by the CBVA, however their preference may be a ban on grizzly bear hunting province wide. In the coming month, FLNRORD will consult with a broad group of stakeholders including the CBVA on the proposed regulations.

In the spring of 2016, the province received an independent Scientific Review of Grizzly Bear Harvest Management System in British Columbia (the Review). The CBVA expressed concern about the review because they were not consulted. In that report, reviewers recommended that government *Establish objectives for accommodating both hunting and viewing of grizzly bears, and investigate whether conflicts exist*".

The Auditor General is currently performing an audit on grizzly bear management in BC a final report is expected to be released to the public in October, 2017. The CBVA was contacted by the Auditor General and had opportunity to provide input into the audit of grizzly bear management in the province.

Preliminary drafts of the audit include the following recommendation:

We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop clear policies and procedures for bear viewing.

The response is not confirmed, however, the groundwork is in place to begin a review of mechanisms and develop policy and possibly regulatory options that support the viewing industry.

Overall, wildlife stakeholder groups have expressed support for a user pay model for wildlife viewing (e.g., a surcharge added to the cost of wildlife viewing that would in turn be invested back into the resource). There is opportunity to further explore this option in parallel with initiatives related to the re-investment of revenue generated from hunting licenses back into wildlife management and overall improvements to wildlife management.

CONCLUSION:

Hunting and viewing are not mutually exclusive and both can coexist as appropriate and sustainable uses of provincial resources. Further discussions with the viewing industry are required to ensure that all parties have a common understanding of the interest in having viable and sustainably managed hunting and viewing industries BC.

The future of the wildlife viewing industry in the province is promising and likely augmented with the announcement of grizzly bear hunting closure in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Regulation of the bear viewing industry is something that government is willing to consider, and will have to be done in consultation with the CBVA, First Nations, wildlife stakeholders, and the tourism sectors.

Government welcomes discussion with the CBVA as ways to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation are explored.

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BULLETS**

Date: October 18, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230011

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

ISSUE: Briefing material for meeting with BC Wildlife Federation

BULLETS:

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) considers itself BC's largest and oldest conservation organization. BCWF has 50,000 members that "are passionately committed to protecting, enhancing and promoting the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations".

Wildlife Funding Model

- The BCWF has advocated for increased funding to wildlife management and habitat conservation, both for operational expenditures and to build capacity in the public service.
- The Executive within the organization have not advocated over a specific delivery model (e.g., external agencies or delivered internally).
- Advancing consultation for improving wildlife management and habitat conservation is a high priority for the BCWF.
- BCWF supports hunting/trapping license revenue being dedicated to wildlife management.

Allocation

- In March 2017, direction by the Deputy Minister was given to centralize statutory decisions for guide outfitter quota by the Director of Fish and Wildlife and improve standardization of policy and procedure supporting the decision.
- Considerable work has also progressed on standardizing the harvest allocation policies and procedures; updating the Annual Allowable Harvest policy and procedure; and, completing a new First Nations Harvest Estimate policy and procedure. These policies and procedures should be complete by spring 2018.
- Together, these business improvements will increase consistency across regions, improve communication of decisions, and increase transparency.
- The NDP platform states "*we will make permits for other kinds of hunting more fair for BC residents*".

Moose, Fires and First Nations

Unfair Hunting Vehicle Restrictions in the Cariboo

- Access restrictions for motor vehicles were established on September 29 and will be in place between September 1 to December 10 until vegetation has sufficiently recovered (+/-10 years from now).

- BCWF reacted strongly against the access restrictions because they did not apply to First Nations and the BCWF questions the benefits of access restrictions on improving wildlife populations, given more significant issues (e.g., habitat loss, predators, invasive species).
- The access restriction is just one management action being taken. Mid- and long-term actions for wildlife are being assessed and planned as part of moose enhancement and wildfire recovery initiatives (see below).

Current moose hunting closures (including hunting closures in the Cariboo/Chilcotin)

- The October 15 to 31 and November 1 to 15 Moose Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) in Zones A and C of MU 5-13 were closed on October 6, 2017.
- This closure is in response to a combination of factors, such as mountain pine beetle salvage logging, unprecedented wildfires, and associated access, within the area that have the potential to negatively impact a population of moose that has been decreasing since 2010.
- 209 of the 218 hunters with LEH authorizations for these hunts were contacted by phone or email by staff to notify them of the closures. Contact information for the remaining nine hunters is not available. The Conservation Officer Service has been provided with their names and will enforce the closure.
- A reassessment of the impact of wildfire to moose habitat and populations will occur over the winter and will inform future decisions regarding sustainable hunting opportunities and habitat restoration or enhancement.
- BCWF had indicated support of the closures if, based on conservation needs, they also applied to First Nations. The BCWF reacted strongly to the hunt closures because the limited entry bull only harvest does not have a significant impact on the moose population and it was not indicated if the closures would also apply to First Nations.
- The BCWF has been working with members of the Tsilhqot'in Wildlife Panel to gain buy in for closures that applies to Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) members. The current status is uncertain.

Grizzly Bear Regulations

- On October 13, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Branch met with the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team to discuss the proposed grizzly bear regulations. Al Martin and Jesse Zeeman represented the BCWF at the meeting.
- The BCWF is opposed to the proposed changes.
- Points raised at the meeting by BCWF included:
 - What does this government consider the definition of a trophy hunt to be?
 - What is the definition of a sustenance hunt?
 - How do the regulations apply to First Nations who own a guiding territory certificate?
 - How do the regulatory changes align with UNDRIP?
 - Is there a formula being developed for compensation?
 - Why will government allow grizzly bear trophies to be imported from other jurisdictions once they can no longer be harvested in BC? How is this a coherent position?
- The Fish and Wildlife Branch will continue to engage with stakeholders, the public and First Nations on the proposed regulation amendments. This consultation period will conclude

November 2, 2017 and results will be reported to stakeholders and the public.

Sturgeon Habitat and Heart of the Fraser

- This issue involves the recent purchase of Carey Island and Herrling Island from Kruger Pulp and Paper and its re-conversion by the Agricultural Land Commission from tree farming to agriculture. The new owners are in the process of converting these key “Heart of the Fraser” ecosystem attributes from tree farms (lower-level impact) to high-impact food agriculture.
- Clearing has already occurred to some of the critical riparian areas and may impact spawning habitat for White Sturgeon. There is concern that future diking and riprapping of the banks will disrupt water flows, gravel movement (the quality of which is critical to White Sturgeon embryo and larval survival).
- To develop these properties, the owners have applied to the Provincial government to allow construction of large bridges across the secondary (spawning and rearing) channels in order to access the properties 365 days a year. Referrals are expected to ecosystem staff; however, permits have not yet been reviewed.

Any questions the Minister has for the BCWF

What are the key strategic priorities for the BCWF in the next six months; one year; future years?

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 13, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

ISSUE: First Nations and Commercial Guiding for Grizzly Bear

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes or treaty rights. The Ministry acknowledges many First Nations across BC have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Questions have arisen about the impacts of Government's announcement on First Nations who hold a Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) or who have a GTC held on their behalf – specifically, whether there is an exemption from the proposed ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in these territories. A GTC holder has the exclusive privilege to operate commercial guiding in the guiding territory. Non-residents must hire a licensed guide outfitter to hunt grizzly bear in BC.

Page 038 to/à Page 039

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Grizzly bear hunt First Nations engagement: Early Results

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The policy intent papers were posted to the Fish and Wildlife website on October 3, 2017.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial (FSC) purposes or treaty rights. The ministry acknowledges many First Nations across BC have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Emails were sent on September 27 and 28, 2017 to more than 200 First Nations across the province including those in the treaty process regarding the grizzly bear trophy hunting ban. Emails were also sent September 27 and 28 to the 41 First Nations that either overlap or adjacent to the GBR regarding the grizzly bear hunting closure in the GBR.

Staff set up engagement meetings with:

1. all 41 First Nations that either overlap or are adjacent to the GBR on October 12, 17 and 18 (no callers took part in the October 12 and 17 conference calls);
2. three conference calls with all First Nations on the trophy hunt ban on October 12, 17 and 18;
3. the Gitksan First Nation on October 11;
4. the Nisga'a First Nation on October 10 and 17; and
5. the Tsilhqot'in First Nation on October 10.

A meeting occurred with the legal representative for the Maa-nulth Treaty Nations on October 19 that has been deemed to meet the Province's legal obligations to consult. Additional meetings with First Nations will be scheduled as and when required, including meeting with the Coastal First Nations to discuss the grizzly bear hunting closure in the Great Bear Rainforest which is tentatively scheduled for October 30-31.

In the original September 27 and 28 emails, First Nations were invited to provide comments on the proposed regulatory changes via email. To date, only four emails have been received. The closing date for input is November 2.

DISCUSSION:

Key points raised in the meetings with First Nations are summarized below:

Nisga'a

- May want or interpret the treaty as providing an ability to guide commercially for grizzly bears as part of their treaty rights.
- May request a change in boundary to the GBR where it overlaps their treaty interest land and guide territory certificate.
- Want to ensure that they are still able to export grizzly bear parts to trade and barter with other Indigenous people in BC and Alaska.
- Want to receive draft regulations to review before they are passed.

Gitksan

- Support ban on trophy hunt.
- Should not be able to donate meat.
- Expand what meat is eligible for eating including organs; no one should waste anything.
- Want to know how many grizzly bears are killed in their area for management purposes; should move to co-management in future.
- Want prohibited parts that are brought in returned to First Nations for social and ceremonial purposes when requested.
- Want to talk about guiding – licences are issued for too many years (up to 25 years.)
- Support reducing the number of days before reporting a kill.
- Eliminate grace period or reduce to 90 days, not one year.
- Grizzly bears cannot be brought in from other areas.
- There should be no compensation for guide outfitters and taxidermists.
- Want to meet again; feel that conversations are not finished.

Brian Williams, Gwiiyeehl (Gitksan)

- Support end to hunting on Laxyp lands as it is considered trespass; Gwiiyeehl has prima facie rights and title over these lands.
- Want to meet with ministry to begin “reconciling your legislative authority with our legal interests.”

Brent Lehmann (Maa-nulth First Nations lawyer)

- There are no grizzly bear authorizations on Vancouver Island.
- Concern was raised about the possible decline of the ungulate population.

Tsilhqot'in National Government - Wildlife Panel

- Questioned why full closure not province-wide closure rather than just GBR as it would solve many problems and there wouldn't be any wastage.
- Questioned provinces “tools” to deal with problem bears.
- Raised concern that reduced interest in grizzly bear and end of hunt will impact data sources available to track grizzly bear population trends.
- Raised concern that the Province needs to address loopholes to deal with trophy parts if hunters are required to remove them from the field.
- Inquired if there would be an option to give prohibited parts to First Nations to use for ceremonial purposes.
- Frustrated that this was announced without any government-to-government consultation.

CONCLUSION:

There is limited response from First Nations via email to date. Some meetings have taken place and it is felt that the concerns raised by these First Nations will likely be echoed from other First Nations who have yet to respond.

Meetings with certain First Nations (Gitxsan, Nisga'a) suggest that some First Nations support the hunt, while others do not. The Nisga'a's desire to be involved in guiding for grizzly bears is a key issue for them as they may believe that guiding is protected in their treaty rights (see separate note).

Government will continue to consider any additional comments or feedback from First Nations until the close of the engagement period on November 2. In addition, First Nations will have an opportunity to discuss the grizzly bear management through the broader engagement process on improving wildlife management.

ATTACHMENT: List of First Nations holding Guiding Territory Certificate

Contact:

*Tom Ethier
ADM
Resource Stewardship Division
Phone: 250 356-0972*

Alternate Contact:

*Penny Lloyd
Manager, Legislative Reform
Fish and Wildlife
Phone: 250 387-9792*

Prepared by:

*Jennifer Smith
Human Dimensions Specialist
Fish and Wildlife
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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 24/17
ED	WT	Oct 24/17
Director	JP	Oct 19/17

Table A

List of First Nations that hold a Guiding Territory Certificate

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation	GB 2017 Quota/ Allocation Period 2017- 2021
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose	n/a
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band	n/a
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)	2017 quota – 4 Region 1 will not provide allocation number
4.	6 39% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Collier Azak	Nisga'a Nation	2017 quota-16 Allocation-51
5.	6	Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd.	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	2017 quota – 1 Allocation - 2
6.	6	Tom Hill (application to transfer to Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd in progress)	Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha	2017 quota – 5 Allocation - 17
7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band	2017 quota – 7 Allocation - 21
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation	Region 1 will not provide quota or allocation number
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene	2017 quota – 6 Allocation-19
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation	2017 quota – 3 Allocation - 9
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 8
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation	2017quota - 1 Allocation - 5
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha	2017 quota – 4 Allocation - 14
14.	7B	Chris Schippmann	Fort Nelson First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 7

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017
File: 280-20
CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Removal of Grizzly Bear Parts versus requirements to leave parts in the woods

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017 grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province. The announcement further stated “*While the trophy hunt will end, hunting for meat will be allowed to continue.*” Recent engagement with stakeholders, First Nations and the public has resulted in divergent views on this policy change. Predictably, those who oppose grizzly bear hunting would like to see a complete ban on grizzly bear hunting, and those who support continuation of the hunt, agree with the requirement to remove edible portions but want to retain all parts of the bear as well.

In order to ensure the objective and commitment made by government are met through an updated regulatory regime, a decision is required on a key policy implication related to whether grizzly bear “trophy” parts will be left at the kill site or removed from the kill site by the hunter.

s.13

Page 045

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.13

Approved / Not Approved

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

Date

Contact:
Tom Ethier
Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Stewardship
250 356-0972

Alternate Contact:
Penny Lloyd
Manager, Legislative Reform
Fish and Wildlife
250 387-9792

Prepared by:
Terry Ahern
Senior Policy Analyst
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250-387-9789

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 23/17
ED	WT	Oct 23/17
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	JP	Oct 19/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Import and Export of Grizzly Bear Parts to and from British Columbia

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The trophy hunting of grizzly bears will be ended by a regulatory amendment. For all grizzly bears harvested post November 30, 2017, the hunter will be required to remove the edible portions from the grizzly bear and be prohibited from possessing all other parts of the grizzly bear.

Regulatory amendments will be required to ban the trafficking (i.e., sale) of grizzly bear parts in British Columbia. This note seeks direction on the import and export of grizzly bear parts. There will be a one year grace period from the date this regulation takes effect to allow businesses such as taxidermists that possess grizzly bear parts (e.g., claws) to sell their inventory.

Additional regulatory amendments will be required regarding the import and export of grizzly bear parts to and from British Columbia. The existing regulatory framework allows for the exportation of grizzly bear parts and for a person to legally possess grizzly bear parts that have been lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction or previously in British Columbia. This note presents options for amending the regulation.

DISCUSSION:

From our consultations, there are varying opinions regarding the ban on the possession of prohibited parts from a bear harvested post November 30, 2017 and the ability to import the same parts of a grizzly bear legally harvested in another jurisdiction into British Columbia (e.g., Alaska or Yukon). For example, the B.C. Wildlife Federation has characterized this position as inequitable, while the taxidermists have expressed support.

s.14

There is also tension between the prohibition on the trafficking (i.e., sale) of grizzly bear parts and the ability to export grizzly bear parts to another jurisdiction. Once a grizzly bear part has left British Columbia, the trafficking prohibition no longer applies to it. This could be viewed as a gap in the

trafficking prohibition; however, the grizzly bear part cannot leave the province without a provincial permit if shipped within Canada or federal export permit if shipped outside of Canada. The permitting requirement should limit the likelihood of a part being exported solely for the purposes of trafficking it. Without an amendment to the *Wildlife Act*, the Province cannot prevent the exportation of a grizzly bear part when a Federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora permit has been obtained.

s.13

Approved / Not Approved

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

Date

Contact:*Tom Ethier**ADM**Resource Stewardship Division**Phone: 250 356-0972***Alternate Contact:***Penny Lloyd**Manager, Legislative Reform**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 250 387-9792***Prepared by:***Cole Winegarden**Senior Policy Advisor**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 778-698-7133*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 23/17
ED	WT	Oct. 23/17
Director	JP	Oct.19/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Oct.19/17
Author	CW	Oct.19/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Concerns raised by the Nisga'a Nation regarding the proposed grizzly bear regulations

BACKGROUND:

Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears under a treaty right or pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes. The proposed regulatory changes are anticipated to impact guide outfitters and guiding territory certificate holders. A Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) holder is granted exclusive control over guiding privileges in an area. A guide outfitter must be hired by a non-resident to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

s.13,s.16

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Page 051

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16;s.13

Page 052

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

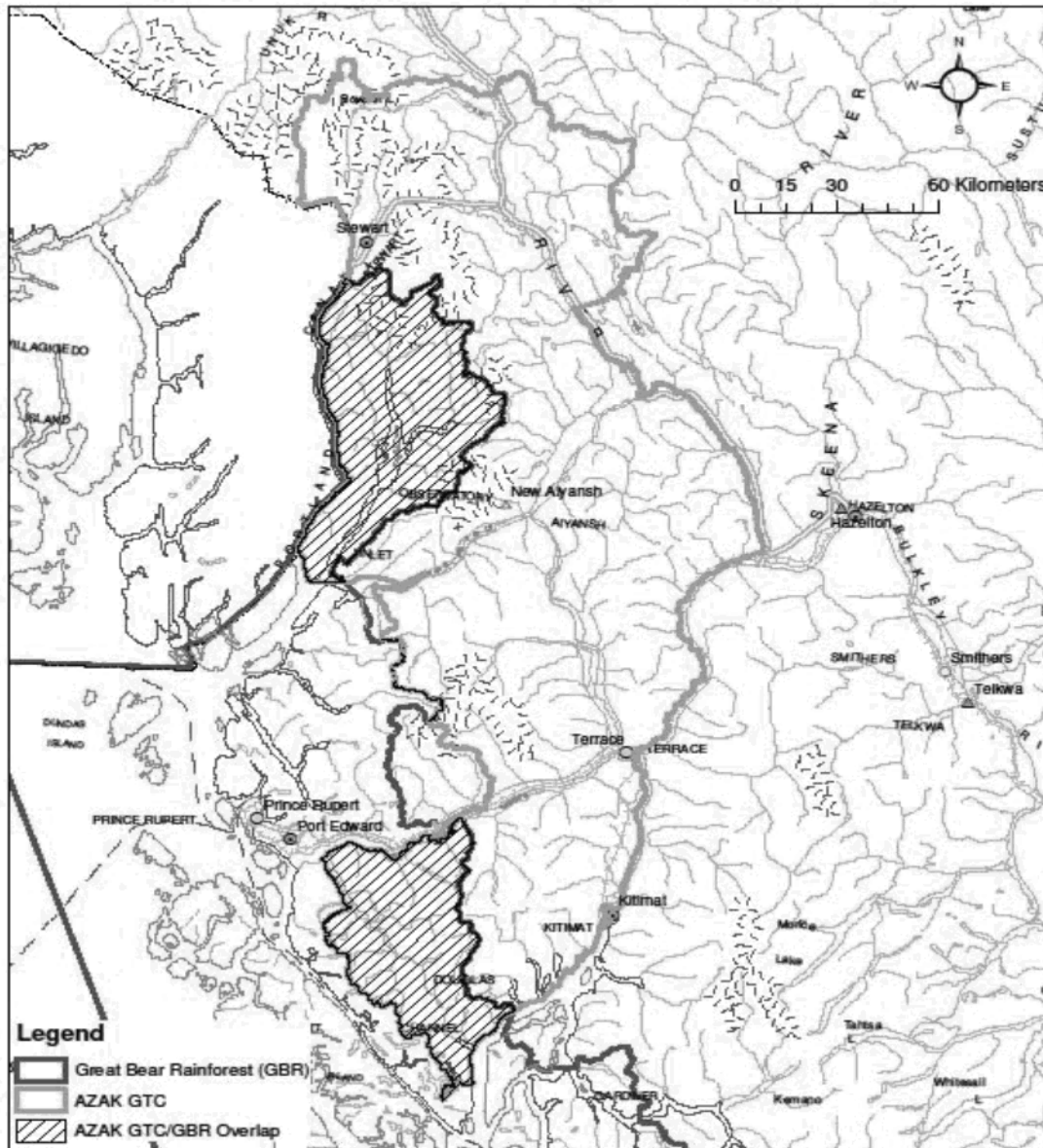
**Attachments: A - Nisga'a GTC Overlap with GBR
B - Territories of the GBR**

Contact:*Tom Ethier**ADM**Resource Stewardship Division**Phone: 250 356-0972***Alternate Contact:***Penny Lloyd**Manager, Legislative Reform**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 250 387-9792***Prepared by:***Suzanne Harkness**Senior Policy Advisor**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 250-952-0677*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct. 23/17
ED	WT	Oct. 23/17
Director	JP	Oct.19/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Oct.19/17

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Nisga'a/Azak GTC Overlap with the GBR



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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: First Nations and Commercial Guiding for Grizzly Bear

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes or treaty rights. The ministry acknowledges many First Nations across B.C. have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Questions have arisen about the impacts of Government's announcement on First Nations who hold a Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) or who have a GTC held on their behalf. Specifically, whether there is an exemption from the proposed ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in these territories. A GTC holder has the exclusive privilege to operate commercial guiding in the guiding territory. Non-residents must hire a licensed guide outfitter to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

DISCUSSION:

There are currently two First Nations corporations that hold a GTC:

1. Tk'emluncsemc Forestry Development Corporation (Kamloops Indian Band)
2. Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd. (Cheslatta Carrier Nation)

There are two First Nations corporations that have applied to hold a GTC:

1. Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd (Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha)
2. Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd (Blueberry River First Nation)

There is one First Nation partnership holding a GTC:

1. Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP (Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwada Cha First Nation)

In addition, there are 9 GTCs believed to be held by persons on behalf of or in partnership with a First Nation. In many of these cases, the information is known anecdotally and unofficially because there is no avenue for First Nations to self-identify on the GTC application. Two of these guiding territories are within the Great Bear Rainforest. One is held in a trust-like arrangement by Mr. Collier Azak for the Nisga'a Nation.

Commercial guiding has not been established as an Aboriginal or Treaty right. All GTC holders are treated equally under the *Wildlife Act*. Provincial wildlife management has also never recognized a distinction between GTC holders based on whether they are held by a First Nation or not. While the Province has committed to adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a review of the ministry's policies, programs and legislation to bring the principals into action has not yet been conducted.

Recognizing a First Nation commercial interest in grizzly bear guiding as grounds for an exemption from provincial law would be unprecedented, and could lead to calls by First Nations for additional exemptions for the commercial use of wildlife. It may also lead to the perception that the Province is allowing commercial scale uses of wildlife as an element of a First Nations' constitutionally-protected rights. Commercial scale uses of wildlife by First Nations would have drastic impacts on the Province's ability to successfully manage wildlife populations.

From a technical perspective, there are legal challenges to exempting GTC held by First Nations from the trophy hunting ban. Guiding territory boundaries typically cross multiple First Nations traditional territories. Some First Nations with traditional territory within the GTC may be opposed to the hunting of grizzly bear and would not support an exemption for the First Nations GTC holder. All First Nations with traditional territories within a GTC area would likely need to be consulted prior to the establishment of an exemption.

An exemption for First Nations GTC holders would be opposed by citizens that support the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting. The exemption would likely be viewed as government failing to deliver on its promise to end the trophy hunting of grizzly bear in the province. An additional risk is that all GTC with grizzly bear hunting could be transferred into the hands of a First Nation so that the full value of the certificate could be utilized. If this scenario were to occur, the amount of commercial grizzly bear trophy harvest would be the same as it is today.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Include First Nations GTC holders (e.g., corporations and partnerships) from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Implications:

- the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting would apply equally to all guides province wide regardless if the guide business was held by a First Nation business interest or not;
- Government would fulfil its platform commitment; and
- Government may have to consider alternative economic opportunities for all guide businesses affected by the ban.

Option 2: Exclude First Nations GTC holders from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Implications:

- would require a specific regulation amendment to achieve exemption;
- would be viewed by public as Government failing to deliver on its commitment to end the trophy hunting of grizzly bear in the province;
- would be opposed by other guides, resident hunters, other key stakeholders and the public

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Include First Nations GTC holders (e.g., corporations and partnerships) from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

Attachment: Table A - Guiding Territory Certificates – First Nations

Contact:

Tom Ethier

ADM Resource Stewardship Division

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Alternate Contact:

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Manager, Legislative Reform Fish and Wildlife

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Prepared by:

Suzanne Harkness

Senior Policy Advisor Fish and Wildlife

Phone: 250-952-0677

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM		
ED	WT	Oct 20/17
Director	JP	Oct 19/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Oct 13/17
Author	SH	Oct 13/17

Table A

There is no space on GTC applications to identify a First Nation interest. The below list is anecdotal and may be incomplete.

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation	GB 2017 Quota/ Allocation Period 2017- 2021
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose	n/a
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band	n/a
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)	2017 quota – 4 Region 1 will not provide allocation number
4.	6 39% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Collier Azak	Nisga'a Nation	2017 quota-16 Allocation-51
5.	6	Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd.	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	2017 quota – 1 Allocation - 2
6.	6	Tom Hill (application to transfer to Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd in progress)	Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha	2017 quota – 5 Allocation - 17
7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band	2017 quota – 7 Allocation - 21
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation	Region 1 will not provide quota or allocation number
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene	2017 quota – 6 Allocation-19
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation	2017 quota – 3 Allocation - 9
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 8
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation	2017quota - 1 Allocation - 5
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha	2017 quota – 4 Allocation - 14
14.	7B	Chris Schippmann	Fort Nelson First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 7

231818 – Attachment

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)
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7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha
14.	7B	Chris Shipman	Fort Nelson First Nation

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 26, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230907

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: First Nations and Stakeholder Consultation on Wildlife and Habitat Improvement and Revitalization Project

BACKGROUND:

British Columbia's wildlife is central to the culture and economy of the province. Over the past decade wildlife populations and wildlife management in BC have changed substantially. Hunting licences have increased by 20%, tourism opportunities have expanded, First Nations continue to seek greater role in co-management of wildlife, and populations of some key species have declined. Cumulative impacts on habitat from mountain pine beetle, wildfires, and industrial development also affect species distribution, abundance and management options. These shifts and landscape changes have increased conflicts among interests (e.g., hunters, viewing industry, ranching, First Nations, environmentalists) and increased the complexity of wildlife management.

Government has committed to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop long and short term strategies to manage BC's wildlife resources. In order to develop the renewed strategy for wildlife management, a broad consultation process is necessary.

The purpose of this note is to provide options for a decision on leadership of a broad consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

DISCUSSION:

Government's announcement in August indicated that it would consult on both the grizzly bear trophy hunt and a renewed wildlife management strategy. Staff are suggesting that the consultation methods should be separated to recognize the different scope of discussion that will likely occur related to the grizzly bear versus a renewed strategy and to help ensure that the necessary regulatory amendments for the grizzly bear file can be completed within the expected timeframe.

A consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy will provide a venue to discuss current issues in wildlife management in the province, and opportunities for improvement. It will identify priorities and values for wildlife management. This will include discussion on different funding models and how to deliver new funding (e.g., internal capacity building, through partnerships with existing organizations, establishing an independent wildlife agency) for wildlife management.

Staff are suggesting that the consultation process occurs in three phases.

The first phase would be focused on scoping and involve early engagement with First Nations to discuss nature of the project and their role in implementing it. This phase, which would begin after endorsement

of the proposed process by ELUC, would also include bilateral discussions with key stakeholders. Writing of a discussion paper #1 would begin that would describe current approaches to wildlife management and ask for input and ideas. First Nations involvement in the writing of this discussion paper would be a central part of early scoping discussions with First Nations.

The second phase of the process would begin after Budget 2018 was announced in February 2018. The Ministry is hopeful that Budget 2018 would include a budget lift which could be used to announce an initial “reinvestment” in basic components of wildlife management such as inventory, monitoring and new wildlife biologists in order to demonstrate progress towards the mandate. A second component of Budget 2018 could be for a subsequent investment in new model and approaches to be developed through the project.

The actual engagement would occur through a four part strategy that would run from February 2018 until April 2018. The four components include:

- First Nation-led process where First Nations talk to each other about wildlife management and provide a report back to government;
- Public process focused through Consult BC with comments received on discussion paper #1;
- Stakeholder groups engaged through bilateral working sessions; and,
- Options also available for Minister-led components (e.g. Minister-led stakeholder or First Nation meetings, Minister Roundtable meetings etc.)

The third phase of engagement would commence in June 2018 for three months and would be centered on discussion paper #2 which would outline “what we heard” and describe a new wildlife management model. Following completion of this phase, options for a new wildlife management model will be brought to ELUC for decision.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Government staff leads consultation process

Implications:

- Bilateral discussions and input led by senior Ministry staff.
- Ministry staff have extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of wildlife management and habitat in the province and can listen knowledgeably and bring a depth of understanding to input.
- Ministry staff need to understand input in order to formulate options for government’s decision.
- May be perceived by the public as too focused on the status quo.

Option 2: External individual or “independent expert” leads consultation process

Implications:

- Independent expert is appointed to lead engagement discussions and prepare a summary report of what was heard through bilateral discussions.
- An engagement process led by an independent expert or external individual may reduce the perception of bias from government staff or stakeholders, and the public may view such leadership as being more objective.
- It may be difficult to find an expert or external individual who has the availability to lead the process and prepare a summary report and who will be endorsed by the majority of stakeholders and First Nations.
- Different individuals would likely be needed for a separate First Nation engagement process.
- The external expert model may be more effective where there are recommendations being made to government, whereas the proposed process is focused on collecting input and perspectives.

Option 3: Elected official leads consultation process

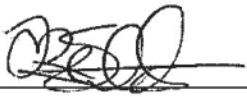
Implications:

- An MLA or Minister would lead one or more phases of the process.
- This option may be perceived as too political in what should be seen as a science-based process.
- Having a high level of government leadership may be received positively given the higher government profile and respect to First Nations communities and leadership.
- Dependent on availability of an appropriate MLA and competing priorities may impact desired timeline.
- Minister or MLA may politicize the process and focus the public on areas of disagreement such as perceived unfairness in the allocation process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Government staff leads consultation process

Approved / Not Approved


Signature
Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

17-11-01
Date

Contact:

Tom Ethier, ADM
Resource Stewardship Division
Phone: (250) 356-0972

Alternate Contact:

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Phone: 250-213-9032

Prepared by:

Amanda Macdonald, Senior Policy Advisor
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Phone: (250) 953-5140

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 30/2017
Dir	CH	Oct 26/2017

Tom - I consulted with MDD and he
concurs.

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: November 15, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 233916

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Feedback on the grizzly bear hunt closure within the Great Bear Rainforest boundary

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR).

On October 24, 2017, the decision was made to use the the legally delineated boundary from the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* introduced in 2016 as the boundary for the closure of grizzly bear hunting in the GBR. This decision was supported by both regional and Fish and Wildlife branch staff. The policy intent paper was used to engage the public, stakeholder and First Nations about the GBR boundary.

DISCUSSION:

Several First Nations and many environmental non-governmental organizations and members of the public congratulated the government on its decision to close the GBR. However, a number of concerns have been raised during the engagement process about the use of the GBR boundary for the closure. For example, the Nisga'a Nation has raised concerns with how expansive the boundary is and its inclusion of a guiding territory area that they have an interest in (see attachment #3 for background DN). The Coastal First Nations (CFN) have raised concerns that the closure is not expansive enough, and that the closure should grow to cover the outer perimeters of grizzly bear population units that fall only partially within the GBR boundary. Other organizations have also expressed frustration that the closure is not based on grizzly bear population units.

Following the closure of the grizzly bear hunt in the legally delineated GBR boundary, government will continue to engage with BC residents about the hunt closure in population and management units that transect this boundary, utilizing regional and branch fish and wildlife staff and in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Government has made a formal commitment to the CFN to do so (see attachment #2 letter).

CONCLUSION:

To meet our commitment to close grizzly bear hunting within the GBR, the Province is starting with the proposed GBR boundary from our policy intent paper (attachment # 1 Map A). Once the new changes are in effect, the Province commits to engaging with First Nations and Treaty partners, including the CFN on the future of the closure of the grizzly bear hunt for population and management units that transect this boundary.

Attachments: # 1 - Map A

2 - Letter to Coastal First Nations Stewardship Directors Committee

3 - DN Nisga'a Nation concerns regarding proposed grizzly bear regulations

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Manager

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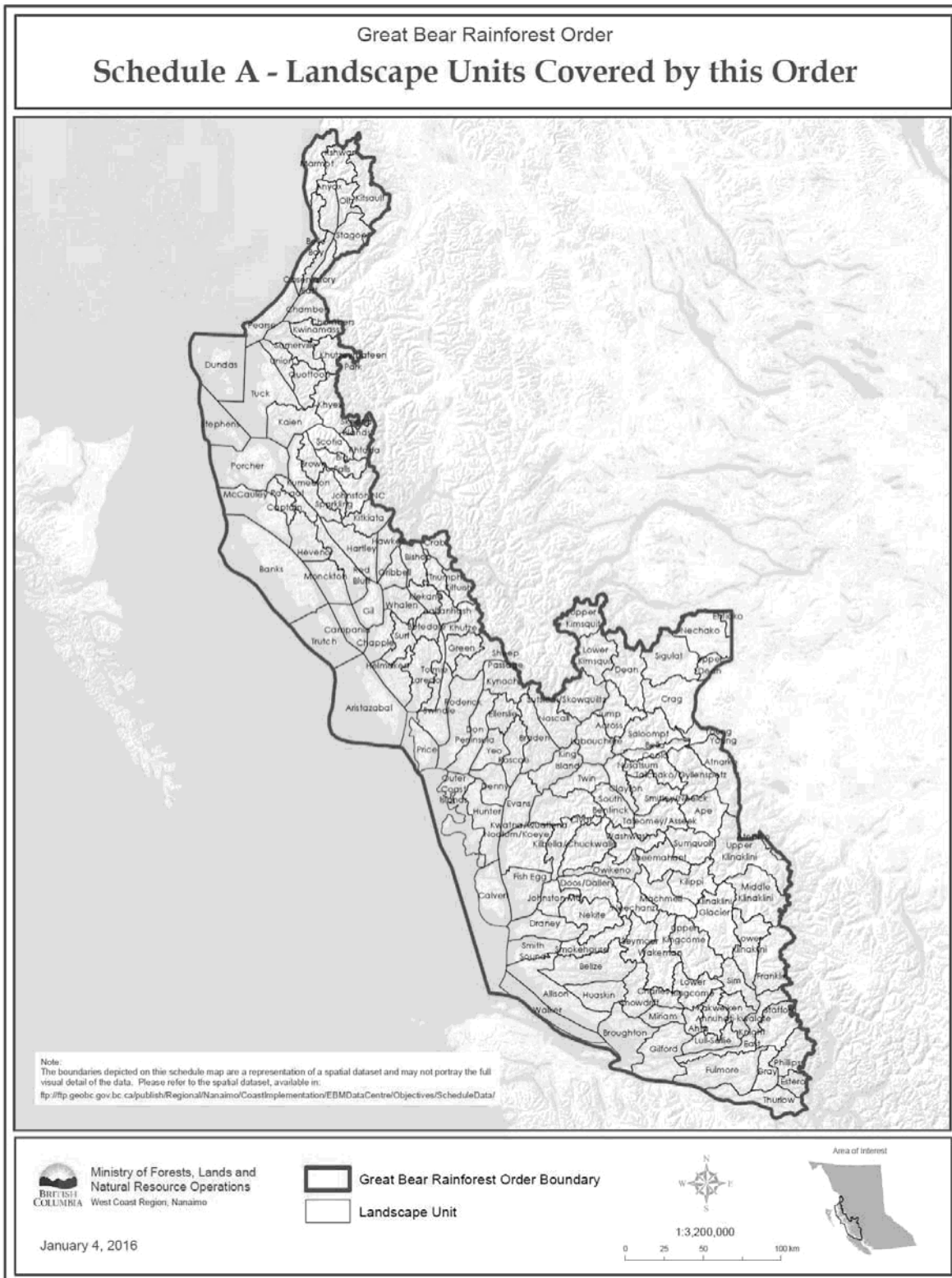
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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
A/ADM	WT	Nov. 16/17
ED		
Director	JP	Nov.10/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Nov. 9/17
Author	SH	Nov. 9/ 17

Attachment #1 – Map A





Reference: 233916

Coastal First Nations
Great Bear Initiative
Suite 1660 – 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 1T2

November 15, 2017

Dear Coastal First Nations (CFN) Stewardship Directors Committee,

Re: Grizzly bear hunting closure

I am writing to you regarding the proposed grizzly bear hunting closure in Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). As you know, the BC Government announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bear in the GBR. November 30, 2017 will be the last day of grizzly bear hunting within the GBR.

We thank you for your letter (dated October 25th, 2017) and your request to include grizzly bear population units (GBPUs) and management units (MUs) in the hunting closure, with consideration to connectivity, movement and habitat. We note your recommendations to close all GBPUs in the GBR to protect grizzly bears at a population unit scale and that MUs split by the proposed GBR boundary be included in the hunting closure.

To meet our commitment to close grizzly bear hunting within the GBR, we are starting with the proposed GBR boundary from our policy intent paper (Map A).

The Ministry will commit to:

1. Discussing the no hunting zone boundary with the CFN as part of “Phase 2”, once the new changes are in effect.
2. Creating longer-term relationships between the CFN and Fish and Wildlife Branch and Coast region staff. We agree to discuss black bear hunting in the GBR as one of the first topics in our ongoing discussions with you.

Page 1 of 2

Thank you for your offer of attending the possible media release event to announce the closure. Staff will be in touch with you to discuss further. Penny Lloyd (penny.lloyd@gov.bc.ca) remains your staff contact on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Concerns raised by the Nisga'a Nation regarding the proposed grizzly bear regulations

BACKGROUND:

Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears under a treaty right or pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes. The proposed regulatory changes are anticipated to impact guide outfitters and guiding territory certificate holders. A Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) holder is granted exclusive control over guiding privileges in an area. A guide outfitter must be hired by a non-resident to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

s.13,s.16

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Page 071

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14;s.16;s.13

Page 072

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

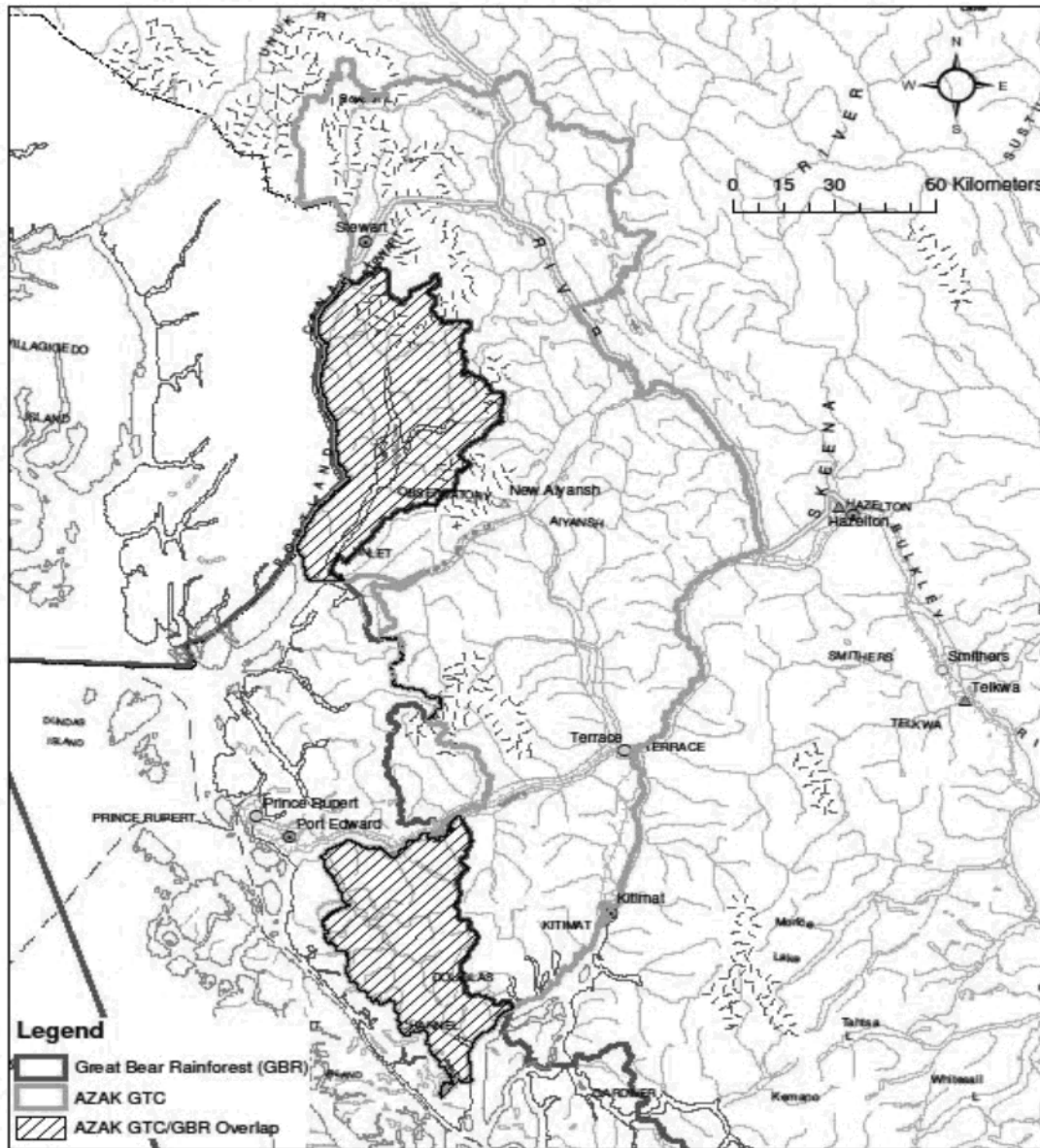
Attachments: A - Nisga'a GTC Overlap with GBR
B - Territories of the GBR

Contact:*Tom Ethier**ADM**Resource Stewardship Division**Phone: 250 356-0972***Alternate Contact:***Penny Lloyd**Manager, Legislative Reform**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 250 387-9792***Prepared by:***Suzanne Harkness**Senior Policy Advisor**Fish and Wildlife**Phone: 250-952-0677*

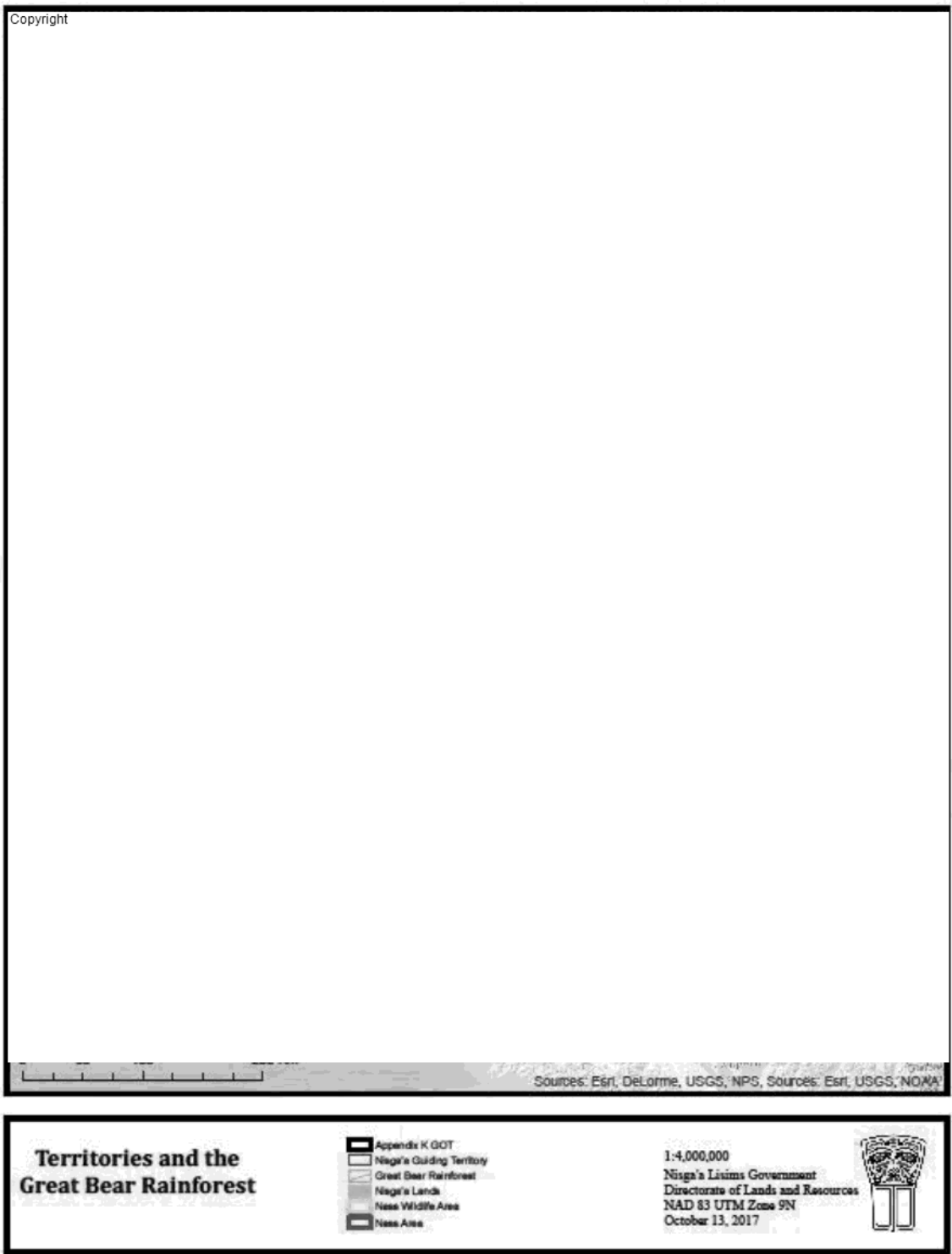
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct. 23/17
ED	WT	Oct. 23/17
Director	JP	Oct.19/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Oct.19/17

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Nisga'a/Azak GTC Overlap with the GBR



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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BULLETS**

Date: August 24, 2017

File: 280/20 BN

CLIFF: 230007

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

ISSUE: Meeting with the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia:

- 1) Grizzly bear hunting
- 2) The future of the outfitting industry
- 3) Wildlife management in British Columbia

BULLETS:

1) Grizzly Bear Hunting

- Effective November 30, 2017, the British Columbia Government will end grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Guide outfitters outside the Great Bear Rainforest will still be issued grizzly bear quota and be permitted to guide grizzly bear hunters. However, there will not be an ability to remove or keep trophies.
- Over the next few months Government will consult with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms as B.C. moves toward ending the trophy hunt. Regulation amendments to end the trophy hunt are planned to be drafted by December.
- Historically the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia (GOABC) has supported regulation proposals that would require hunters to retrieve the edible portions of harvested grizzly bears (and cougar); many guide outfitters currently donate grizzly bear meat to food banks.
- GOABC may request compensation for guides related to the decision. There is no compensation scheme under the *Wildlife Act*. However, Government may want to consider the economic impacts to rural areas. In 2001, Government did provide compensation to the guides when a three-year grizzly bear moratorium was put in place.
- Grizzly bear harvest accounts for 2.8% percent of all guided big game harvest. There are approximately 87 guide outfitters in the province that provide guiding services for grizzly bears.
- Current estimates indicate there are two guide territory certificates containing First Nations' interest in the Great Bear Rainforest with a quota of 20 grizzly bears and 12 guide territory certificates outside the Great Bear Rainforest with a quota of 31 grizzly bears.

2) Ministry commitments to ensure future of the Guide Outfitting Industry

- Current Government policy on Commercial Hunting Interests includes statements that support the viability of the guide outfitting industry:
 - Requiring non-resident hunters to hire a guide outfitter to hunt big game, except when permits to accompany are issued.
 - Providing guided hunters with predictable, fair allocation shares.
 - Timely application of decision making processes regarding the transfer and disposition of guide territories.

- Timely review of the status of uncertificated areas.
- Creating and maintaining a regulatory framework that maximizes guided hunters' success, enjoyment and participation.
- The maintenance of exclusive guided hunting rights for guide outfitters.

3) Wildlife Management in B.C.

- The GOABC argues for science-based wildlife management and the provision of sustainable hunting opportunities.
- Government has committed to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation and collaborate with stakeholders to develop short and long term strategies to manage B.C.'s wildlife resources.
- Collaboration and consultation with First Nations and stakeholders will be foundational to finalizing B.C.'s goals and priority activities to improve wildlife management.
- Government programs are advancing work to:
 - recover moose and caribou populations;
 - develop a provincial strategy for inventory and monitoring big game species;
 - develop management plans for grizzly bear, thimblehorn sheep and rocky mountain elk;
 - centralize and standardize harvest allocation for allocated big game species;
 - continue modernizing permit and licensing services to an online system.
- Past discussions with stakeholders identified the dedication of funding from hunting licence and permit revenue back into wildlife management activities as a starting point for increased stabilized funding.

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DM	TS	August 29, 2017
DMO	RM	August 29, 2017
A/ADM	RWT	August 29, 2017
A/ PRGM Dir.	MR	August 25, 2017

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: August 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230574

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

ISSUE: First Nations and stakeholder consultation on ending the Grizzly Bear trophy hunt and enhanced wildlife management in BC

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017, government announced two initiatives: (1) that it will end Grizzly Bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, effective November 30, 2017 (2) that there will be a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

In the announcement, there was a commitment to consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms towards ending the trophy hunt. It also stated that government will be moving forward with a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province. This includes identifying dedicated funding for wildlife from hunting licence revenue and habitat conservation and a collaborative process in developing short and long-term plans for wildlife resources.

The Minister's mandate letter similarly contains instructions to "improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop long and short term strategies to manage BC's wildlife resources."

DISCUSSION:

The consultation process for both initiatives will be run concurrently.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch will consult on the end of Grizzly Bear trophy hunting and the end of all hunting of Grizzly Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest in accordance with their standard process for consulting First Nations and stakeholders. This process will conclude by October 31, 2017. A timeline for this consultation process can be found in Appendix A.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch has entered into an agreement with the Fraser Basin Council to lead or support a consultation process with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to inform opinions on an enhanced wildlife management strategy. The deliverables from the consultation process are expected by March 2018.

There are three consultation options on an enhanced wildlife management strategy.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Investigative

- Led by Fraser Basin Council and the Fish and Wildlife Branch;
- Largely an online process;
- First Nations, stakeholders and the public invited to submit their views on enhanced wildlife management;
- Submissions are compiled into a report; and
- Based on the report recommendations are made to the Minister.

Pros:

- Relatively inexpensive and simple;
- Easily meets the proposed timeframe;
- Avoids open disagreement between First Nations, stakeholders and members of the public.

Cons:

- Less effective in obtaining collective ownership and “buy-in” of the recommended approach;
- Less collaborative;
- Expectations from public and stakeholders may be for extensive process.

Option 2: Minister’s Advisory Council

- Minister appoints an advisory council comprised of wildlife management experts and neutral professionals e.g. lawyer, accountant;
- If stakeholder representatives are included on the advisory council, it could jeopardize success;
- Advisory council travels the province to obtain input from First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public;
- Advisory council provides report and makes recommendations to the Minister.

Pros:

- Advisory Council will be more effective in drafting informed recommendations;
- More transparent process and increases the likelihood of implementing actions quickly and achieving a high level of buy-in among First Nations, stakeholders and members of the public.

Cons:

- More costly;
- May take time to appoint the Council. It is a tight timeframe;
- May appear inconsistent with the objective of full collaboration as final recommendations are made by the Advisory Council.

Option 3: Round Table

- An invitation to is sent to First Nations, stakeholders and the public to participate in a Round Table in a central location;
- Each group is asked to designate a representative to attend the Round Table;
- Fraser Basin Council facilitator will meet with representatives to clarify the Round Table process;
- Fraser Basin Council facilitator will conduct focus groups with First Nations, stakeholder and the public;

- Based on focus groups input recommendations will be made to the Minister.

Pros:

- More inclusive and collaborative process;
- Greater potential for obtaining collective ownership and buy-in of the recommended approach;
- Would appear to the public as the most inclusive consultative process.

Cons:

- Success will be dependent on a skilled process facilitator;
- Success will be dependent on the willingness of First Nations, stakeholder and the public to work towards a consensus;
- Choosing representatives from stakeholder organizations, First Nations and the public will be a divisive process;
- May take time to form the Round Table and work towards consensus;
- May not be able to form consensus and make focused recommendations to Minister.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Minister's Advisory Council

Approved / Not Approved

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

Date

Attachment(s): Grizzly Bear Regulation Consultation Process

Contact:

Ward Trotter, Executive Director

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Prepared by:

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM		
ED		
PRGM Mgr.	PL and MR	August 24, 2017
Author	CW	August 24, 2017

Grizzly Bear Regulations Consultation Process

Consultation

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 5th, conference calls starting week of September 25th. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13th. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20th.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – September 5th.

Stakeholders

- Engagement with stakeholders begins week of September 5th. Contact key stakeholders and arrange face to face meetings.
- Conclude face to face meetings by October 20th.

Public and Internal Government

- Engagement with internal government Ministers/agencies. September 1st to October 20th.
- Engagement with public. Public comment period via website September 11th - October 20th.

NOTE: The timeframe allows staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: August 28, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230691

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: First Nations and Stakeholder Consultation on ending the Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt and enhanced wildlife management in BC

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017, government announced that it was putting an end to grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest, effective November 30, 2017. There was a commitment by Government to consult with First Nations and stakeholders to determine next steps and mechanisms towards ending the trophy hunt and that this would occur in September and October.

The announcement also stated that Government will be moving forward with a broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province. This includes identifying dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation and a collaborative process in developing short and long-term plans for wildlife resources. The Minister's mandate letter contains similar instructions.

The purpose of this note is to outline the suggested method for conducting the consultation process for ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt. As well as provide some options for discussion on how to proceed with the broader consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

DISCUSSION:

Government's announcement in August indicated that it would consult on both the end of the grizzly bear trophy hunt and an renewed wildlife management strategy. Staff are suggesting that the consultation methods should be separated to recognize the different scope of discussion that will likely occur related to the grizzly bear versus a renewed strategy and to help ensure that the necessary regulatory amendments for the grizzly bear file can be completed within the expected timeframe.

Consultation on changes to Grizzly Bear Hunt

The Fish and Wildlife Branch is proposing to lead the consultation on the regulation amendment(s) to the end of grizzly bear trophy hunting and the end of all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The branch will consult with First Nations and engage stakeholders using the normal consultation process used for regulatory amendments. To have the regulation amendment(s) ready for a decision by December 2017, see Appendix A for outline of process and timing.

Consultation on an Enhanced Wildlife Management Strategy

British Columbians' and First Nations will welcome the opportunity to discuss and put forward their ideas on a renewed wildlife management strategy.

A consultation process on a renewed strategy will provide a venue to discuss the current acrimonious relationship concerning wildlife (e.g., Wolf, Cariboo and Moose management). Many of the concerns have been documented in public forums and government reports such as by Mike Morris in his review of wildlife habitat in August 2015 and by Al Gorley in his report on moose in October 2016.

These recent reports and other discussions have highlighted the importance of our province's wildlife resource which contributes to the cultural and economic fabric of the province. It is well documented that our wildlife plays a central role in First Nations' traditional culture, as well as recreational activities that enhance the health and well-being of British Columbians and visitors and the many forces influencing wildlife and the management of them.

A broader consultation will be seen by most people as an effort by government to reconcile many of the divergent attitudes, opinions, concerns and interests when it comes to our wildlife. As a first step to advance this initiative, the method and the timing of this broader consultation process needs to be determined.

There are various consultation methods available that could be used to solicit input on the enhanced strategy, a few examples are provided below for discussion purposes:

- **Independent Expert led**
(e.g., Al Gorley's lead process that led to a report on moose in 2016; Jim Snetsinger led process that led to report on volume to area conversion)
- **Parliamentary Secretary led**
(e.g., Mike Morris (2015) conducted a review of policies and strategies that guide the management of wildlife habitat, within the context of British Columbia's resource based economy)
- **Independent Investigative Approach**
(Led by a contractor (e.g., Fraser Basin Council; with support of the Fish and Wildlife Branch)
- **Minister's Advisory Council**
(e.g., Minister appoints an advisory council),
- **Round Table Approach**
(e.g., facilitated process where First Nations, stakeholders and the public invited to participate in a Round Table)

Each method has strengths and weaknesses and would require different time frames. The Fish and Wildlife Branch has an agreement with the Fraser Basin Council to lead or support a consultation process should a decision be made to utilize this service. This process could start in the fall and be completed with recommendations to the Minister by early 2018.

NEXT STEPS:

Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Stewardship Division to discuss consultation processes with the Deputy Minister and provide direction to staff.

Attachment:

- A. Grizzly Bear Regulation Consultation Process

Contact:

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
A/ADM	RWT	August 29, 2017

Attachment A: Grizzly Bear Regulations Consultation Process

Consultation

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 5, conference calls starting week of September 25. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – September 5.

Stakeholders

- Engagement with stakeholders begins week of September 5. Contact key stakeholders and arrange face to face meetings.
- Conclude face to face meetings by October 20.

Public and Internal Government

- Engagement with internal Government Ministers/Agencies. September 1 to October 20.
- Engagement with public. Public comment period via website September 11 to October 20.

NOTE: The timeframe will allow staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 8, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230929

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

**ISSUE: Process to complete policy and regulation changes for the Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt
Ban and Great Bear Rainforest Grizzly Bear Hunt Closure**

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest. Government has committed to consulting with First Nations and stakeholder groups in fall 2017 to determine next steps and mechanisms to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt. Hunting grizzly bear for meat will be allowed to continue.

The Fish & Wildlife Branch will lead the consultation on the regulatory amendments to end grizzly bear trophy hunting and on ending the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest. Consultation must commence immediately with First Nations and stakeholders and be completed by late October so the required regulatory changes (e.g., regulation drafting and treasury board submission) are ready for decision in December.

s.12,s.13

Closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest is done through a Minister's Regulation, which will be completed by late November for approval, and the package does not need to go to Cabinet.

Typically when regulation changes are needed, a select group of stakeholders and affected parties are consulted. A broader group of stakeholders will be engaged on the proposed regulations;s.13

s.13

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DISCUSSION:

To support consultation, the Fish and Wildlife Branch has developed two policy intent papers: one on ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt (Attachment 3) and a second on closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest (Attachment 4). The purpose of the policy intent papers is to inform the reader about governments proposed regulatory and policy changes.

The papers are used to solicit feedback, comment and support for the proposed changes. This information will inform government of the overall support for the proposed changes as well as allowing the person consulted to provide other ideas that the government should consider. More details about the two papers follow.

TROPHY HUNTING BAN

To implement ending the grizzly bear trophy hunt, the government must determine what parts of the bear a hunter will not be allowed to possess. The Fish and Wildlife Branch proposes implementing the trophy ban by prohibiting possession of the following grizzly bear parts through regulation: skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide (including the head), paws with claws, and detached claws.

Any possession of these parts of a grizzly would be prohibited except for an exemption for a person to possess the parts for the purposes of removing them from the field to surrender them to Government.

Hunters who kill a grizzly bear under the new regulatory scheme will be required to remove edible portions of grizzly bear, including the four quarters, loins, neck and rib meat. The hunter must take edible portions to their dwelling place, to a meat cutter, or to a cold storage plant. To enhance the enforceability of the grizzly bear trophy hunt ban, taxidermists will be required to report their work on grizzly bears to government.

The ban on hunting grizzly bears for trophies will not apply to First Nations when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or Treaty rights. s.14

s.14

The possession of grizzly bear parts lawfully harvested prior to November 30th 2017 will not be prohibited. It will also remain lawful to import lawfully harvested grizzly bear parts from other jurisdictions into BC, and for British Columbians to export their lawfully attained grizzly bear parts. However, the sale within BC of grizzly bear parts, even lawfully attained in BC or another jurisdiction, will be prohibited. These parts may be gifted.

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The intent is that by eliminating the legal market for the sale of grizzly bear trophy parts, government may reduce the marketability of poached parts and the temptation to poach. Poaching may become a growing issue if the ban on grizzly bear parts results in an increase in their value.

Although there will be many areas of interest, 2 policy decisions related to grizzly bear trophy parts anticipated to attract attention by stakeholders and First Nations are:

1. What parts of a grizzly bear are prohibited from possession: There will be various options about what should be included as the prohibited parts of grizzly bear. Government staff and wildlife experts are recommending that the following grizzly bear parts be prohibited from possession: skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide (including the head), paws with claws, and detached claws.
2. Handling of prohibited parts, compulsory inspection and the collection of science data: Concerns regarding government's intention and stakeholder's interest about what is to be done with the prohibited parts of grizzly bear. Government staff and wildlife experts would like to continue to collect biological data from parts of the grizzly bear, including from prohibited parts. The options with respect to prohibited parts under consideration are:
 - Requiring the removal of all prohibited parts from the field and the surrender to government;
 - removing only specific prohibited parts to be surrendered to government and leaving other prohibited parts in the field; or
 - leaving all prohibited parts in the field and only minimal tissue/hair/teeth samples are submitted to government.

Stakeholders are interested in this issue. The removal of grizzly bear parts from the field for eventual destruction by government will be a substantial burden on hunters. All options may attract criticism for being wasteful. For example, the BC Wildlife Federation has posted an online position that forbidding possession of paws, hide and head "is inconsistent with the North American Wildlife Conservation Model...*"wildlife should be used for legitimate purposes, including retrieving the fur and meat where useable"*. First Nations have also expressed concern regarding wastage, s.14

s.14

Submitting prohibited grizzly bear parts to government ensures that they do not have an opportunity to enter the black market. However, there are challenges with the option to require hunters to remove all prohibited parts and turn them over to government.

Initial feedback from regional government offices indicate concern with this option due to lack of appropriate facilities and staffing resources. s.14

s.14

CLOSING THE GRIZZLY BEAR HUNT IN THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

The Great Bear Rainforest is structured around two unique boundaries: the Land Use Orders (2016) and the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* (2017). In August, Government announced it was closing the hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest. At the time, no map or boundary definitions were provided with the the announcement. The Ministry is proposing that the Great Bear Rainforest be defined as the area contained within the boundaries of the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, enacted through the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Orders. Staff considered a second option that would have included the Coastal First Nations territory in addition to the Land Use Order boundary. This option could still be considered after consultation if there is a desire from Executive.

Key policy decisions anticipated to attract comment by stakeholders and First Nations during the consultation and engagement include:

- The Ministry's recommended boundary of the Great Bear Rainforest is expected to be subject to discussion during consultation, because there are other boundaries (e.g. *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* (2017) that could have been used. Different boundaries will affect the Limited Entry Hunting areas and Guiding Territory Certificate areas to a different extent.
- There are approximately 40 First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest that have varying interests in hunting grizzly bear. Some First Nations, including the Coastal First Nations, have been vocally opposed to grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest, whereas other First Nations have an interest in guiding in the area. For example:
 - Collier Azak, CEO of the Nisga'a Lisims Government, holds a Guiding Territory Certificate in a trust-like arrangement for the Nisga'a Nation. Nisga'a purchased the Certificate in 2015 and the value of the Certificate was likely tied to its grizzly bear quota.
 - Leslie Ashton holds a Certificate on behalf of Raincoast and the Coastal First Nations, which was purchased with the intent to stop the hunting of grizzly bears, pursuant to the 2016 Great Bear Rainforest agreements.

Attachment 1: Regulation Consultation and Drafting Timeline

Attachment 2: Stakeholder Consultation List

Attachment 3: Policy Intent Paper: Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt Ban

Attachment 4: Policy Intent Paper: Closure of Grizzly Bear Hunt in Great Bear Rainforest

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Exec Dir	WT	Sept 11 2017
Dir	JP	Sept 11 2017
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	PL	Sept 11 2017

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Appendix 1: Regulation Consultation s.12,s.13

Consultation Phase

First Nations

- Engagement with First Nations – Letters sent week of September 11th, conference calls starting week of September 25th. Province wide conference calls to be finished by October 13th. Allow written submissions and emails from First Nations by October 20th.
- Notification letters sent to Treaty First Nations – week of September 11th. Will treaty and SEA holders be included in the dates above?

Stakeholders

- ADM has approved list of stakeholders assembled by Fish & Wildlife staff.
- Engagement with stakeholders must begin the week of September 11th in order to meet project timelines.
- Contact stakeholder and initiate confidentiality agreements the week of September 11th. Send policy documents for review as soon as they are prepared. Arrange conference calls and conclude stakeholder engagement by October 20th.

Internal Government

- Engagement with internal government Ministers/agencies. September 1st to October 20th.

NOTE: The timeframe allows staff to conduct internal wrap up of consultation process from October 21 to October 31. s.12,s.13

s.12,s.13

Drafting Phase

October 31st – November 3rd, 2017

- Finalization of drafting instructions.
s.12,s.13
- Notify Spell out ICBC if Violation Tickets Administration and Fines Regulation tickets are involved

November 6th, 2017

- Submission of Regulatory Privacy Impact Assessment

s.12,s.13

Page 092

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.14;s.13

APPENDIX 2

Stakeholder Consultation List

- British Columbia Trappers Association
- British Columbia Wildlife Federation
- Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia
- United Bowhunters of British Columbia
- Wildlife Stewardship Council
- Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia
- Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative
- Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC
- Grizzly Bear Foundation
- Raincoast Conservation Foundation
- Wilderness Tourism Association of BC
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- Selected taxidermists identified by permit applications through Front Counter BC

Attachment 3

Policy Intent Discussion Paper

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt Ban

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The press release for this announcement can be found online at:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0232-001442>

This policy intent discussion paper is focused on the key issues related to implementation of ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in British Columbia. There is another policy intent discussion paper on ending the hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears does not mean that there is a total ban on grizzly bear hunting. While the possession of the “trophy parts” (e.g., specific prohibited parts) of grizzly bears will be prohibited, a sustenance hunt for grizzly bear meat will continue for both resident and non-resident hunters.

First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bears and possess all parts of grizzly bears (including the “trophy parts”) when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or treaty rights (i.e. for food, social, or ceremonial reasons).

Ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in a comprehensive manner requires a number of changes to the existing law governing the harvest and possession of grizzly bear parts. The remainder of this paper focuses on the proposed regulatory changes associated with ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears.

1) Prohibit the possession of grizzly bear parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

- Prohibit a person to possess the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear harvested after November 30th, 2017. There will be an exemption to possess these parts for the purposes of removing them from the field to surrender them to Government.
- Remove the ability to issue a permit authorizing the possession of the skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear.
- Establish that grizzly bear parts must be inspected by an officer prior to the issuance of a permit to prove lawfully ownership where the original documentation has been lost or destroyed.

Background:

There are existing prohibitions on the possession of grizzly bear parts. The Wildlife Act Commercial Activities Regulation prohibits the possession of grizzly bear genitalia (including the baculum) and gall bladders.

A permit can currently be issued to possess a grizzly bear or its parts where the grizzly bear has died of natural or accidental causes. There are existing limits on when these permits can be issued. For example, these permits cannot be issued for some species of wildlife (e.g. eagles) or where the wildlife has a value of over \$200. Removing the ability for issuing a permit for a grizzly bear in these instances is within the scope of existing authority in legislation.

Currently a person can acquire documentation establishing a right to possess grizzly bear parts (excluding the genitalia and gall bladder) by paying a fee and swearing an affidavit that it was legally acquired. This is intended to be used to replace lost or destroyed documentation.

Rationale:

These amendments will end the trophy hunt of grizzly bears by prohibiting the possession of what are commonly considered to be the “trophy parts” of the grizzly bear.

It is necessary to remove the ability for a person to acquire lawful possession of the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws by permit to ensure that grizzly bears are no longer harvested for a trophy.

Requiring an officer to inspect currently owned grizzly bear parts prior to the issuance of replacement documentation is necessary to ensure that this permit is not used to legitimize the possession of illegally possessed grizzly bear parts.

2) Expand the definition of edible portions and require them to be removed from a harvested grizzly bear

Proposed Regulation Changes:

- Amend the definition of edible portions in the Wildlife Act General Regulation to include the edible portions of the neck and ribs.
- Require hunters to remove the edible portions of a grizzly bear and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant.

Background:

Edible portions of big game (excluding grizzly bear, cougar, wolf, lynx, bobcat and wolverine) are currently considered to be the four quarters and loins of the animal.

Hunters are required to remove the edible portions of a harvested big game animal and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant unless there is an exemption in place for the particular species of wildlife. There is currently an exemption in place for

grizzly bear. The Ministry is proposing removing this exemption for grizzly bear, so that hunters will now have to remove the edible portions of grizzly bear and transport them to their normal dwelling place, a meat cutter or a cold storage plant.

The edible portions requirement is in place to encourage use of harvested game for sustenance. The new definition of edible portions will apply to all big game, except for those excluded in the legislation (e.g. cougar).

Rationale:

Expanding the definition of edible portions will improve the utilization of harvested big game and reduce the waste of parts that are edible but not currently listed.

Grizzly bear meat is considered edible and requiring the edible portions to be removed aligns with the government's objective of a sustenance hunt for grizzly bear.

3) Approaches for Managing Prohibited Grizzly Bear Parts ("take parts out or leave them in")

Proposed Regulation Changes:

The Ministry is seeking input on how Government will manage the prohibited parts of grizzly bears (skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws). Some have discussed this debate as "(i) Take grizzly parts out of forest (ii) leave grizzly parts in forest or (iii) somewhere in the middle." Three options have been identified:

- i. Require all grizzly bear parts to be removed from the field including edible portions and all grizzly bear parts. Edible portions to be allowed to be retained by the hunter while other parts to be retained by government. Government will retain possession of the prohibited parts after the compulsory inspection is complete.
- ii. Require removal of edible portions but prohibit the removal of trophy parts ("leave grizzly parts in forest.") Hunters would still need to obtain minimal biological samples from a harvested bear and submit them for compulsory inspection. Government would retain possession of those biological samples.
- iii. Require removal of edible portions and certain parts that have scientific value. ("Somewhere in the middle") Government will retain possession of the parts with scientific value after the compulsory inspection is complete.

In addition to the options described above, the following changes could be made to compulsory inspection requirements:

- A hunter could be required to submit the edible portions of a grizzly bear for compulsory inspection.
- The number of days to comply with the compulsory inspection requirement for grizzly bear could be reduced (from the current 30 days).

Some factors that should be considered in the context of this policy decision are:

- The more grizzly bear parts that are submitted for compulsory inspection; the greater amount of scientific data that can be collected.
- If prohibited grizzly bear parts are submitted to government, the prohibited parts will not enter the black market.
- If prohibited grizzly parts are surrendered to government, they could be transferred to First Nations for social and ceremonial purposes.
- A hunter will be exempt from the prohibition on the possession of prohibited grizzly bear parts for the purposes of complying with compulsory inspection requirements.
- Additional handling of the prohibited parts adds burden to hunters and costs to government.

Background:

Currently, within 30 days of harvest, a hunter must submit the skull, the hide with evidence of sex attached, and a tooth of a harvested grizzly bear for compulsory inspection.

Rationale:

The scientific data obtained through compulsory inspection is crucial for monitoring the health and viability of grizzly bear populations. The parts of a grizzly bear that are submitted for compulsory inspection need to be reconsidered in light of the prohibition on the possession of certain grizzly bear parts (skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws).

4) Prohibition on the Trafficking of Grizzly Bear Parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

Prohibit the trafficking of the skull, skull with teeth, baculum (penis bone), hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear. Traffic is defined in the *Wildlife Act* as: to buy, sell, trade or distribute for gain or consideration or to offer to do so.

The ownership of a legally possessed skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear will be able to be transferred by gift or inheritance.

Background:

Currently, a person commits an offence for trafficking bear gall bladders, genitalia or bear paws separate from carcass or hide.

Rationale:

Ending the trafficking of the skull, skull with teeth, hide and parts of hide, paws with claws, and detached claws of a grizzly bear is consistent with the Government's commitment to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt. Additionally, eliminating the legal market for the sale of these prohibited grizzly bear parts, will limit the ability of poachers to market illegally harvested grizzly bear parts.

5) Importation and Exportation of Grizzly Bear Parts

Proposed Regulation Changes:

There are no proposed changes in relation to the export or import of lawfully possessed grizzly bear parts.

Background:

Currently, a person may lawfully possess wildlife that was lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction (including foreign countries) and lawfully brought into British Columbia. The province does not issue permits for importing wildlife, though the person may be required to get a permit from the originating jurisdiction.

To export grizzly bear parts within Canada, a person must have a provincial export permit or qualify for an exemption. An export permit will only be issued for legally possessed grizzly bear parts.

To export grizzly bear parts internationally, a person must have a Federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora permit. These permits will only be issued for legally possessed grizzly bear parts.

Rationale:

The current law provides sufficient regulation for the import and export of lawfully possessed grizzly bear parts.

6) New Reporting Requirements for Taxidermists

Proposed Regulation Changes:

Require taxidermists to report to government all work on grizzly bear parts.

Background:

Taxidermists are currently required to maintain records but are not required to submit any reports to government.

Rationale:

Continuing to allow taxidermists to work with grizzly bear parts acknowledges that a large number of British Columbians have a lawful right to possess grizzly bear parts and that these persons may want to hire the services of a taxidermist to preserve or display their grizzly bear parts.

Taxidermists may also be working with grizzly bear parts that have been lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction. Monitoring the taxidermist industry is warranted to ensure that illegally possessed grizzly bear parts are not being brought to taxidermists.

DRAFT Attachment 4 CONFIDENTIAL- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
Policy Intent Paper
Grizzly Bear Hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest

Introduction

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The press release for this announcement can be found online at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0232-001442>

Background

The current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the GBR is considered sustainable and the proposed closure is not a response to a conservation concern.

Closing the grizzly bear hunt in the GBR means that no licensed hunting of grizzly bears will be permitted within the GBR, however First Nations will still be able to harvest grizzly bears pursuant to aboriginal rights for food, social, or ceremonial purposes, or treaty rights.

The closure can be made with a Minister's order and does not require a cabinet submission.

Rationale:

Provincially, there are no general open seasons for the hunting of grizzly bear and grizzly bear can only be harvested during a limited entry hunting season as provided for in the Limited Entry Hunting Regulation. If the limited entry hunting (LEH) seasons are eliminated in the Great Bear Rainforest, the Province will no longer be authorizing the harvest of grizzly bear within that area.

Boundaries of the Great Bear Rainforest

The Great Bear Rainforest is structured around two unique boundaries: the Land Use Orders (2016) and the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) (Forest Management) Act (2017). The Land Use Order boundary follows the GBR Plan Area established through the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, concluded in 2006. The GBR Act boundary follows the reconfigured Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) in the North and Central Coast, now described as GBR North and GBR South. The government's recent announcement to end the Grizzly Bear hunt in the GBR did not specify which boundary the Ministerial Order (MO) would reference.

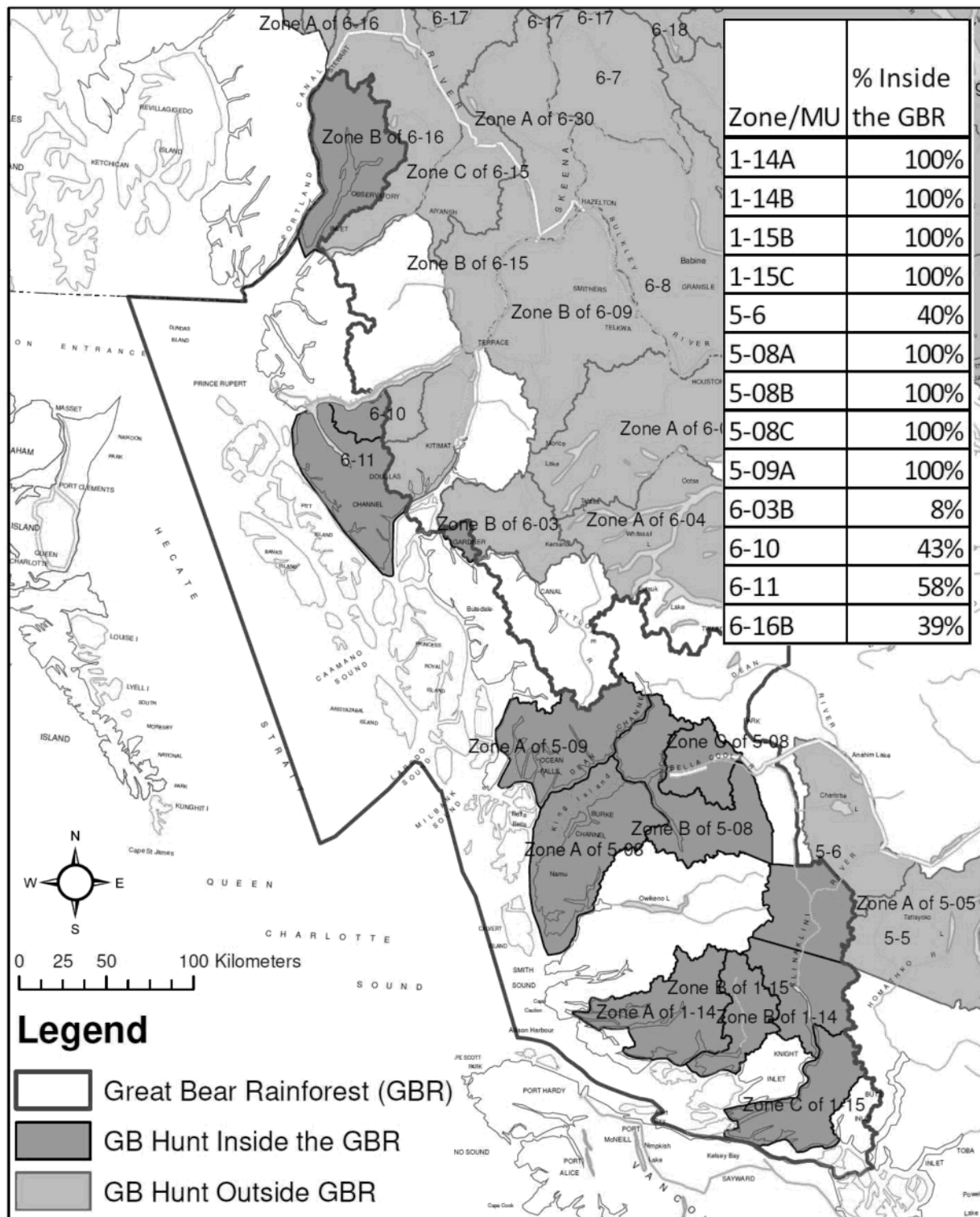
For the purpose of ending the grizzly bear hunt the Ministry is proposing that the Great Bear Rainforest be defined as the area contained within the boundaries of the North Coast and Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plans, enacted through the GBR Land Use Orders (see Map A).

Rationale:

Within the boundaries defined by the GBR Land Use Order, Coastal First Nations share the same values and opinion regarding trophy hunting grizzly bear. Outside of these boundaries, issues

and conflicts among First Nations holding different views on hunting grizzly bear may delay implementation of the closure.

Grizzly Bear Hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest



This draft policy intent paper purpose is to generate feedback and comment

Proposed Closures

There are a total of 13 LEH areas currently open to grizzly bear hunting with overlap of the GBR: 8 of which lie completely within, and 5 of which lie partially within.

Zone/MU	Total Area	% Area Inside the GBR	% Area Outside the GBR	Total Population Estimate	Population Estimate Inside the GBR	Population Estimate Outside the GBR
1-14A	326372	100%	0%	120	120	0
1-14B	170458	100%	0%	64	64	0
1-15B	169020	100%	0%	66	66	0
1-15C	323705	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-6	586462	40%	60%	104	42	62
5-08A	459245	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-08B	371463	100%	0%	73	73	0
5-08C	152118	100%	0%	57	57	0
5-09A	347683	100%	0%	49	49	0
6-03B	294152	8%	92%	73	6	67
6-10	143790	43%	57%	24	10	14
6-11	573069	58%	42%	166	96	70
6-16B	902897	39%	61%	285	111	174

Closure of the grizzly bear hunt would require deleting the 8 LEH areas that lie completely within the GBR, and modifying the remaining 5 to exclude the GBR.

The 8 areas that fall completely within the closed area add up to approximately 230,000ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears in these areas combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 38; 30 harvested by resident hunters and 8 harvested by guided hunters.

The five hunt areas that would be modified are 5-6, 6-03B, 6-10, 6-11, and 6-16B. The portion of these five areas that fall within the GBR is approximately 100,000 ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears within the portions of these areas that lie within the GBR combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 9; 2 harvested by resident hunters and 7 harvested by guided hunters.

Hunts within the portions of the 5 areas that lie outside the closed area, and remain open to grizzly bear hunting (under the new trophy hunting regulations) would be managed in accordance with Grizzly Bear Harvest Management Procedure.

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 11, 2017
File: 280-20
XRef: 230929
CLIFF: 230260

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

ISSUE: Minister Donaldson's meeting with Humane Society International to discuss animal welfare issues under his portfolio and ending the grizzly bear hunt

BACKGROUND:

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017, it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest.

On August 15, Rebecca Aldworth, Executive Director of Humane Society International/Canada, issued the following statement applauding the ban: "Trophy hunting is a disgraceful blood sport that flies in the face of Canadian values... that BC NDP has prohibited the trophy hunting of grizzly bears in the province is a crucial step forward in protecting these majestic animals from such senseless cruelty and in respecting the views of the overwhelming majority of BC residents, including Coastal First Nations. Much remains to be clarified about the measure, and we welcome the opportunity to work with the provincial government to ensure grizzlies are truly protected from all forms of trophy hunting."

Minister Donaldson is meeting with Humane Society International on September 18th. The Humane Society International Canada claims to have campaigned to end the trophy hunt for grizzlies in BC for more than a decade.

DISCUSSION:

Ending the trophy hunt for grizzly bears in a comprehensive manner requires a number of changes to the existing law governing the harvest and possession of grizzly bear parts. Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears does not mean that there is a total ban on grizzly bear hunting. While the possession of the "trophy parts" of grizzly bears will be prohibited, a hunt for grizzly bear meat will continue for both resident and non-resident hunters.

First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bears and possess all parts of grizzly bears (including the "trophy parts") when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal or treaty rights (i.e. for food, social, or ceremonial reasons).

Government will consult with First Nations and many stakeholders to determine next steps and mechanisms as BC moves toward ending the trophy hunt. The Fish and Wildlife Branch will begin this consultation in September to discuss policy and operational options with provincial stakeholders and First Nations to inform the new regulations.

The consultation process will include organizations that have commercial, recreational and/or research interests in grizzly bears in an effort to maximize the input into the operational mechanics of policy change, while managing the potential for ‘out of context’ comments that could result from a broader process. The Humane Society International is not currently included in the planned consultation for grizzly bears, but could be invited to participate in the broader consultation process being planned for “improving wildlife management and habitat conservation” in British Columbia.

CONCLUSION:

The Humane Society International is one of several non-profit organizations or businesses that have expressed opposition to the grizzly bear trophy hunt. It is expected that they may oppose allowing grizzly bear to be hunted for sustenance. Other animal welfare issues to be raised by the Humane Society International may relate to trapping of furbearers in British Columbia.

While input from the Humane Society International (HSI) is welcomed, it is recommended that HSI be encouraged to participate in the broader consultation process on improving wildlife management and habitat conservation in British Columbia.

Ministry staff will follow up and inform HSI of the dates and timing of engagement opportunities on the engagement process for the renewed wildlife management strategy.

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PRGM Dir./Mgr.	JP	Sept 12/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2017 UBCM CONVENTION

I PREPARED FOR:

Minister Donaldson – request from District of Chetwynd

II ISSUE:

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017, it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest. The government has also committed to moving forward with a broad consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

A UBCM request was received from the District of Chetwynd: “The Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt has been cancelled for following years; many in the Peace Region feel the grizzly bear has been managed properly over the years, largely due to guides and outfitters taking care of the resource they are using. Cancelling the hunt may cost local jobs and reduce a component of stewardship of the grizzly bear as well. Cancelling the grizzly bear hunt may result in an increase in black market trophy hunting.”

IV SPEAKING / RESPONSE POINTS

- Grizzly bear hunt will still occur without the trophy component to the hunt
- Impacts to guides and outfitters with these changes is uncertain at this time
- Grizzly bear are managed by the Province with a high level of rigour and adequate safeguards are in place to ensure the long-term stability of grizzly bear populations
- Stewardship and management of grizzly bears is anticipated to increase with the government commitment to a renewed wildlife management strategy
- There is the potential for expanded alternative economic opportunities in the area of wildlife viewing and use
- Changes to legislation to implement changes should limit the potential for increases in black market trophy hunting

Michael Burwash, Assoc. Dir. Of Wildlife

September 11, 2017

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 15, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230250

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

ISSUE: In preparation for a meeting with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association to discuss the future of sustainable eco-tourism in BC and grizzly bear management

BACKGROUND:

The Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA) consists of 18 adventure tourism operations, 17 of which are located on the coast, one within the Kootenays, and was formed to “promote sustainable bear viewing in British Columbia and aid in the protection of wild bears and their ecosystems”. Among their programs are the development of the bear viewing industry, establishment of Best Management Practices for bear viewing, administration of the guide certification programs, advocacy of land access and management, and lobbying to close all grizzly bear hunting particularly in the vicinity of viewing operations.

On the hunt closure their position is that:

- 1) wildlife viewing and hunting are not compatible
- 2) the bear viewing industry contributes significantly more to the economy than grizzly bear hunting

Wildlife viewing is an industry that is not heavily regulated or managed by the province. Commercial operators on crown land are required to hold land use permits, however ocean based operations are within federal jurisdiction and no permits are required.

On July 19 and November 9, 2016, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Tourism Policy Branch hosted meetings with staff from FLNRO and the Ministry of Environment, as well as representatives from the broader stakeholder group (i.e., hunters, viewers, and conservation and special interest groups). The general objectives of these meetings were to gain better understanding of the commercial bear viewing business, stakeholder concerns and possible solutions including government actions.

The CBVA agreed on the need for a “bears-first” approach to emphasize their commitment to make sustainable bear populations a priority over the economic growth of their industries.

DISCUSSION:

To date, responses from the Province have stated that viewing and hunting are not mutually exclusive; this position is supported by the fact that the viewing industry is healthy and has experienced considerable growth in recent years. It is acknowledged that the viewing industry contributes significantly more to the provincial economy than hunting.

In 2012, the spring grizzly bear season in the Kootenay Region was extended from April 1-June 5 to April 1-June 15. The viewing operation in the Kootenay Region, Grizzly Bear Ranch, feels that the extended season was implemented without adequate consultation, and has had a significant negative impact on his business.

Government's announcement to close grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest, and end the trophy hunt in the remainder of the province on November 30, 2017 is likely supported by the CBVA, however their preference may be a ban on grizzly bear hunting province wide. In the coming month, FLNRORD will consult with a broad group of stakeholders including the CBVA on the proposed regulations.

In the spring of 2016, the province received an independent Scientific Review of Grizzly Bear Harvest Management System in British Columbia (the Review). The CBVA expressed concern about the review because they were not consulted. In that report, reviewers recommended that government *Establish objectives for accommodating both hunting and viewing of grizzly bears, and investigate whether conflicts exist*".

The Auditor General is currently performing an audit on grizzly bear management in BC a final report is expected to be released to the public in October, 2017. The CBVA was contacted by the Auditor General and had opportunity to provide input into the audit of grizzly bear management in the province.

Preliminary drafts of the audit include the following recommendation:

We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop clear policies and procedures for bear viewing.

The response is not confirmed, however, the groundwork is in place to begin a review of mechanisms and develop policy and possibly regulatory options that support the viewing industry.

Overall, wildlife stakeholder groups have expressed support for a user pay model for wildlife viewing (e.g., a surcharge added to the cost of wildlife viewing that would in turn be invested back into the resource). There is opportunity to further explore this option in parallel with initiatives related to the re-investment of revenue generated from hunting licenses back into wildlife management and overall improvements to wildlife management.

CONCLUSION:

Hunting and viewing are not mutually exclusive and both can coexist as appropriate and sustainable uses of provincial resources. Further discussions with the viewing industry are required to ensure that all parties have a common understanding of the interest in having viable and sustainably managed hunting and viewing industries BC.

The future of the wildlife viewing industry in the province is promising and likely augmented with the announcement of grizzly bear hunting closure in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Regulation of the bear viewing industry is something that government is willing to consider, and will have to be done in consultation with the CBVA, First Nations, wildlife stakeholders, and the tourism sectors.

Government welcomes discussion with the CBVA as ways to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation are explored.

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DMO	RM	Sept 20/2017
ADM	TE	Sept 21/17
PRGM Dir.	JP	Sept 20/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BULLETS**

Date: October 18, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230011

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

ISSUE: Briefing material for meeting with BC Wildlife Federation

BULLETS:

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) considers itself BC's largest and oldest conservation organization. BCWF has 50,000 members that "are passionately committed to protecting, enhancing and promoting the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations".

Wildlife Funding Model

- The BCWF has advocated for increased funding to wildlife management and habitat conservation, both for operational expenditures and to build capacity in the public service.
- The Executive within the organization have not advocated over a specific delivery model (e.g., external agencies or delivered internally).
- Advancing consultation for improving wildlife management and habitat conservation is a high priority for the BCWF.
- BCWF supports hunting/trapping license revenue being dedicated to wildlife management.

Allocation

- In March 2017, direction by the Deputy Minister was given to centralize statutory decisions for guide outfitter quota by the Director of Fish and Wildlife and improve standardization of policy and procedure supporting the decision.
- Considerable work has also progressed on standardizing the harvest allocation policies and procedures; updating the Annual Allowable Harvest policy and procedure; and, completing a new First Nations Harvest Estimate policy and procedure. These policies and procedures should be complete by spring 2018.
- Together, these business improvements will increase consistency across regions, improve communication of decisions, and increase transparency.
- The NDP platform states "*we will make permits for other kinds of hunting more fair for BC residents*".

Moose, Fires and First Nations

Unfair Hunting Vehicle Restrictions in the Cariboo

- Access restrictions for motor vehicles were established on September 29 and will be in place between September 1 to December 10 until vegetation has sufficiently recovered (+/-10 years from now).

- BCWF reacted strongly against the access restrictions because they did not apply to First Nations and the BCWF questions the benefits of access restrictions on improving wildlife populations, given more significant issues (e.g., habitat loss, predators, invasive species).
- The access restriction is just one management action being taken. Mid- and long-term actions for wildlife are being assessed and planned as part of moose enhancement and wildfire recovery initiatives (see below).

Current moose hunting closures (including hunting closures in the Cariboo/Chilcotin)

- The October 15 to 31 and November 1 to 15 Moose Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) in Zones A and C of MU 5-13 were closed on October 6, 2017.
- This closure is in response to a combination of factors, such as mountain pine beetle salvage logging, unprecedented wildfires, and associated access, within the area that have the potential to negatively impact a population of moose that has been decreasing since 2010.
- 209 of the 218 hunters with LEH authorizations for these hunts were contacted by phone or email by staff to notify them of the closures. Contact information for the remaining nine hunters is not available. The Conservation Officer Service has been provided with their names and will enforce the closure.
- A reassessment of the impact of wildfire to moose habitat and populations will occur over the winter and will inform future decisions regarding sustainable hunting opportunities and habitat restoration or enhancement.
- BCWF had indicated support of the closures if, based on conservation needs, they also applied to First Nations. The BCWF reacted strongly to the hunt closures because the limited entry bull only harvest does not have a significant impact on the moose population and it was not indicated if the closures would also apply to First Nations.
- The BCWF has been working with members of the Tsilhqot'in Wildlife Panel to gain buy in for closures that applies to Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) members. The current status is uncertain.

Grizzly Bear Regulations

- On October 13, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Branch met with the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team to discuss the proposed grizzly bear regulations. Al Martin and Jesse Zeeman represented the BCWF at the meeting.
- The BCWF is opposed to the proposed changes.
- Points raised at the meeting by BCWF included:
 - What does this government consider the definition of a trophy hunt to be?
 - What is the definition of a sustenance hunt?
 - How do the regulations apply to First Nations who own a guiding territory certificate?
 - How do the regulatory changes align with UNDRIP?
 - Is there a formula being developed for compensation?
 - Why will government allow grizzly bear trophies to be imported from other jurisdictions once they can no longer be harvested in BC? How is this a coherent position?
- The Fish and Wildlife Branch will continue to engage with stakeholders, the public and First Nations on the proposed regulation amendments. This consultation period will conclude

November 2, 2017 and results will be reported to stakeholders and the public.

Sturgeon Habitat and Heart of the Fraser

- This issue involves the recent purchase of Carey Island and Herrling Island from Kruger Pulp and Paper and its re-conversion by the Agricultural Land Commission from tree farming to agriculture. The new owners are in the process of converting these key “Heart of the Fraser” ecosystem attributes from tree farms (lower-level impact) to high-impact food agriculture.
- Clearing has already occurred to some of the critical riparian areas and may impact spawning habitat for White Sturgeon. There is concern that future diking and riprapping of the banks will disrupt water flows, gravel movement (the quality of which is critical to White Sturgeon embryo and larval survival).
- To develop these properties, the owners have applied to the Provincial government to allow construction of large bridges across the secondary (spawning and rearing) channels in order to access the properties 365 days a year. Referrals are expected to ecosystem staff; however, permits have not yet been reviewed.

Any questions the Minister has for the BCWF

What are the key strategic priorities for the BCWF in the next six months; one year; future years?

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ED	WT	Oct 18/17
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	JP	Oct 18/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 26, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 230907

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: First Nations and Stakeholder Consultation on Wildlife and Habitat Improvement and Revitalization Project

BACKGROUND:

British Columbia's wildlife is central to the culture and economy of the province. Over the past decade wildlife populations and wildlife management in BC have changed substantially. Hunting licences have increased by 20%, tourism opportunities have expanded, First Nations continue to seek greater role in co-management of wildlife, and populations of some key species have declined. Cumulative impacts on habitat from mountain pine beetle, wildfires, and industrial development also affect species distribution, abundance and management options. These shifts and landscape changes have increased conflicts among interests (e.g., hunters, viewing industry, ranching, First Nations, environmentalists) and increased the complexity of wildlife management.

Government has committed to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, and collaborate with stakeholders to develop long and short term strategies to manage BC's wildlife resources. In order to develop the renewed strategy for wildlife management, a broad consultation process is necessary.

The purpose of this note is to provide options for a decision on leadership of a broad consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province.

DISCUSSION:

Government's announcement in August indicated that it would consult on both the grizzly bear trophy hunt and a renewed wildlife management strategy. Staff are suggesting that the consultation methods should be separated to recognize the different scope of discussion that will likely occur related to the grizzly bear versus a renewed strategy and to help ensure that the necessary regulatory amendments for the grizzly bear file can be completed within the expected timeframe.

A consultation process on a renewed wildlife management strategy will provide a venue to discuss current issues in wildlife management in the province, and opportunities for improvement. It will identify priorities and values for wildlife management. This will include discussion on different funding models and how to deliver new funding (e.g., internal capacity building, through partnerships with existing organizations, establishing an independent wildlife agency) for wildlife management.

Staff are suggesting that the consultation process occurs in three phases.

The first phase would be focused on scoping and involve early engagement with First Nations to discuss nature of the project and their role in implementing it. This phase, which would begin after endorsement

of the proposed process by ELUC, would also include bilateral discussions with key stakeholders. Writing of a discussion paper #1 would begin that would describe current approaches to wildlife management and ask for input and ideas. First Nations involvement in the writing of this discussion paper would be a central part of early scoping discussions with First Nations.

The second phase of the process would begin after Budget 2018 was announced in February 2018. The Ministry is hopeful that Budget 2018 would include a budget lift which could be used to announce an initial “reinvestment” in basic components of wildlife management such as inventory, monitoring and new wildlife biologists in order to demonstrate progress towards the mandate. A second component of Budget 2018 could be for a subsequent investment in new model and approaches to be developed through the project.

The actual engagement would occur through a four part strategy that would run from February 2018 until April 2018. The four components include:

- First Nation-led process where First Nations talk to each other about wildlife management and provide a report back to government;
- Public process focused through Consult BC with comments received on discussion paper #1;
- Stakeholder groups engaged through bilateral working sessions; and,
- Options also available for Minister-led components (e.g. Minister-led stakeholder or First Nation meetings, Minister Roundtable meetings etc.)

The third phase of engagement would commence in June 2018 for three months and would be centered on discussion paper #2 which would outline “what we heard” and describe a new wildlife management model. Following completion of this phase, options for a new wildlife management model will be brought to ELUC for decision.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Government staff leads consultation process

Implications:

- Bilateral discussions and input led by senior Ministry staff.
- Ministry staff have extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of wildlife management and habitat in the province and can listen knowledgeably and bring a depth of understanding to input.
- Ministry staff need to understand input in order to formulate options for government’s decision.
- May be perceived by the public as too focused on the status quo.

Option 2: External individual or “independent expert” leads consultation process

Implications:

- Independent expert is appointed to lead engagement discussions and prepare a summary report of what was heard through bilateral discussions.
- An engagement process led by an independent expert or external individual may reduce the perception of bias from government staff or stakeholders, and the public may view such leadership as being more objective.
- It may be difficult to find an expert or external individual who has the availability to lead the process and prepare a summary report and who will be endorsed by the majority of stakeholders and First Nations.
- Different individuals would likely be needed for a separate First Nation engagement process.
- The external expert model may be more effective where there are recommendations being made to government, whereas the proposed process is focused on collecting input and perspectives.

Option 3: Elected official leads consultation process

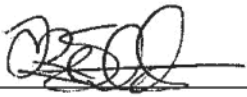
Implications:

- An MLA or Minister would lead one or more phases of the process.
- This option may be perceived as too political in what should be seen as a science-based process.
- Having a high level of government leadership may be received positively given the higher government profile and respect to First Nations communities and leadership.
- Dependent on availability of an appropriate MLA and competing priorities may impact desired timeline.
- Minister or MLA may politicize the process and focus the public on areas of disagreement such as perceived unfairness in the allocation process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Government staff leads consultation process

Approved / Not Approved


Signature
Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

17-11-01
Date

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DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 30/2017
Dir	CH	Oct 26/2017

Tom - I consulted with MDD and he
concurs.

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 13, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

ISSUE: First Nations and Commercial Guiding for Grizzly Bear

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes or treaty rights. The Ministry acknowledges many First Nations across BC have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Questions have arisen about the impacts of Government's announcement on First Nations who hold a Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) or who have a GTC held on their behalf – specifically, whether there is an exemption from the proposed ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in these territories. A GTC holder has the exclusive privilege to operate commercial guiding in the guiding territory. Non-residents must hire a licensed guide outfitter to hunt grizzly bear in BC.

Page 116 to/à Page 117

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s.14;s.16

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017
File: 280-20
CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Removal of Grizzly Bear Parts versus requirements to leave parts in the woods

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017 grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province. The announcement further stated “*While the trophy hunt will end, hunting for meat will be allowed to continue.*” Recent engagement with stakeholders, First Nations and the public has resulted in divergent views on this policy change. Predictably, those who oppose grizzly bear hunting would like to see a complete ban on grizzly bear hunting, and those who support continuation of the hunt, agree with the requirement to remove edible portions but want to retain all parts of the bear as well.

In order to ensure the objective and commitment made by government are met through an updated regulatory regime, a decision is required on a key policy implication related to whether grizzly bear “trophy” parts will be left at the kill site or removed from the kill site by the hunter.

s.13

Page 119

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s.14;s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of
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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Import and Export of Grizzly Bear Parts to and from British Columbia

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The trophy hunting of grizzly bears will be ended by a regulatory amendment. For all grizzly bears harvested post November 30, 2017, the hunter will be required to remove the edible portions from the grizzly bear and be prohibited from possessing all other parts of the grizzly bear.

Regulatory amendments will be required to ban the trafficking (i.e., sale) of grizzly bear parts in British Columbia. This note seeks direction on the import and export of grizzly bear parts. There will be a one year grace period from the date this regulation takes effect to allow businesses such as taxidermists that possess grizzly bear parts (e.g., claws) to sell their inventory.

Additional regulatory amendments will be required regarding the import and export of grizzly bear parts to and from British Columbia. The existing regulatory framework allows for the exportation of grizzly bear parts and for a person to legally possess grizzly bear parts that have been lawfully harvested in another jurisdiction or previously in British Columbia. This note presents options for amending the regulation.

DISCUSSION:

From our consultations, there are varying opinions regarding the ban on the possession of prohibited parts from a bear harvested post November 30, 2017 and the ability to import the same parts of a grizzly bear legally harvested in another jurisdiction into British Columbia (e.g., Alaska or Yukon). For example, the B.C. Wildlife Federation has characterized this position as inequitable, while the taxidermists have expressed support.

s.14

There is also tension between the prohibition on the trafficking (i.e., sale) of grizzly bear parts and the ability to export grizzly bear parts to another jurisdiction. Once a grizzly bear part has left British Columbia, the trafficking prohibition no longer applies to it. This could be viewed as a gap in the

trafficking prohibition; however, the grizzly bear part cannot leave the province without a provincial permit if shipped within Canada or federal export permit if shipped outside of Canada. The permitting requirement should limit the likelihood of a part being exported solely for the purposes of trafficking it. Without an amendment to the *Wildlife Act*, the Province cannot prevent the exportation of a grizzly bear part when a Federal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora permit has been obtained.

s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Honourable Doug Donaldson,
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Author	CW	Oct.19/17

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Concerns raised by the Nisga'a Nation regarding the proposed grizzly bear regulations

BACKGROUND:

Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears under a treaty right or pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes. The proposed regulatory changes are anticipated to impact guide outfitters and guiding territory certificate holders. A Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) holder is granted exclusive control over guiding privileges in an area. A guide outfitter must be hired by a non-resident to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

s.13,s.16

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Page 125

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Page 126

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Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

**Attachments: A - Nisga'a GTC Overlap with GBR
B - Territories of the GBR**

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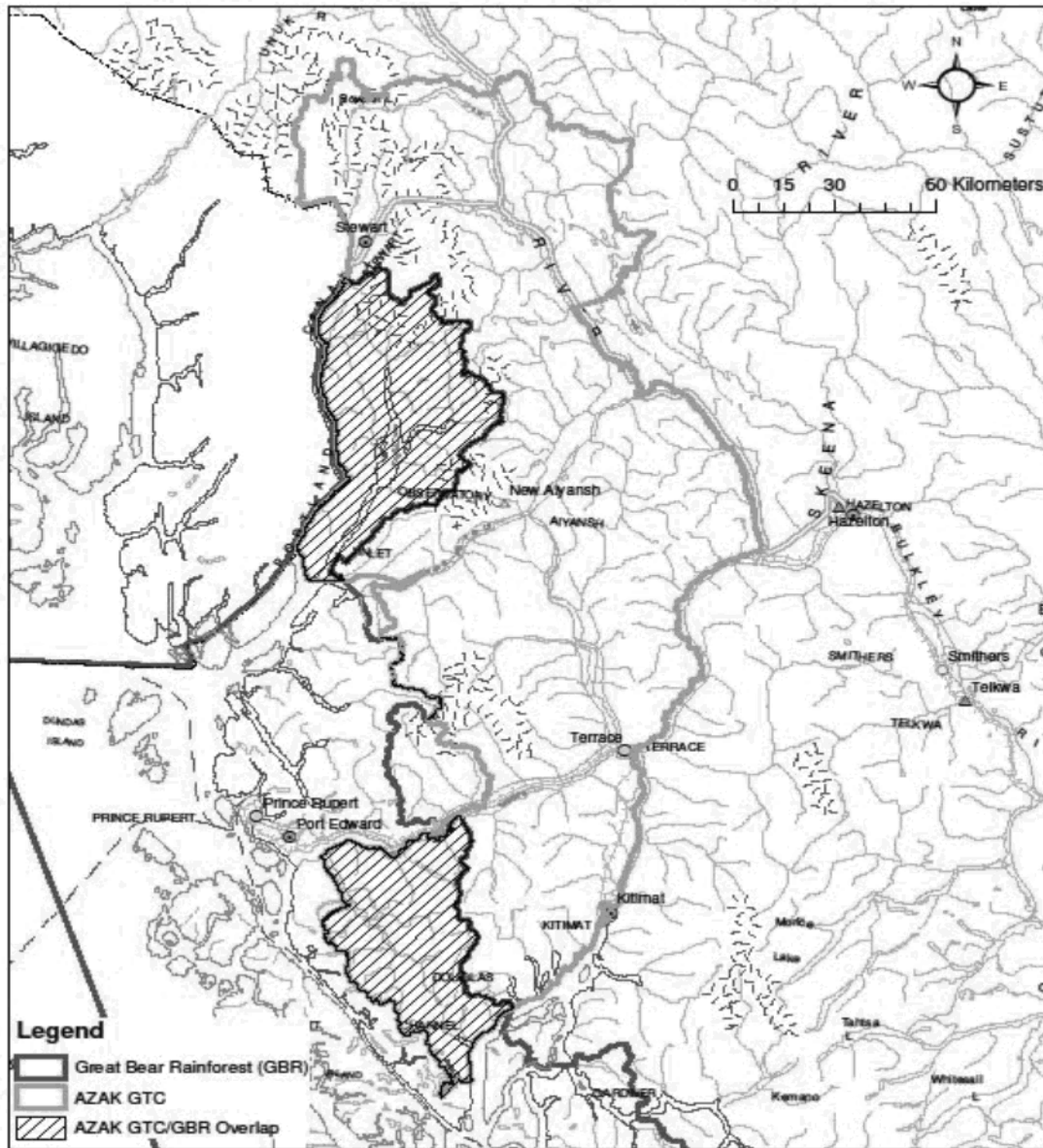
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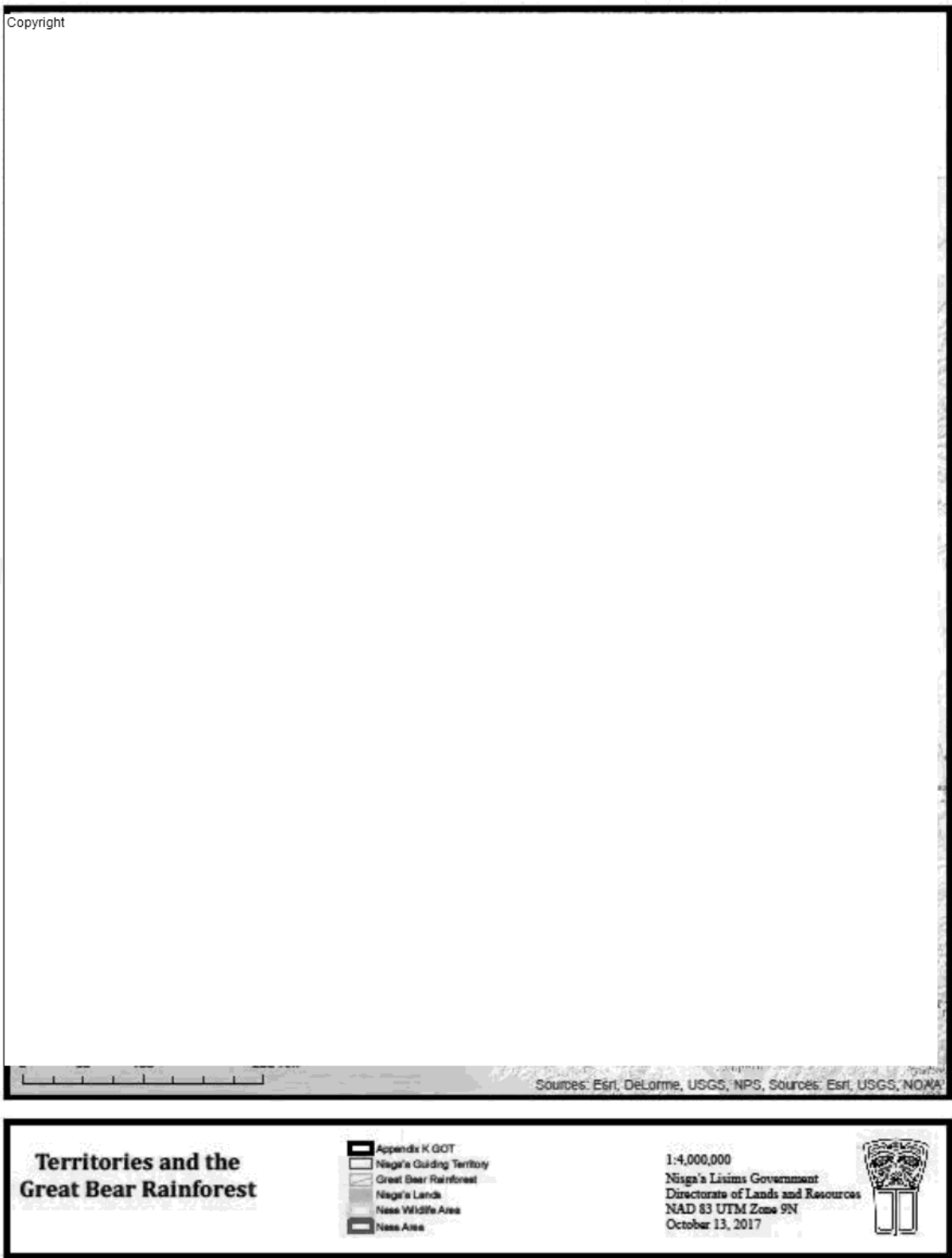
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Nisga'a/Azak GTC Overlap with the GBR



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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Grizzly bear hunt First Nations engagement: Early Results

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The policy intent papers were posted to the Fish and Wildlife website on October 3, 2017.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial (FSC) purposes or treaty rights. The ministry acknowledges many First Nations across BC have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Emails were sent on September 27 and 28, 2017 to more than 200 First Nations across the province including those in the treaty process regarding the grizzly bear trophy hunting ban. Emails were also sent September 27 and 28 to the 41 First Nations that either overlap or adjacent to the GBR regarding the grizzly bear hunting closure in the GBR.

Staff set up engagement meetings with:

1. all 41 First Nations that either overlap or are adjacent to the GBR on October 12, 17 and 18 (no callers took part in the October 12 and 17 conference calls);
2. three conference calls with all First Nations on the trophy hunt ban on October 12, 17 and 18;
3. the Gitksan First Nation on October 11;
4. the Nisga'a First Nation on October 10 and 17; and
5. the Tsilhqot'in First Nation on October 10.

A meeting occurred with the legal representative for the Maa-nulth Treaty Nations on October 19 that has been deemed to meet the Province's legal obligations to consult. Additional meetings with First Nations will be scheduled as and when required, including meeting with the Coastal First Nations to discuss the grizzly bear hunting closure in the Great Bear Rainforest which is tentatively scheduled for October 30-31.

In the original September 27 and 28 emails, First Nations were invited to provide comments on the proposed regulatory changes via email. To date, only four emails have been received. The closing date for input is November 2.

DISCUSSION:

Key points raised in the meetings with First Nations are summarized below:

Nisga'a

- May want or interpret the treaty as providing an ability to guide commercially for grizzly bears as part of their treaty rights.
- May request a change in boundary to the GBR where it overlaps their treaty interest land and guide territory certificate.
- Want to ensure that they are still able to export grizzly bear parts to trade and barter with other Indigenous people in BC and Alaska.
- Want to receive draft regulations to review before they are passed.

Gitksan

- Support ban on trophy hunt.
- Should not be able to donate meat.
- Expand what meat is eligible for eating including organs; no one should waste anything.
- Want to know how many grizzly bears are killed in their area for management purposes; should move to co-management in future.
- Want prohibited parts that are brought in returned to First Nations for social and ceremonial purposes when requested.
- Want to talk about guiding – licences are issued for too many years (up to 25 years.)
- Support reducing the number of days before reporting a kill.
- Eliminate grace period or reduce to 90 days, not one year.
- Grizzly bears cannot be brought in from other areas.
- There should be no compensation for guide outfitters and taxidermists.
- Want to meet again; feel that conversations are not finished.

Brian Williams, Gwiiyeehl (Gitksan)

- Support end to hunting on Laxyp lands as it is considered trespass; Gwiiyeehl has prima facie rights and title over these lands.
- Want to meet with ministry to begin “reconciling your legislative authority with our legal interests.”

Brent Lehmann (Maa-nulth First Nations lawyer)

- There are no grizzly bear authorizations on Vancouver Island.
- Concern was raised about the possible decline of the ungulate population.

Tsilhqot'in National Government - Wildlife Panel

- Questioned why full closure not province-wide closure rather than just GBR as it would solve many problems and there wouldn't be any wastage.
- Questioned provinces “tools” to deal with problem bears.
- Raised concern that reduced interest in grizzly bear and end of hunt will impact data sources available to track grizzly bear population trends.
- Raised concern that the Province needs to address loopholes to deal with trophy parts if hunters are required to remove them from the field.
- Inquired if there would be an option to give prohibited parts to First Nations to use for ceremonial purposes.
- Frustrated that this was announced without any government-to-government consultation.

CONCLUSION:

There is limited response from First Nations via email to date. Some meetings have taken place and it is felt that the concerns raised by these First Nations will likely be echoed from other First Nations who have yet to respond.

Meetings with certain First Nations (Gitxsan, Nisga'a) suggest that some First Nations support the hunt, while others do not. The Nisga'a's desire to be involved in guiding for grizzly bears is a key issue for them as they may believe that guiding is protected in their treaty rights (see separate note).

Government will continue to consider any additional comments or feedback from First Nations until the close of the engagement period on November 2. In addition, First Nations will have an opportunity to discuss the grizzly bear management through the broader engagement process on improving wildlife management.

ATTACHMENT: List of First Nations holding Guiding Territory Certificate

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DMO		
ADM	TE	Oct 24/17
ED	WT	Oct 24/17
Director	JP	Oct 19/17

Table A

List of First Nations that hold a Guiding Territory Certificate

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation	GB 2017 Quota/ Allocation Period 2017- 2021
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose	n/a
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band	n/a
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)	2017 quota – 4 Region 1 will not provide allocation number
4.	6 39% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Collier Azak	Nisga'a Nation	2017 quota-16 Allocation-51
5.	6	Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd.	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	2017 quota – 1 Allocation - 2
6.	6	Tom Hill (application to transfer to Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd in progress)	Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha	2017 quota – 5 Allocation - 17
7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band	2017 quota – 7 Allocation - 21
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation	Region 1 will not provide quota or allocation number
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene	2017 quota – 6 Allocation-19
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation	2017 quota – 3 Allocation - 9
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 8
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation	2017quota - 1 Allocation - 5
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha	2017 quota – 4 Allocation - 14
14.	7B	Chris Schippmann	Fort Nelson First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 7

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 24, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: First Nations and Commercial Guiding for Grizzly Bear

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the Province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes or treaty rights. The ministry acknowledges many First Nations across B.C. have expressed interest in grizzly bear hunting and guide outfitting.

Questions have arisen about the impacts of Government's announcement on First Nations who hold a Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) or who have a GTC held on their behalf. Specifically, whether there is an exemption from the proposed ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in these territories. A GTC holder has the exclusive privilege to operate commercial guiding in the guiding territory. Non-residents must hire a licensed guide outfitter to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

DISCUSSION:

There are currently two First Nations corporations that hold a GTC:

1. Tk'emluncsemc Forestry Development Corporation (Kamloops Indian Band)
2. Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd. (Cheslatta Carrier Nation)

There are two First Nations corporations that have applied to hold a GTC:

1. Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd (Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha)
2. Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd (Blueberry River First Nation)

There is one First Nation partnership holding a GTC:

1. Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP (Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwada Cha First Nation)

In addition, there are 9 GTCs believed to be held by persons on behalf of or in partnership with a First Nation. In many of these cases, the information is known anecdotally and unofficially because there is no avenue for First Nations to self-identify on the GTC application. Two of these guiding territories are within the Great Bear Rainforest. One is held in a trust-like arrangement by Mr. Collier Azak for the Nisga'a Nation.

Commercial guiding has not been established as an Aboriginal or Treaty right. All GTC holders are treated equally under the *Wildlife Act*. Provincial wildlife management has also never recognized a distinction between GTC holders based on whether they are held by a First Nation or not. While the Province has committed to adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a review of the ministry's policies, programs and legislation to bring the principals into action has not yet been conducted.

Recognizing a First Nation commercial interest in grizzly bear guiding as grounds for an exemption from provincial law would be unprecedented, and could lead to calls by First Nations for additional exemptions for the commercial use of wildlife. It may also lead to the perception that the Province is allowing commercial scale uses of wildlife as an element of a First Nations' constitutionally-protected rights. Commercial scale uses of wildlife by First Nations would have drastic impacts on the Province's ability to successfully manage wildlife populations.

From a technical perspective, there are legal challenges to exempting GTC held by First Nations from the trophy hunting ban. Guiding territory boundaries typically cross multiple First Nations traditional territories. Some First Nations with traditional territory within the GTC may be opposed to the hunting of grizzly bear and would not support an exemption for the First Nations GTC holder. All First Nations with traditional territories within a GTC area would likely need to be consulted prior to the establishment of an exemption.

An exemption for First Nations GTC holders would be opposed by citizens that support the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting. The exemption would likely be viewed as government failing to deliver on its promise to end the trophy hunting of grizzly bear in the province. An additional risk is that all GTC with grizzly bear hunting could be transferred into the hands of a First Nation so that the full value of the certificate could be utilized. If this scenario were to occur, the amount of commercial grizzly bear trophy harvest would be the same as it is today.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Include First Nations GTC holders (e.g., corporations and partnerships) from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Implications:

- the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting would apply equally to all guides province wide regardless if the guide business was held by a First Nation business interest or not;
- Government would fulfil its platform commitment; and
- Government may have to consider alternative economic opportunities for all guide businesses affected by the ban.

Option 2: Exclude First Nations GTC holders from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Implications:

- would require a specific regulation amendment to achieve exemption;
- would be viewed by public as Government failing to deliver on its commitment to end the trophy hunting of grizzly bear in the province;
- would be opposed by other guides, resident hunters, other key stakeholders and the public

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Include First Nations GTC holders (e.g., corporations and partnerships) from the ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting.

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

Attachment: Table A - Guiding Territory Certificates – First Nations

Contact:

Tom Ethier

ADM Resource Stewardship Division

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Alternate Contact:

Penny Lloyd

Manager, Legislative Reform Fish and Wildlife

Phone: 250 387-9792

Prepared by:

Suzanne Harkness

Senior Policy Advisor Fish and Wildlife

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM		
ED	WT	Oct 20/17
Director	JP	Oct 19/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Oct 13/17
Author	SH	Oct 13/17

Table A

There is no space on GTC applications to identify a First Nation interest. The below list is anecdotal and may be incomplete.

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation	GB 2017 Quota/ Allocation Period 2017- 2021
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose	n/a
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band	n/a
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)	2017 quota – 4 Region 1 will not provide allocation number
4.	6 39% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Collier Azak	Nisga'a Nation	2017 quota-16 Allocation-51
5.	6	Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd.	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	2017 quota – 1 Allocation - 2
6.	6	Tom Hill (application to transfer to Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd in progress)	Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha	2017 quota – 5 Allocation - 17
7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band	2017 quota – 7 Allocation - 21
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation	Region 1 will not provide quota or allocation number
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene	2017 quota – 6 Allocation-19
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation	2017 quota – 3 Allocation - 9
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 8
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation	2017quota - 1 Allocation - 5
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha	2017 quota – 4 Allocation - 14
14.	7B	Chris Schippmann	Fort Nelson First Nation	2017 quota – 2 Allocation - 7

231818 – Attachment

	GTC Region	GTC Holder	First Nation
1.	2	James Dolomer	Klahoose
2.	3	Tk'emlumsemc Forestry Development Corporation	Kamloops Indian Band
3.	5 100% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Leslie Ashton (on behalf of Raincoast)	Coastal First Nations (Wuikinuxv Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Heiltsuk Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, and Nuxalk Nation)
4.	6 39% within the Great Bear Rainforest	Collier Azak	Nisga'a Nation
5.	6	Tsacho Enterprises General Partner Ltd.	Cheslatta Carrier Nation
6.	6	Tom Hill (application to transfer to Tsetsaut Ventures Ltd in progress)	Tsetsaut/Skii km Lax Ha
7.	6	Jerry Creyke	Tahltan Band
8.	6	Russ May	Haida Nation
9.	7A	Luke Gleeson	Tsay Key Dene
10.	7A	Danny Case and Darry McCook	Kwadacha Nation
11.	7A	Claw Mountain Outfitters LLP	Partnership of Tsay Keh Dene Nation and Kwadacha First Nation
12.	7B	Patrick Chipsia (application to transfer to Blueberry River First Nations Holding Ltd)	Blueberry River First Nation
13.	7B	George Miller (Chair of Kaska Dena Council)	Kwadacha
14.	7B	Chris Shipman	Fort Nelson First Nation

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: November 15, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 233916

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Feedback on the grizzly bear hunt closure within the Great Bear Rainforest boundary

BACKGROUND:

Government has announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR).

On October 24, 2017, the decision was made to use the the legally delineated boundary from the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* introduced in 2016 as the boundary for the closure of grizzly bear hunting in the GBR. This decision was supported by both regional and Fish and Wildlife branch staff. The policy intent paper was used to engage the public, stakeholder and First Nations about the GBR boundary.

DISCUSSION:

Several First Nations and many environmental non-governmental organizations and members of the public congratulated the government on its decision to close the GBR. However, a number of concerns have been raised during the engagement process about the use of the GBR boundary for the closure. For example, the Nisga'a Nation has raised concerns with how expansive the boundary is and its inclusion of a guiding territory area that they have an interest in (see attachment #3 for background DN). The Coastal First Nations (CFN) have raised concerns that the closure is not expansive enough, and that the closure should grow to cover the outer perimeters of grizzly bear population units that fall only partially within the GBR boundary. Other organizations have also expressed frustration that the closure is not based on grizzly bear population units.

Following the closure of the grizzly bear hunt in the legally delineated GBR boundary, government will continue to engage with BC residents about the hunt closure in population and management units that transect this boundary, utilizing regional and branch fish and wildlife staff and in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Government has made a formal commitment to the CFN to do so (see attachment #2 letter).

CONCLUSION:

To meet our commitment to close grizzly bear hunting within the GBR, the Province is starting with the proposed GBR boundary from our policy intent paper (attachment # 1 Map A). Once the new changes are in effect, the Province commits to engaging with First Nations and Treaty partners, including the CFN on the future of the closure of the grizzly bear hunt for population and management units that transect this boundary.

Attachments: # 1 - Map A

2 - Letter to Coastal First Nations Stewardship Directors Committee

3 - DN Nisga'a Nation concerns regarding proposed grizzly bear regulations

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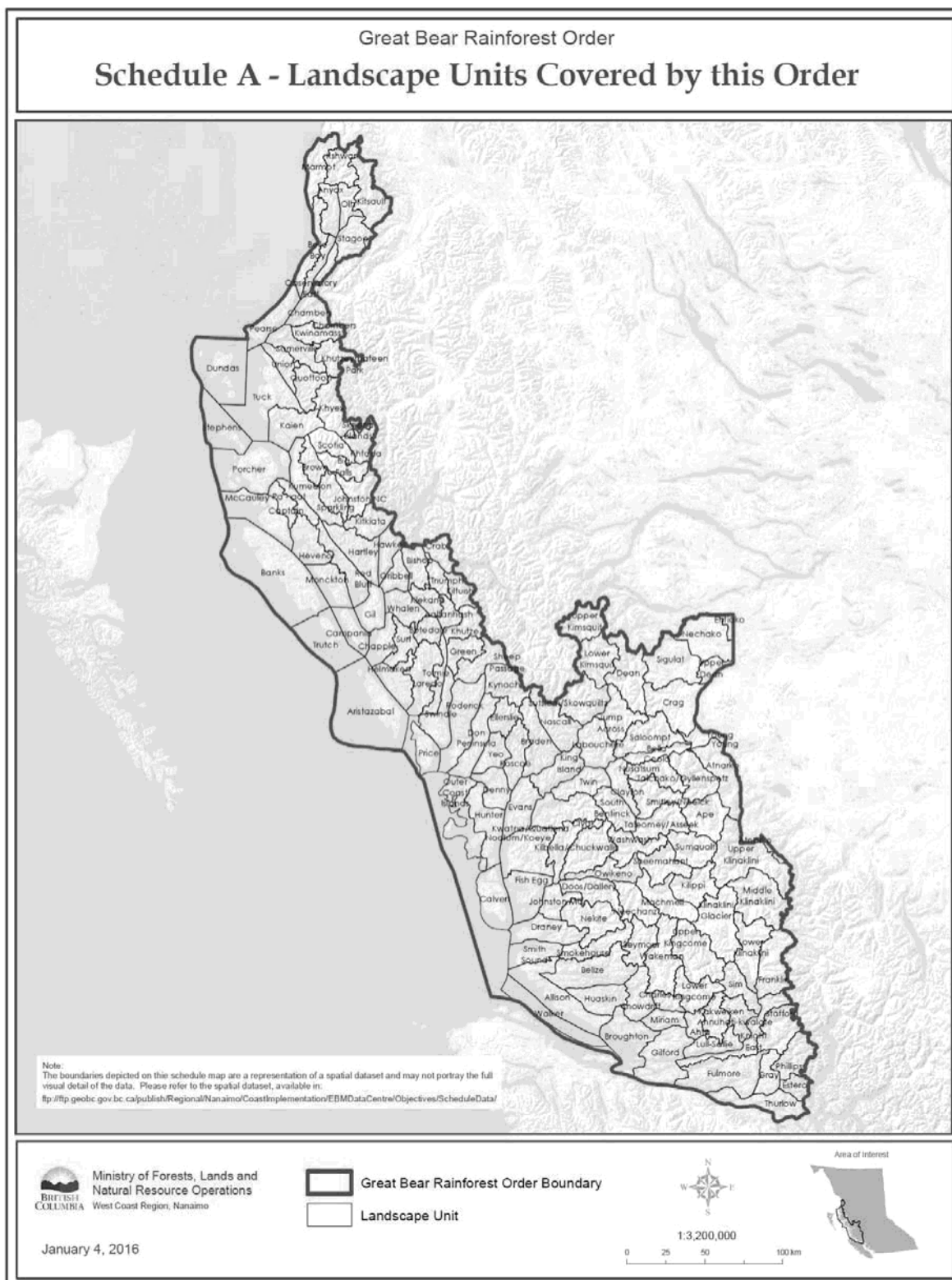
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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
A/ADM	WT	Nov. 16/17
ED		
Director	JP	Nov.10/17
PRGM Mgr.	PL	Nov. 9/17
Author	SH	Nov. 9/ 17

Attachment #1 – Map A





Reference: 233916

Coastal First Nations
Great Bear Initiative
Suite 1660 – 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 1T2

November 15, 2017

Dear Coastal First Nations (CFN) Stewardship Directors Committee,

Re: Grizzly bear hunting closure

I am writing to you regarding the proposed grizzly bear hunting closure in Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). As you know, the BC Government announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bear in the GBR. November 30, 2017 will be the last day of grizzly bear hunting within the GBR.

We thank you for your letter (dated October 25th, 2017) and your request to include grizzly bear population units (GBPUs) and management units (MUs) in the hunting closure, with consideration to connectivity, movement and habitat. We note your recommendations to close all GBPUs in the GBR to protect grizzly bears at a population unit scale and that MUs split by the proposed GBR boundary be included in the hunting closure.

To meet our commitment to close grizzly bear hunting within the GBR, we are starting with the proposed GBR boundary from our policy intent paper (Map A).

The Ministry will commit to:

1. Discussing the no hunting zone boundary with the CFN as part of “Phase 2”, once the new changes are in effect.
2. Creating longer-term relationships between the CFN and Fish and Wildlife Branch and Coast region staff. We agree to discuss black bear hunting in the GBR as one of the first topics in our ongoing discussions with you.

Page 1 of 2

Thank you for your offer of attending the possible media release event to announce the closure. Staff will be in touch with you to discuss further. Penny Lloyd (penny.lloyd@gov.bc.ca) remains your staff contact on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: October 20, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 231818

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

ISSUE: Concerns raised by the Nisga'a Nation regarding the proposed grizzly bear regulations

BACKGROUND:

Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The proposed regulatory change to implement the Government's announcement will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears under a treaty right or pursuant to Aboriginal rights for food, social or ceremonial purposes. The proposed regulatory changes are anticipated to impact guide outfitters and guiding territory certificate holders. A Guiding Territory Certificate (GTC) holder is granted exclusive control over guiding privileges in an area. A guide outfitter must be hired by a non-resident to hunt grizzly bear in B.C.

s.13,s.16

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Page 146

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Page 147

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

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

**Attachments: A - Nisga'a GTC Overlap with GBR
B - Territories of the GBR**

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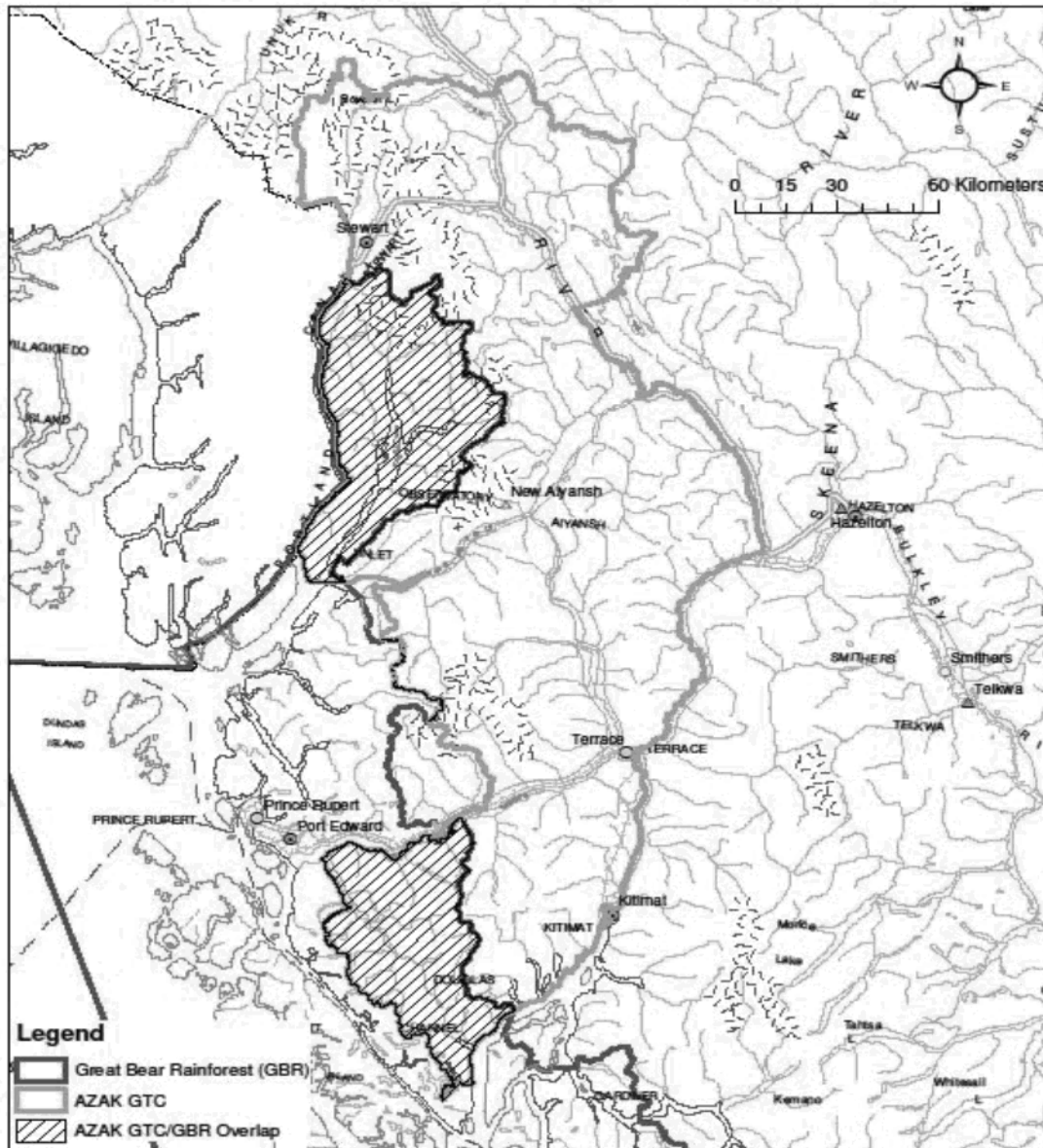
Fish and Wildlife

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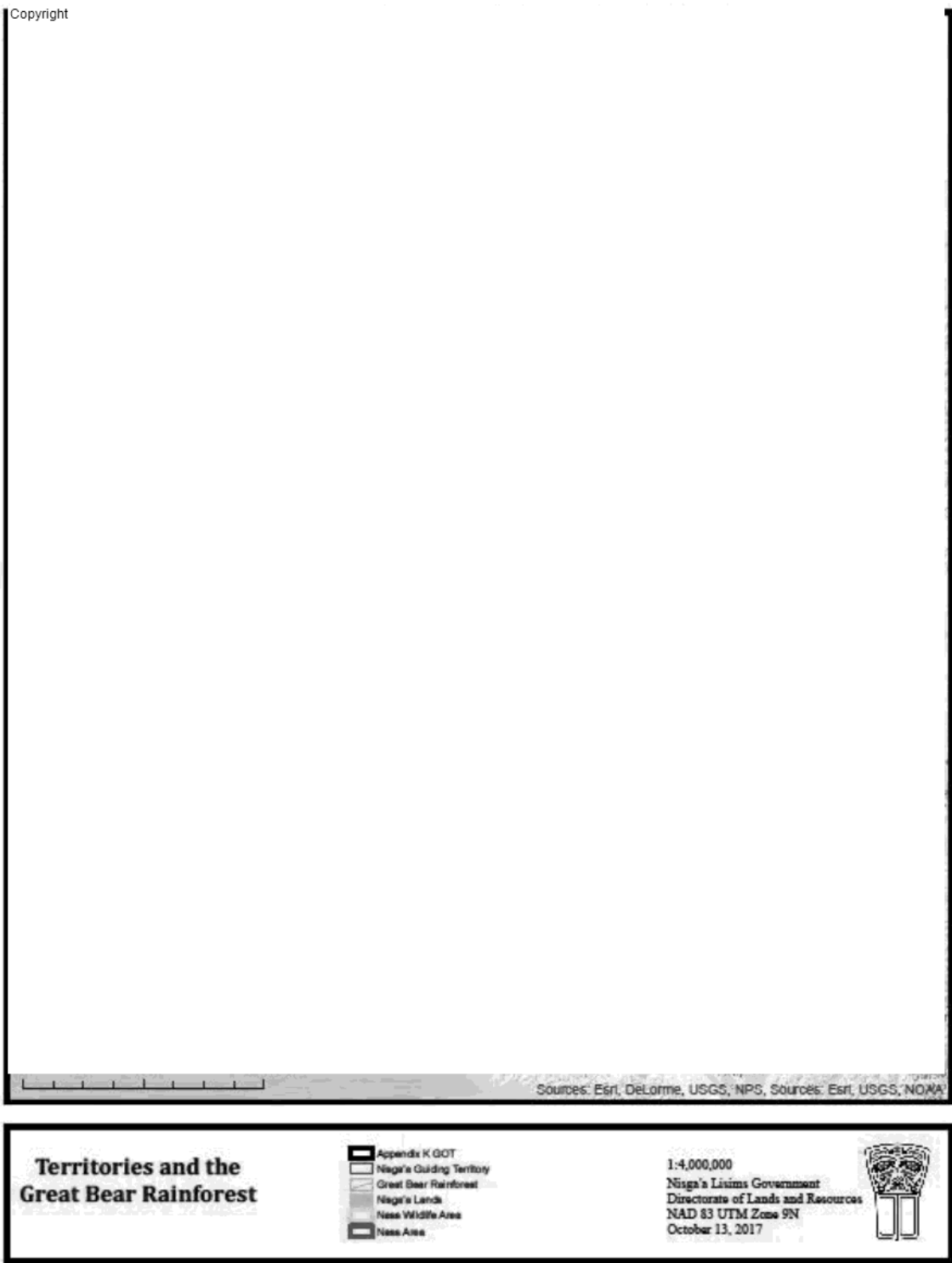
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Nisga'a/Azak GTC Overlap with the GBR



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