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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations, and Rural Development

Update: Feb. 9, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Wolf Trapping Season - Lengthening

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- s.13

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KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On Jan. 13, 2018, the Times-Colonist, published a story stating that most people are not aware of the province's practice of trapping wolves on Vancouver Island and that there is a plan to lengthen the trapping season by 51 days this year. Currently it begins Nov. 1 and ends June 30. The proposed beginning date is Sept. 10.

The proposed regulation change was available for public review and comment until Jan. 19, 2018. Public input is considered before regulation proposals are forwarded to the Minister for final decision. This is one of 80 regulation proposals being considered as part of the update to the 2018 to 2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulation Synopsis, which comes into effect July 1, 2018.

The ministry estimates there are about 250 wolves on Vancouver Island at this time and the population is increasing. Given that no wolves were captured by trappers in the previous fiscal year, the number of wolves trapped in the proposed extended season would be minimal. In the previous five years, where conditions were milder for setting traps, the average has been seven wolves total for the entire Vancouver Island region per fiscal year. Trapping will occur by licensed trappers or by First Nations. It is expected most trapping to occur on central or northern Vancouver Island.

Communications Contact:	Dawn Makarowski	250 356-5261
Program Area Contact:	Mike Stalberg/Steve MacIver	

Wildlife\2018\Hunting\Regulation Proposals

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Jan. 30, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Friends of Seven Sisters

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

Media have reported that the Friends of Seven Sisters are concerned about planned logging adjacent to Seven Sisters Provincial Park. The park, named after the Seven Sisters mountain range, is a 39,000-hectare wilderness park and protected area near Kitwanga that is an hour-and-a-half drive from Smithers. Six logging cut blocks have been mapped out near the park, including two that are adjacent to the park boundary that total about 50 hectares.

The Friends of Seven Sisters are concerned that logging so close to the park will destroy visual values and impact tourism. Concerns have also been raised generally about the ability for local stakeholders to have input on logging when the overarching framework is established by Forest Stewardship Plans which leave little room for consultation, an issue reiterated recently by the BC Forest Practices Board. The board recently recommended district managers be given more authority to intervene when proposed activities put local environmental and community values at risk and to enable public consultation on forest roads and cut blocks.

On January 9th the Friends of Seven Sisters met with Minister Donaldson, and media is reporting that the meeting "went well". Seven Sisters spokesperson Rod Major was quoted as saying the minister was "very open to see if changes could be made to what was going on. We were sort of enlightened by that. It wasn't just a formal, 'okay here's the facts thanks a lot for coming.'" s.13

s.13

Communications Contact: Brett Lowther, FLNRO GCPE

250 356-6998

Program Area Contact:	Barry Dobbin	
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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations, and Rural Development

Date: Jan. 19, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Canada and B.C. – Caribou Recovery Agreement

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

Under the federal *Species At Risk Act* (SARA), all Woodland caribou populations in Canada have been identified as needing special management actions because of declining population trends. The largest threat to caribou is changing landscape, which is due to natural resource extraction. Changing the landscape exposes the caribou to predators like wolves, cougars and bears.

There are groups that have been vocal about B.C.'s commitment to caribou conservation and how it will impact them. Some of these groups include industrial sectors, recreation groups and First Nations' communities.

The intent of the agreement is to support southern mountain caribou recovery, starting with the population known as the Central Group (found geographically in the south Peace region). Short-medium-, and long-term targets and immediate caribou recovery measures are set out with the goal to reverse the population decline.

The Province and Canada are exploring how to partner in planning and implementation with First Nations; our initial action includes the current drafting of a partnership agreement with West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations to support conservation agreement implementation for

the Central Group. This is an active demonstration of shifting the caribou program as it develops from more consultative in nature to collaborative in planning and implementation through partnerships.

Recovery actions include range planning, habitat protection and restoration, as well as population management, including maternity penning and controlling access to sensitive caribou habitat. B.C. will also lead in establishing a restoration fund under the agreement to support recovery actions for caribou, province-wide. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

Communications Contact:	Dawn Makarowski	250 356-5261
Program Area Contact:	Morgan Kennah	250 896-6268

Programs\2018\Wildlife\Caribou

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations, and Rural Development

Date: Feb. 8, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Parker Range Bison Removal

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

In February/March 2018, ministry wildlife staff will be removing about 15 domestic bison that escaped enclosure and are currently roaming on Crown land near Fort Nelson. No one has claimed the bison which have been loose for more than two years. The domestic bison are posing a threat to Boreal caribou and the Nordquist wood bison herd. The domestic bison also have the potential to impact caribou restoration measures.

Under section 76 of the Wildlife Act, released or escaped game animals are owned by the government after 30 days if the owner fails to or does not attempt to recapture them. The animals are then acquired, which enables the regional decision-maker to issue permits authorizing the hunt or removal of the animals.

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The program is estimated to cost about \$15,000.

s.13

Communications Contact:	Dawn Makarowski	250 356-5261
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Program\2018\Wildlife\Caribou

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

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– complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Jan. 22, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

s.13

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Shawn Hedges, Director, BCTS HQ	250 896-9911

Forests\2018\BCTS

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations

Update: Jan. 19, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Caribou Recovery and Wolf Removal

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

In January 2015, the ministry began a five-year aerial wolf removal project specifically to protect endangered caribou herds in the South Peace (Quintette, Moberly/Scott and Kennedy Siding), and South Selkirks. In March 2017, the program was expanded to protect the Columbia North herd near Revelstoke. The wolf population in B.C. is stable to increasing with an estimated 8,500 animals. ^{s.13} Aerial wolf removal is consistent with the Grey Wolf Management Plan. ^{s.13}

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As of January 2018:

- There are 11 caribou in the South Selkirk area (compared to 49 caribou in the same area in 2009).
- There are an estimated 225 caribou in the South Peace.
- There are about 147 caribou in Columbia North.

In 2016/17, four wolves were removed from the South Selkirk area, 93 were removed from the South Peace area, and 11 were removed from the Columbia North Herd.

In the 2015/16 year, nine wolves were removed in the South Selkirks and 140 in the South Peace. The Columbia North was not operating.

The success of the project will be fully evaluated after the completion of year five (spring 2019).

Communications Contact:	Dawn Makarowski	250 356-5261
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Programs\2018\wildlife\caribou

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Jan. 22, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

BCTS – Schmidt Creek/Robson Bight

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

In November/December 2017, environmental groups (Ancient Forest Alliance, Sierra Club of BC, Wilderness Committee, and Elphinstone Logging Focus) started to express concern about a proposed timber sale (A92463) in Schmidt Creek – part of the larger Tsitika watershed northeast of Campbell River.

The TSL is being advertised from Jan. 16, 2018, with bids closing on March 3, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. The TSL is for about 197,617 cubic metres, with a stumpage value of \$6,347,458.04.

The environmental groups are concerned the diminishing amounts of old growth forests on Vancouver Island, potential impacts on drinking water, potential impacts on the Orca rubbing beach in Robson Bight and safety issues.

s.13

Under the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, Schmidt Creek was designated a resource management zone with a timber focus. The neighbouring Robson Bight ecological reserves covers 5,000 hectares and protects ecosystems similar to those found in Schmidt Creek. Schmidt Creek also contains 420 hectares of old growth management areas that are off-limits to logging. The timber sale licence contains 221 hectares of old growth forests in five separate cutblocks. Roads to access the timber sale area have already been built. In planning for the sale, BCTS commissioned a watershed assessment report and is following the recommendations.

BCTS is also piloting "Forest Professional Oversight and Certification" which requires the licensee to employ a forest professional to certify that harvest and road activities were conducted consistent with the Forest Stewardship Plan. ✓

The timber sale is being developed further to an agreement between BC Timber Sales and Nanwakolas Timber Limited Partnership and supports the Nanwakolas Reconciliation Protocol and Nanwakolas human well-being agreement.

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Programs\2018\forests\BCTS

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Jan. 26, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

BCTS – Logging in Haida Gwaii

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13,s.16

BACKGROUND:

There has been vocal opposition and protests over the sale of BC Timber Sales (BCTS) cutblocks on Haida Gwaii, particularly in the Delkatla, Nadu and Lawn Hill areas. The expressed opposition includes Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) president Peter Lantin (kil tlaatsg'aa), elected Chiefs of Old Massett and Skidegate, local mayors, the chair of the North Coast Regional District, and local residents. s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16

Those opposed feel the volume of the cutblocks in question should not be harvested as it is part of the future community forest. Residents are concerned with proximity of the cutblocks to their homes, the noise generated by operations, the change in visual quality and windthrow potential, harvesting's potential effects on area watersheds and fish and wildlife, and increased human impact on wildlife.

The Haida Nation and a number of locals claim current harvesting, particularly by BCTS, is unsustainable and above the allowable annual harvest of cedar. BCTS has met their portion of the cedar partition over the period from 2013 up to and including 2017 and plans to continue to meet the partition going forward.

The Haida Gwaii Management Council, comprised of equal numbers of provincial government and CHN representatives plus a chairperson, makes strategic resource and land use decisions – including determining the allowable annual cut for Haida Gwaii – following the signing of the 2009 Kunst'aa guu - Kunst'aayah protocol, a strategic land use agreement signed between the Province and CHN.

In 2007, the Minister made a commitment to the CHN to grant an additional tenure of 120,000 cubic metres per year, which they hold under Taan Forest. A commitment of 80,000 cubic metres per year was also made for a community forest agreement opportunity on Haida Gwaii, provided the agreement holder enters into a partnership with BCTS to have the entire timber volume support the market pricing system. A transitional volume of 125,000 cubic metres was also delivered to the communities through three Misty Isles Economic Development Society (MIEDS) / BCTS business-to-business agreements. MIEDS is a non-profit society dedicated to economic development for the communities of Masset, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, and North Coast Regional District Area D (rural Graham Island).

The combination of the new tenures and the 26% increase in the amount of protected area resulting from the strategic land use agreement made it challenging to locate operating areas for new and existing tenure holders and increase the proximity of cutblocks to the highway corridor and communities. BCTS lost significant operating area to the new Taan tenure and the option chosen for a community forest agreement was that MIEDS and BCTS would develop a partnership.

In December 2017, the communities received an invitation to apply for a community forest agreement and transitional volume of 160,000 cubic metres over two years. It invites MIEDS to apply for and manage a community forest agreement approximately 25,000 cubic metres per year, with a reserve of another 55,000 cubic metres per year that will be managed in partnership with BCTS. MIEDS will receive 100% of the net revenue from the 25,000 cubic metres per year and 50% of the net revenue from the 55,000 cubic metres per year, based on regulation. From the offer to the issuance of the community forest agreement, BCTS has and will continued to auction timber sales licence volume to ensure that Haida Gwaii companies have access to fibre and that Haida Gwaii-based data points are included in the market pricing system.

The timber sale licences issued in December 2017 are lump sums. Total stumpage values: Nadu – \$1.4 million; Lawn Hill \$2.2 million. These sales have been awarded to local, on-island companies that have a combined staff of approximately 80 employees based in Port Clements.

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	Kerry Grozier, Timber Sales Manager, BCTS	604 702-5723
	Leonard Munt, District Manager, West Coast	250 559-6200

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Feb. 9, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Wildfire recovery: reforestation

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS:

The impact of the 2017 wildfires on forested areas in many parts of the province was significant (particularly in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Thompson-Nicola regions), with about 700,000 hectares of land containing merchantable timber burned to varying degrees. The rehabilitation of a burned forest begins with an analysis of the area within the wildfire perimeter to assess the severity of the burn damage. A rough classification of "high", "medium", "low" and "unburned" areas — coupled with a determination of the leading tree species in impacted areas (identified through forest cover data and planting records) helps to guide what work will be needed and how it will be prioritized.

This prioritization process is based upon site-specific biological factors, economics and resource constraints, such as the availability of improved tree seed, planting stock, consultants and contractors. For example, very young tree plantations (less than five years old) will be given a high priority, since the

likelihood of natural regeneration in recently planted areas is low and the relatively up-to-date planting prescriptions can still be followed.

A regional strategy to identify reforestation priorities is being developed with First Nations and stakeholders.

An assessment of seed inventories is almost complete and will identify existing and potential shortfalls. Ministry staff estimate that about 20% of the fire-damaged areas not scheduled for salvage harvesting will be replanted over a timeframe of five to 10 years. The majority of affected areas are dominated by lodgepole pine and will regenerate naturally (as they have done historically).

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Program Area Contact:	Neil Hughes, RPF, FLNR Resource Practices Branch	250 387 8903

File Location: W:\PAB_NRO\OPERATIONS\Programs\House notes Spring 2018

Program Area	GCPE	ADM	Minister's Office

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Background:

- There is a risk of flooding or debris flows occurring after wildfires. Debris flows are the result of high-intensity rainfall on severely burned and/or water-repellent soils, typically in mid-summer to late summer. (Past examples in B.C. include the Kuskonook Creek debris flow near Creston and in Kelowna and Falkland, following the 2003 wildfires.)
- Given the unprecedented scope of the 2017 wildfires (1.2 million hectares burned), the number of identified hazards is relatively low.
- Retention planning for salvage harvesting is underway with First Nations and licensees. Specifically to mitigate flooding risks, these strategies would include the protection of riparian areas to inhibit snowmelt along creeks and slow the effects of sedimentation.
- The hazard ratings for assessed wildfire sites ranged from “negligible” (where no substantial risks were identified) to “high” (where some risk-reduction efforts and/or landscape remediation would likely be required).
- These areas or sites are referred to as “elements at risk” and could include the following:
 - houses and other occupied structures, such as public buildings (schools, hospitals, etc.) and businesses
 - highways and other transportation infrastructure
 - domestic water supplies and municipal infrastructure
 - industrial facilities, including pipelines and hydro transmission lines
 - campgrounds, parks and tourism facilities
 - agriculture land and infrastructure
- Risk reduction or remediation treatments on non-Crown lands may be the responsibility of the lead agency or the stakeholder that is directly impacted.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Feb. 8, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Strategic review of 2017 freshet and wildfire seasons (George Abbott, Maureen Chapman)

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS:

The unprecedented scope of the 2017 wildfire season prompted an all-out response by the B.C. government. That response included the declaration of a provincewide state of emergency on July 7 that lasted for 10 weeks — the longest in the province's history. Flooding activity also severely affected many areas of the province.

George Abbott and Chief Maureen Chapman are serving as co-chairs of an independent strategic review of the B.C. government's emergency response operations. They will be working under terms of reference that were finalized in January 2018, taking into account feedback received from MLAs in December 2017. It's estimated that the review will cost about \$1,100,000.

The strategic review will focus on the four key areas of emergency management: planning and preparedness; prevention and mitigation; response; and recovery. Abbott and Chapman's findings will supplement the work of internal reviews undertaken within the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC, as well as an inter-ministry response review.

In-person opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to provide input into the strategic review are being planned for various B.C. communities. A feedback form has been developed to help respondents organize their comments. The public engagement portion of the review also includes a website where people can learn more about the process and submit their comments and suggestions.

The review team is expected to deliver a report with recommendations by April 30, 2018, so they can be used to inform the 2018 spring freshet and wildfire seasons.

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Program Area Contact:	Jennifer Fraser, TRAN Regional Manager, Project Delivery and Planning Services	250 828-4298

File Location: W:\PAB_NRO\OPERATIONS\Programs\House notes Spring 2018

Program Area	GCPE	ADM	Minister's Office

People and communities:

- In July 2017, the B.C. government allocated \$100 million to the Canadian Red Cross to assist people affected by this year's wildfires.
- The Canadian Red Cross has (as of Jan. 31, 2018):
 - provided support to over 21,000 households
 - made over 61,000 distributions of financial assistance
 - completed over 5,100 consultations with individuals
 - made over 1,000 referrals to external mental health and support agencies
 - completed over 160 outreach visits to impacted communities
- The Province has approved recovery managers for 14 communities in the Cariboo Regional District and Thompson-Nicola Regional District.
- Community recovery plans are being completed (plans for 100 Mile House; Williams Lake; Quesnel; Wells; Cariboo Regional District; Central Coast Regional District have been submitted to government).
- Government staff continue to engage with and support individuals, communities and First Nations affected by the 2017 wildfires.
- Three mental health and wellness working groups have been established to provide short and long-term supports. The Ministry of Health, First Nations Health Authority, Canadian Red Cross, many government ministries, Interior Health, community policing, not-for-profit groups are all involved in delivery supports and services.

Economy:

- \$1.6 million to help regional tourism organizations promote tourism in fire-affected regions
- \$20 million to assist agricultural producers, through the 2017 Canada-British Columbia Wildfires Recovery Initiative (as of Feb. 9, almost \$1.6 million in emergency livestock feed funding)
- \$2.4 million through the Rural Dividend to wildfire impacted communities (\$758,000 for five projects under the "special circumstances" \$1.7 million through regular program stream)
- Through the Canadian Red Cross, emergency assistance grants of up to \$18,500 each for eligible small businesses, First Nations cultural livelihoods and not-profit organizations. additional funding of up to \$8,500 each for eligible non-profit organizations

- Timber salvage harvesting is moving ahead, with fair stumpage rates established to reflect the range of circumstances and damage associated with burnt timber. District managers are approving cutting permits within 40 days.
- The Ministry of Agriculture's AgriStability Enhancement Program will help farmers and ranchers recover some of their lost income due to wildfire, flooding and invasive species.

Environment:

- To date, \$21 million allocated for reforestation, fireproofing communities and restoring ecosystems in the Cariboo.
- Ministry has issued "post-wildfire retention guidelines" to forest licensees to ensure protection of important ecosystem values, such as wildlife habitat, water quality and soils.
- 400 km of fireguard have been rehabilitated.
- Danger trees are being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and Recreational Sites and Trails BC locations.
- Ministry range staff are working to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants in highly impacted areas. This includes re-seeding grasslands in priority areas. Re-seeding will begin as soon as seeding conditions are optimal for germination and establishment.

Infrastructure and reconstruction:

- \$6.2 million to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure
- \$15 million over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases
- The federal government is advancing \$175 million under Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. This funding is designed to assist provinces with the cost of dealing with major disasters.
- Range staff have been assessing 1,100 kilometres of Crown range fences. The reconstruction of 450 kilometres of burned fences has begun.
- Assessments of dug-outs on ranchlands are also underway.
- The ministry has been conducting a comprehensive series of Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analyses to identify potential threats to public safety, buildings or infrastructure associated with the 2017 wildfires.
- Since July 2017, 58 fire sites have been assessed in the regions most severely impacted. Given the unprecedented scope of the wildfires, the number of identified hazards is relatively low.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

LAND-BASED WILDFIRE RECOVERY STATUS REPORT

ACTIVITIES

- Jan 22 Elephant Hill strategic session with FN Chiefs
- Jan 22 Interlakes economic development association meeting with the province, business and stakeholders
- Feb 3-4 Recovery from Disaster Workshop, Williams Lake
- Approximately 70 rehab plans complete or in progress
- Trail repairs: Bull Mtn Nordic ski, Green Lake and Itcha Seismic Line snowmobile
- AgriStability Program info sessions in Cariboo

DELIVERABLES

- Strategic agreement with FN Chiefs on Elephant Hill recovery
- Stewardship principles to guide salvage harvesting for Elephant Hill fire developed by G2G working group
- Range non-use agreements sent to tenure holders within Elephant Hill fire perimeter
- Increased trail availability for public recreation

SUMMARY

- FN and stakeholder engagement and collaboration on recovery
- Jan 31 80 AgriRecovery applications processed out of 175 received

ACTIVITIES

- Feb 5 Elephant Hill strategic session with FN Chiefs
- Feb 7 Elephant Hill technical working group meeting
- Feb 9 The Group of Five community meeting with district staff to discuss FN company leadership in recovery and rehabilitation work of the Hanceville fire
- Damage assessments on rec sites and trails in process

DELIVERABLES

- \$500K EMBC funding approved to support FN engagement process and some land-based recovery projects on Elephant Hill fire
- Fire damage assessment reports completed on recreation sites and trails

SUMMARY

- FN and stakeholder engagement and collaboration on recovery

ACTIVITIES

- Feb 20-21 BC Parks Wildfire Recovery Workshop (includes BC Parks, BCWS, Wells Gray Park operators, Regional District, Destination BC, permit holders)

DELIVERABLES

- Information sharing, relationship building and recommendations on how to better prepare and respond to emergencies within BC Parks

SUMMARY

- BC Parks facilitating stakeholder engagement and collaboration on recovery

Fire Salvage Volume Approved m³

Cariboo Chilcotin	251,722
100 Mile House	7,980
Quesnel	51,648
Rocky Mountain	592,931
Cascades	138,098
Selkirk	0
Thompson Rivers	231,714
Okanagan Shuswap	45,185
Total	1.3M

Integrated Investment Planning

ALLOCATED TO DATE

\$28.6M

AgriRecovery Program

PAID TO DATE

\$3.9M

LAND-BASED WILDFIRE RECOVERY

JAN
2018

- Field operations on recovery cease for winter
- Invasive Plant Strategy
- Reforestation Principles
- Identify remaining un-addressed citizen needs
- Elephant Hill FN engagement sessions

FEB
2018

- Rural Dividend applications evaluated
- Long term program and funding needs assessment for land-based recovery
- Strategic planning for recovery with Guide Outfitters, BC Wildlife Federation, BC Cattleman's Association

MAR
2018

- Spring recovery field operations resume
- Land-based rehabilitation resumes
- FESBC decisions on Integrated Investment Plan submissions
- Final Community Recovery Plans received
- Range Resource Recovery resumes
- Reforestation strategies implementation

APR
2018

- Rec sites and trails rehabilitation resumes

MAY
2018

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC WILDFIRE RECOVERY STATUS REPORT

ACTIVITIES

- Tier 3 After-Action Review for First Nations and Local Governments
- Meeting with Destination BC and Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association to discuss recovery
- FLNRORD Sr. Leadership meeting with Elephant Hill First Nations to discuss specific scope of \$500k capacity funding allocation from EMBC for land-based recovery
- Canadian Red Cross developing new program for reconstruction
- Re-connecting with Working Group Chairs on strategy for spring

DELIVERABLES

- United Way and Mental Health working group Chairs to hire community wellness managers
- Strategy to stand up Mental Health working group in Nazko/Quesnel
- Plan for procurement of mental health services before end of fiscal
- Plan for supporting FNHA and impacted Indigenous Communities
- Individual issues further examined and triaged

SUMMARY

- Mental Health working groups met with FNHA 2X
- Working group co-chairs met by phone
- Planning for additional mental health supports
- Extensions granted for community recovery plans

ACTIVITIES

- Province reviewing recovery plans and aligning some of their core interests with existing funding sources
- First report from Wildfire Flood Recovery Engagement initiative complete
- Non-farm status animal support program confirmed
- Community Recovery Managers continue to be confirmed for First Nations Communities

DELIVERABLES

- Recovery After Disaster business management workshop in Williams Lake
- AgriStability regional sessions (deadline for application extended to April 30)
- Schedule meeting with FN health and wellness group
- Economic Working Group reviewing program options for priority
- Launch Phase 2 of wildfire recovery 2017 engagement

SUMMARY

- Senior Government Communications revised
- Funding requests reprioritized
- Individual issues in progress
- Feedback provided to Recovery Managers on recovery plans

ACTIVITIES

- Implementing contracts with community wellness managers
- Liaising with Red Cross on reconstruction strategy
- Meeting with EMBC Policy group to review decision frameworks developed for Community Recovery Manager approach to community-led recovery

DELIVERABLES

- Receive draft of mental health outreach communications from consultant
- Rural Dividend applications evaluated
- Detailed funding for mid- to long-term programs and initiatives identified
- Develop Decision/Information package for ADMC DR and CTF

SUMMARY

- Socio-economic communications underway
- Funding requests finalized
- Implementing social supports within affecting communities

ACTIVITIES

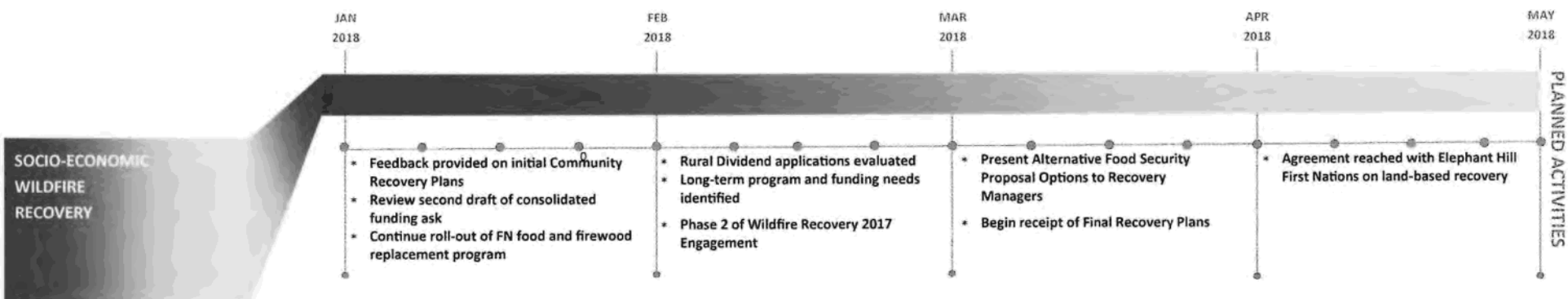
- Destination BC continues to roll out targeted marketing campaigns into wildfire affected regions, particularly the Cariboo
- Donations Management is working with Save the Children Canada regarding a potential First Nations Children's Mental Health program
- Second report complete for Recovery Engagement Project

DELIVERABLES

- Begin to receive final recovery plans
- Economic Impact Assessments underway
- Attend FNHA Recovery engagement
- Roll out non-farm status animal support program

SUMMARY

- Ongoing marketing
- Reviewing report on indicators for recovery engagement project



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BC WILDFIRES UPDATE

February 2018

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ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Feb. 8, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Spruce beetle outbreak in Omineca region

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS:

The spruce beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) is a forest pest that is native to spruce forests of western North America. Although spruce beetles are generally present in spruce forests (on dying and downed trees), a spruce beetle outbreak in standing trees has the potential to seriously harm or kill spruce trees over large areas wherever mature spruce stands grow.

Spruce beetle outbreaks occur regularly in B.C. and typically last up to seven or eight years. Between cyclical outbreaks, spruce beetle populations are usually relegated to dying or downed trees due to climatic conditions a lack of susceptible or weakened standing host trees.

Aerial Overview Surveys in the fall of 2017 indicated that spruce beetles have been found in over 500,000 hectares of forest throughout the province. That figure includes 340,000 hectares within the Omineca region, making it the largest spruce beetle outbreak ever recorded in that region. By comparison, spruce beetles were found in about 210,000 hectares of the Omineca region in 2016 and about 156,000 hectares in 2015. Significant numbers of these insects are also killing live standing trees in the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area and the Dawson Creek Timber Supply Area.

The Omineca region contains 9,018,763 hectares of forest, with 4,728,782 hectares considered to be part of the Timber Harvesting Land Base.

In January 2017, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development released *Working Together: British Columbia's Spruce Beetle Mitigation Strategy* to help educate the public about the outbreak and what the government has been doing to manage it.

The ministry's priorities for reducing the impact of the Omineca spruce outbreak are:

- co-ordinating effective and collaborative (licensee, stakeholders and First Nations) planning and implementation of mitigation measures to protect timber values
- safeguarding non-timber values

- preventing or reducing damage to ecosystems in areas that are susceptible to (but not yet experiencing) a spruce beetle outbreak
- recovering the greatest possible value from dead spruce timber before it decays or is damaged by wildfire
- restoring forest resources in areas affected by spruce beetle outbreaks

Communications Contact:	Thomas Winterhoff, Sr. PAO, GCPE FLNR	250 356-2133
Program Area Contacts:	Jeanne Robert, Regional Entomologist – North Area	250 561-3461
	John Huybers, District Manager – North Area	250 614-7442

File Location: W:\PAB_NRO\OPERATIONS\Programs\House notes Spring 2018

Program Area	GCPE	ADM	Minister's Office

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Oct. 13, 2017; update Feb. 8, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Building on site of former Eagle Pass fire lookout in Revelstoke area

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS:

A group of people have been constructing a cabin using the original stone walls of a former railway fire lookout, which was built in 1922 on a peak near Eagle Pass (between Revelstoke and Sicamous). The original building was destroyed in a lightning-caused fire at some point.

About \$40,000 has reportedly been raised by the proponents (who include Rene St. Onge and Guy Maris) to purchase construction materials, transport them to the site by helicopter (there is no road access) and do the work. Recreation Sites and Trails BC staff learned about this construction in late August 2016 from a member of the Shuswap Trail Alliance, one of Recreation Sites and Trails BC's partner groups. The case was referred to the Compliance and Enforcement Branch and Natural Resource Officers subsequently launched an investigation. The individuals involved in the unauthorized construction were notified about the investigation, but the construction continued.

A stop work order was issued and an official from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development posted a notice about the order on the structure on Sept. 5, 2017.

The resulting information will be presented to a statutory decision-maker and an "opportunity to be heard" (OTBH) meeting is being scheduled for May for the people working on the unauthorized building. Under the Forest and Range Practices Act, the statutory decision-maker (district manager) will determine whether the structure contravenes the act.

Communications Contacts:	Jeremy Uppenborn, Senior PAO, GCPE FLNRO	250 356-7506
Program Area Contacts:	Gerald Hills, Regional Mgr. CEB FLNRO	250 837-7607
	Sara DeVita, Natural Resource Officer, CEB FLNRO	250 837-1214
	Kevin Eskelin, Reg. Recreation Mgr., RSTBC FLNRO	250 426-1759

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks in southern B.C.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: Feb. 13, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS:

Historically, Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks are relatively short-lived and the areas where trees have been killed have been small and scattered. However, the current outbreak in the Cariboo Region (and elsewhere in the south) has been aggressive and has resulted in larger patches of tree mortality.

Douglas-fir beetles are attracted to trees impacted by fires. In this compromised state, trees offer little resistance to a significant attack, so beetle populations can build rapidly in areas affected by wildfires — such as those in the Cariboo.

It's difficult to predict how extensive the current outbreak will be, but it has the potential to affect the mid-term timber supply in the most heavily impacted areas. This could present a challenge for forest-based

communities and complicate timber allocations in the regions affected by the 2017 fires.

According to the ministry's latest mapping data (based on aerial surveys conducted in the summer of 2017), Douglas fir beetles affected 45,862 hectares in 2017 and 53,311 hectares in 2016 within the Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Regional District. Douglas fir beetle infestations tend to be cyclical and the last major outbreak in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Regional District peaked in 2008, covering about 68,550 hectares. The volume of timber killed by the Douglas fir beetle in the Williams Lake Timber Supply Area that year was about 172,534 cubic metres.

Mature Douglas-fir trees are also important components of wildlife habitat in the Interior, where susceptible hosts may be located within Old Growth Management Areas or Mule Deer Winter Range. When Douglas-fir beetles attack healthy trees, they target the largest and oldest trees first (those most valued as wildlife habitat).

Treatments:

Treatments can involve sanitation harvesting, trap trees and other techniques such as anti-aggregation pheromones, which can successfully repel the beetles from vulnerable areas and help protect small, high-value stands of trees.

As part of the Williams Lake Beetle Management Unit 2017 Treatment Plan, helicopter harvesting was conducted on steep slopes in the Williams Lake area this winter to remove infested trees. It was the second year of helicopter logging operations in that area to minimize the spread of Douglas fir beetles on Crown land.

A guide for managing Douglas-fir beetles on private property is available online at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-health/forest-pests/bark-beetles/douglas-fir-beetle/management>

Beetle biology

Douglas-fir beetles (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*) can infest and kill Douglas-fir trees wherever they grow in British Columbia, especially in the interior regions of the province. These beetles normally attack small groups of weakened or dying trees, but it's not uncommon for upwards of 100 trees to be affected at the same time during a significant outbreak. It should be noted that the spread of Douglas-fir beetles is much less invasive than that of the mountain pine beetle.

Douglas-fir beetles generally prefer trees that:

- are over-mature (i.e. veterans)
- have fallen or been blown down in storms (blowdown trees)
- have been injured (by fire or by machine damage)
- are stressed (defoliation, root disease, drought)

Douglas-fir beetles usually prefer to attack trees with a diameter over 20 cm, but they will attack smaller trees when the beetle population is high. They are also attracted to high stumps and slash piles. The shallow tunnels etched into the underside of the bark (called "galleries") are created by the beetle adults and larvae as they feed on the wood of an infested tree.

Communications Contact:	Thomas Winterhoff, Sr. PAO GCPE FLNR	250 356-2133
Program Area Contact:	Lorraine Maclauchlan, entomologist, South Area Jeanne Robert, regional entomologist, North Area Tim Ebata, forest health officer	250 828-4179 250 561-3462 250 387-8739

File Location: W:\PAB_NRO\OPERATIONS\Programs\House notes Spring 2018

Program Area	GCPE	ADM	Minister's Office

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date: updated Feb. 2, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

Wildfire invoice payments (2017 fire season)

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The Opposition has been critical of the government regarding a backlog of unpaid wildfire bills for contracted services during the 2017 wildfire season – both by the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC. The backlog was due to the sheer volume of invoices, given the record-breaking wildfire activity.

The vast majority of invoices received have been paid. Staff are working hard to process the remaining 1.1% of invoices that are still outstanding.

Communications Contact:	Thomas Winterhoff, Sr. PAO, GCPE FLNRO	250 356-2133
Program Area Contact:	Mary Myers, Director of Corporate Governance	250 387-5583
File Location: W:\PAB_NRO\OPERATIONS\Programs\2017\Wildfire and fire prevention\IN wildfire invoice backlog 2017		

Steelhead Trout

Highlights:

- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) concluded that two populations of sea-going Steelhead Trout breeding in the Thompson and Chilcotin river systems are at imminent risk of extinction.

Contrast:

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Page 040

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Solution:

- Our government is committed to protecting steelhead and wild salmon. —

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

Date: January 31, 2018
File: 280/20 BN
X-ref: 235657, 233786
CLIFF: 236129

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

ISSUE: Provincial management of steelhead and support for a meeting between Honourable Doug Donaldson and the following representatives of the BC Wildlife Federation: Harvey Andrusak (President), Al Martin (Director of Strategic Initiatives) and Jesse Zeeman (Director of Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program) on February 6, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The BC Wildlife Federation requested a meeting with Honourable Doug Donaldson to discuss the following issues

1. Linking the electronic licensing system, a structured consultation process and the new wildlife funding model to improve wildlife management in BC.
2. The Heart of the Fraser Initiative to protect key habitat in the lower mainland; and,
3. Endangered Fraser steelhead (236129).

This note addresses the Province's general approach to steelhead management and an overview of both the Thompson/Chilcotin (Fraser) steelhead and Skeena steelhead Fisheries. (Please see CLIFF 235657 for other topic areas).

DISCUSSION:

Steelhead are an iconic fish species of significant economic, social and ecological importance and thus are of high priority to the Province. This species is extremely valuable to recreational angling communities, businesses that support these communities and to First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes within BC.

Steelhead management is complex with shared authorities provincially (i.e., Minister of Agriculture is responsible for fisheries; Minister of Environment is responsible for clean water and all living resources; and, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is responsible for sustainable land and resource management decisions) and the sole authority associated with management actions for salmon fisheries is held by the federal government.

Traditionally, one of the most significant issues identified by stakeholders is steelhead by-catch in tidal salmon fisheries.

In 2016, the Provincial Framework for Steelhead Management¹ in British Columbia was approved after considerable engagement with internal and external stakeholders. The Framework provides provincial direction for steelhead management and guides the implementation of regional management actions in British Columbia. (See Attachment 1 for strategies identified to achieve the goals and objectives of the Framework).

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¹ Available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/docs/Provincial-Framework-for-Steelhead-Management-in-BC-April-2016.pdf>

MINISTRY RESPONSE:

s.13

Attachment 1. Strategies to meet the goals and objectives identified in the Provincial Framework for Steelhead management

Contact:

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

Alternate Contact:

*Name: Jennifer Psyllakis
Div/Region/Branch: Resource Stewardship,
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Phone: 250 387-5657*

Prepared by:

*Name: Mike Ramsay
Region/Branch: Resource
Stewardship, Fish and Wildlife Branch
Phone: 250 371-6269*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	TS	18-02-02
DMO	RM	18-02-1
ADM	TE	Jan 31/18
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	MR/JP	Jan 31/18

Attachment 1. Strategies to meet the goals and objectives identified in the Provincial Framework for Steelhead management

s.13

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
INFORMATION NOTE

Date: Oct 27, 2017

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 233786

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldon Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ISSUE: Thompson/Chilcotin Steelhead-update

BACKGROUND:

Steelheads are an iconic fish species of significant economic, social and ecological importance and thus are of high priority to the province. This species is extremely valuable to recreational angling communities, businesses that support these communities and to First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes within BC.

Interior Fraser steelhead or Thompson/Chilcotin stock aggregate has been near or within conservation concern for most of the past decade. Threats to the health of steelhead include interception by salmon fisheries managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and losses to freshwater habitat.

Impacts to steelhead from salmon fisheries can be significant with some bycatch mortality estimates of 20-30% of the total run. Non-selective commercial chum salmon fisheries in the Lower Fraser River present the most immediate impact to the current status of Thompson/Chilcotin aggregate due to the overlap in spawning migration arrival and timing into the lower river.

Despite the impacts of the lower river commercial fisheries to steelhead, chum salmon continues to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). MSC is a non-profit eco-labelling organization that certifies fisheries that demonstrate that they are well managed and sustainable using science-based criteria, ultimately making the product marketable worldwide.

Fisheries and Ocean Canada (DFO), the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) have discussed MSC certification of various salmon fisheries that intercept Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead. Specifically, FLNRORD has been engaged in discussing "Condition 14" of the MSC certification process that evaluates the impact of the commercial salmon fishery under review has on Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead (see attachment 1).

- out of way MSC

CURRENT STATUS

Catches to date of steelhead in test fisheries continue to suggest that Fraser River late-run summer steelhead stocks are at extremely low levels of abundance and in a state of extreme conservation concern. Interior Fraser steelhead is a group of stocks comprised of 10 spatially discrete spawning stocks distributed in the Fraser watershed upstream of Hell's Gate. The aggregate commonly referred to as "Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead" comprises 7 out of these 10 spawning stocks.

The current abundance estimate of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead, prior to fishing mortalities, is 290. Twenty percent (20%) is expected to be lost from fishing mortality effects in the fall of 2017.

The current spawning population forecast for the Thompson watershed is 175 and the current spawning population forecast for the Chilcotin watershed is 55 (Attachment 2 for Figures). These forecasts represent record low spawning abundances for Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead over monitoring time frames of 41 and 47 years, respectively.

DISCUSSION:

s.13

NEXT STEPS:

s.13

Attachment 1: Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Condition 14 for Commercial Chum Salmon Fishery

Attachment 2: Historical estimated spawning abundance of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead.

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM		
Ex Dir		
Dir	JP	
PRGM.	MR	Oct 27/17

Contact:

*Jen Psyllakis:
Director Fish and Wildlife, Victoria:
Phone: 250-387-5657*

Alternate Contact:

*Mike Ramsay:
Associate Director Fish and Wildlife, Victoria:
Phone: 250-389-4546*

Prepared by:

*Name: Greg Andrusak
Fish and Wildlife Branch, Victoria
Phone: 250-953-4763*

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations, and
Rural Development,
Parliament Buildings, Room 248
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4



Adam Olsen MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Cc:

Hon. Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings, Room 325

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings, Room 112

Hon. Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Parliament Buildings, Room 323

Dear Minister Donaldson,

As you are likely well aware, the Thompson River steelhead are in crisis. With a return this year of 254 fish, I am gravely concerned about the future of the interior Fraser steelhead stocks. I would like to learn more about the jurisdictional boundaries and overlapping responsibilities on this file so I can better engage with the work being done.

As I understand it, in addition to DFO federally, provincially the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy should all play a role in addressing this crisis.

Can you please clarify what is currently being done within the B.C. government to address this urgent issue and where the responsibilities lie between the ministries listed above?

With kind regards,

Adam Olsen
MLA Saanich North and the Islands

Constituency Office

215-2506 Beacon Ave
Sydney BC V8L 1X7
Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office

Room 027 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
T 250-387-8347
Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca



Reference: 233824

January 31, 2018

VIA EMAIL: Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Adam Olsen:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2017, requesting an update on the status of steelhead in the Thompson River watershed.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working closely with other provincial ministries, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada and local First Nations, to address the historical lows in estimated spawning abundance of these iconic fish in the Thompson/Chilcotin watersheds. Please review the below details regarding the current management situation of the Interior Fraser steelhead stocks.

The Interior Fraser steelhead population has been near or within conservation concern for most of the past decade, currently at record lows, and are in the process of being assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Threats to the health of steelhead include interception by salmon fisheries managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and losses to freshwater habitat.

The province, federal and First Nation governments have a role in managing steelhead. Currently, accountabilities for fisheries and ocean-related issues and initiatives are distributed across the provincial government. Several provincial agencies play lead roles in delivering key aspects of this work, including the ministries of:

- Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, for example: integrated marine planning, issuance of coastal tenures, freshwater fisheries regulations and fish habitat protection decisions under the federal *Fisheries Act*, and the provincial suite of tools including the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, and the *Water Sustainability Act*;
- Agriculture, for example: seafood sector development, aquaculture policy;

Page 1 of 2

Adam Olsen, MLA

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy, for example: fisheries science, aquatic invasive species science and policy expertise, species at risk (science, legislation, regulation and policy development), compliance and enforcement of the federal *Fisheries Act*, *Water Sustainability Act* (legislation, regulation and policy development); and,
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, for example: First Nation engagement and treaty negotiations;
- And other ministries, such as Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, also have interests in fisheries and ocean-related work.

In terms of provincial action, the recreational freshwater fishery is already limited to a short time window and is catch and release. Furthermore, additional conservation measures are being considered by the province, and proposals for Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds and Temperature Sensitive Streams are currently being developed in the Interior as part of habitat protection measures. Such habitat protection and restoration measures can influence the productive capacity of freshwater habitats to produce juvenile steelhead where habitat is limited, degraded or fragmented.

Ultimately, significant mortality factors that strongly influence steelhead numbers are not under provincial management authority; they reside within areas of federal jurisdictional authority and influence.

I will be reaching out to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the integrated fisheries management plan and the necessary discussion for the proactive management for the survival of steelhead.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture

Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

From: Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX
Subject: Fwd: Kispiox reg and next steps re: steelhead

Print please

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX" <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Date: February 22, 2018 at 7:39:08 PM PST
To: "Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX" <Doug.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX" <Dana.Eckardt@gov.bc.ca>, "Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX" <Tim.Sheldan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Kispiox reg and next steps re: steelhead

Hi Minister,

Tim relayed a couple questions you had on fisheries.....let me know if you need any clarification or additional detail on the notes below.

Tom

Kispiox

- Kispiox is a classified water with extremely high values.
- It is a mixed species fishery with species other than steelhead also being targeted at the same time (salmon, bull trout)
- Current regulations include a bait ban, no fishing from boats, no power boats and certain limitations on the classification of angler that can fish during the restricted period.
- Crowding, fish refugia and illegal guiding are very high on the list of issues to address.
- There have been numerous requests about the implementation of fly-only regulations and closure periods, however, new regulation changes have not yet been formally proposed. There is some uncertainty if this is the tool that will meet the objectives or resolve issues.
- The regular regulation cycle for angling is this year and it is expected that options will be discussed at the Skeena Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting (scheduled for March 18th in Terrace).
- Regional (FLNRORD) staff are reviewing change proposals to forward to the Committee members and assessing whether or not to include a fly only proposal.

Next Steps Steelhead:

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Attachment 2. Historical estimated spawning abundance of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead.

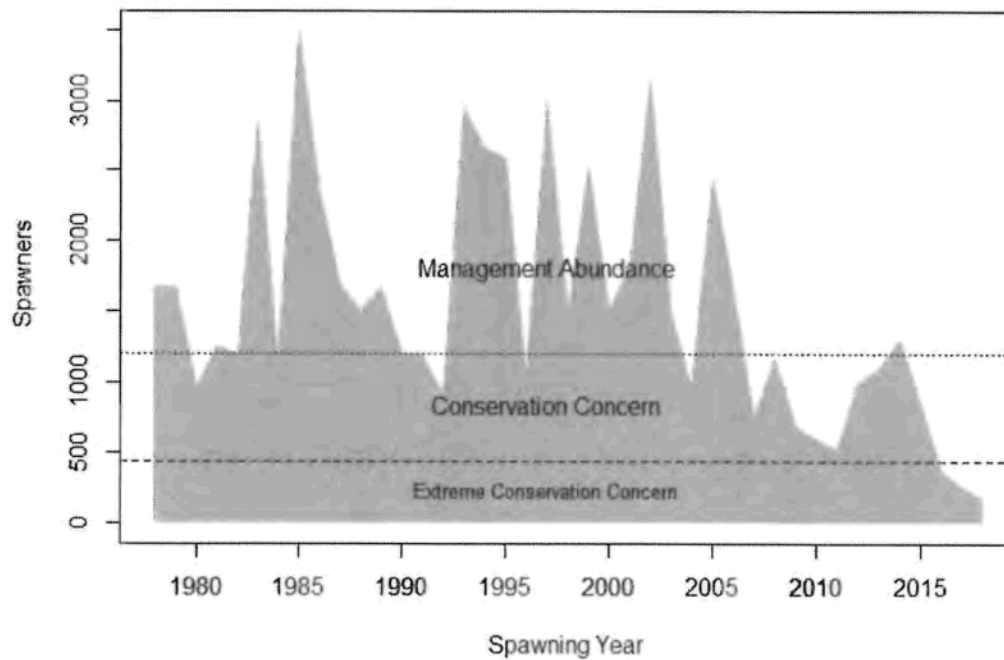


Figure 1. The estimated spawning abundances of Thompson River steelhead in relation to conservation reference points. The last data point illustrates the expected spawner abundance for this season's return which will spawn in the spring of 2018.

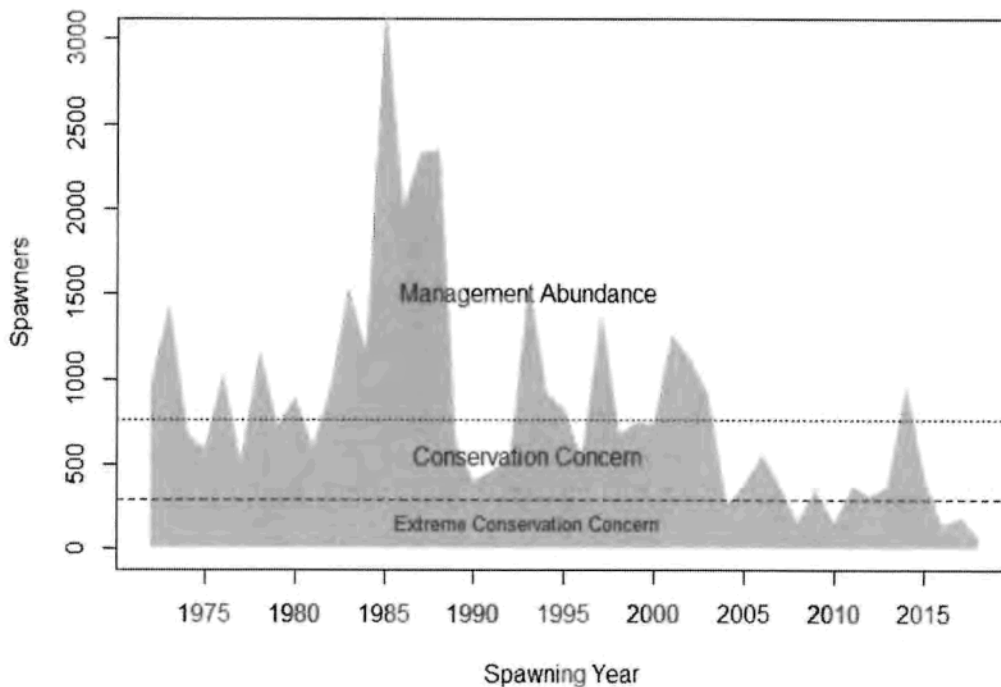


Figure 2. The estimated spawning abundances of Chilcotin River steelhead in relation to conservation reference points. The last data point illustrates the expected spawner abundance for this season's return which will spawn in the spring of 2018.

gov to gov

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revenue
sharing

jurisdiction

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

Date: February 6, 2018
CLIFF: 236267

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

ISSUE: Norbord requests for a Sustainable Fibre Supply within the 100 Mile House Timber Supply Area (TSA)

BACKGROUND:

Norbord has repeatedly raised concerns regarding secured access to fibre within the 100 Mile House TSA; most recently in relation to lack of access to fire salvage volume. Norbord currently holds four Non Replaceable Forest Licences (NRFL) within the TSA with varying stand criteria, focussed primarily on beetle impacted dead and small piece size timber. In addition, they are managing the volume on two First Nation NRFL's that will expire in summer of 2018 (Appendix 2). Norbord is currently identifying and developing stands that meet their various license criteria outside the fire area. The Replaceable Forest Licence (RFL) holders within the TSA are not restricted to specific stand types or profile other than a green partition determined in the 2014 TSR. A draft disposition strategy was developed for potential direct award NRFL offers to further government's strategic commitments to impacted First Nations communities. However, recent retention strategy recommendations for fire impacted areas, and additional RFL capacity commitments to increase harvesting power on the Elephant Hill wildfire may negate the need to pursue NRFL licenses to First Nations or to consider amending Norbord's existing NRFL licenses.

DISCUSSION:

s.13

CONCLUSIONS:

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Attachment(s): Appendix 1: Norbord briefing note
Appendix 2: Norbord Volume analysis

Contact:

*Rick Manwaring, Assistant
Deputy Minister
Regional Operations-South
Area
(250) 828-4449*

Alternate Contact:

*Pat Byrne, District Manager
100 Mile House Natural Resource
District
(250) 395-7804*

Prepared by:

*Ray Raatz, Resource Manager
100 Mile House Natural
Resource District
(250) 395-7807*

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

s.13

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: February 5, 2018

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

ALR Land & Medical Cannabis

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

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- The Ministry developed a Ministers Bylaw Standard "Regulating Medical Marihuana Production Facilities in the Agriculture Land Reserve" that offers local governments guidance for creating bylaws to regulate medical cannabis production facilities in the ALR in their communities.
- It was developed following consultations with local governments, and includes input and guidance the ministry received from communities across B.C.
- It offers provincial standards on the positioning of medical cannabis production facilities on ALR lands, including appropriate distances from neighbouring property lines, schools, parks, watercourses and so on.
- The Ministry will continue working with local governments to ensure there is consistency in communities across the province, and that bylaws align with the B.C. government's bylaw standard. s.13
- Local governments can regulate, but not prohibit federally licensed medical cannabis grown in the Agriculture Land Reserve.
- The Ministry continues to encourage the local governments to be compliant with the bylaw stand:
- The ALR Revitalization public engagement will run from February 5 to April 30, 2018. ✕

Communications Contact: Meghan

McRae

Program Area Contact: Lorie Hrycuik

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Aquaculture FOI

Highlights:

- The Vancouver Sun reported on an FOI containing emails related to the drafting of an October 13 letter to Marine Harvest.
- The story quotes emails from Ministerial Assistants and civil servants and suggests political staff directed the creation and content of the letter.
- In the emails, staff flag that the language in the letter could sound like a threat though it was not intended to be.
- The story notes the letter was reviewed and approved by three ministers and by the Premier's Office

Contrast:

s.13

Solution:

- Our government is committed to protecting our wild salmon and the nearly 10,000 good jobs that depend on it.
- We are taking a different approach and working with First Nations, building a new relationship based on partnership and respect.

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- We want to ensure wild salmon continue to be an economic driver in coastal communities today, tomorrow and into future generations.

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Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
- Conversation between Agriculture DM Wes Shoemaker with Fisheries DM Catherine Blewett regarding Animal and Plant Health Centre and aquaculture.
- **Fri, Oct 13, 2017:** Minister Popham sent a letter to Marine Harvest re: restocking fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago
- **Saturday, October 14, 2017:** Marine Harvest sends response to request to consider implications of restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.
- W5 Piece interview with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders made accusations re: Dr. Gary Marty and the data from the Animal Health Centre
- **Tuesday, October 17, 2017:** Phone conversation with Dr. Kristi Miller-Saunders about the accusations, asked for more details about the concerns raised in public.
- **Thursday, October 19, 2017:** Conversation with Dr. Jane Pritchard about the concerns with data produced by lab, and suggestions for how to review and verify the accuracy of data collected.
- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright.
- **January 30, 2018:** Meeting in Vancouver with five Broughton First Nations who are opposed to fish farms and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- **February 28, 2018:** Vancouver Sun publishes story on preparation of October letter to Marine Harvest regarding restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.

UNDRIP

Highlights:

- Every minister's mandate letter includes direction to review policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of [UNDRIP] into action in British Columbia.
- Some critics have tried to frame the "free prior and informed consent" clause as a veto for First Nations on economic development that impacts their territory.

Contrast:

s.13

Solution:

- Our government is focused on a new relationship with First Nations and all Indigenous people. One built on partnership and respect.
- Every minister's mandate letter included a requirement that we all move forward on the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to fully adopt and implement UNDRIP.
- The rights in UNDRIP include rights to self-determination, to be free from discrimination, to have access to education, healthcare and equitable social and economic outcomes.
- The implementation of UNDRIP will create stronger and more stable partnerships between First Nations, our government, the federal government and industry.
- Our government is paving the way to create good, family-supporting jobs that share the prosperity of our province for indigenous and non-indigenous people alike.

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s.13

Background:

- The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous People which ran from April 24 to May 5, 2017, in New York took as its key theme is the 10th anniversary of UNDRIP and the measures that have been taken to implement the declaration. It will also discuss violence against women. In a speech at the opening ceremonies Carolyn Bennett, federal minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, formally retracted Canada's concerns on "free, prior and informed consent," which was a request made by a delegate of Canadian First Nations.
- On Feb. 22, 2017, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a working group to review laws and policies related to Indigenous people. This will include UNDRIP and supporting implementation of TRC calls to action.
- On May 10, 2016, Minister Bennett formalized Canada's position on UNDRIP. She confirmed Canada is a full supporter of UNDRIP, removing previous qualifications when Canada endorsed UNDRIP in 2010.
- In B.C., some First Nations have claimed that the declaration wording on "free, prior and informed consent" (FPIC) provides them a veto over land use decisions. The FPIC wording was a point of contention for the previous B.C. government.
- In October 2016, the First Nations Summit passed a resolution calling on B.C. to uphold Canada's "unqualified" endorsement of UNDRIP and commit to the implementation of TRC's 94 Calls to Action. They called on B.C. to follow Ontario's example on reconciliation through their "Statement of Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples" in May 2016.
- Federal officials indicate that the government will adopt and implement UNDRIP in accordance with the Canadian Constitution and that UNDRIP "reflects the spirit and intent of our treaties."
- On Dec. 15, 2015, following the TRC's final report, the Prime Minister committed to "[working] with leaders of First Nations, Métis Nation, Inuit, provinces and territories, parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, and other key partners, to design a national engagement strategy for developing and implementing a national reconciliation framework, informed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations." The approach of the strategy and framework haven't been defined.
- The TRC's Call to Action No. 41 says: "We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the

framework for reconciliation.” Sept. 13, 2017, is the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UNDRIP by the UN General Assembly.

- Canada’s intent is to position the adoption of UNDRIP within the Canadian Constitution and rely on existing mechanisms such as treaties and self-government agreements. The federal government does not see the adoption as giving a veto to First Nations.
- On November 20, 2017, federal Minister of Justice Judy Wilson-Raybould announced that the Liberal government would back Romeo Saganash’s private members bill that calls for the full implementation of UNDRIP.

Aquaculture FOI

Highlights:

- The Vancouver Sun reported on an FOI containing emails related to the drafting of an October 13 letter to Marine Harvest.
- The story quotes emails from Ministerial Assistants and civil servants and suggests political staff directed the creation and content of the letter.
- In the emails, staff flag that the language in the letter could sound like a threat though it was not intended to be.
- The story notes the letter was reviewed and approved by three ministers and by the Premier's Office

Contrast:

s.13

Page 073 to/à Page 074

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
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- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright.
- **January 30, 2018:** Meeting in Vancouver with five Broughton First Nations who are opposed to fish farms and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- **February 28, 2018:** Vancouver Sun publishes story on preparation of October letter to Marine Harvest regarding restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.

UNDRIP

Highlights:

- Every minister's mandate letter includes direction to review policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of [UNDRIP] into action in British Columbia.
- Some critics have tried to frame the "free prior and informed consent" clause as a veto for First Nations on economic development that impacts their territory.

Contrast:

s.13

Page 077 to/à Page 078

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

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McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX

From: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 11:31 AM
To: Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX
Subject: Province transfers land to Simpcw First Nation as part of resort approval
Attachments: 2018FLNR0015-000338.pdf

This news release.

For Immediate Release
2018FLNR0015-000338
March 7, 2018

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

NEWS RELEASE

Province transfers land to Simpcw First Nation as part of resort approval

VALEMOUNT - The Province is transferring 185 hectares of Crown land in the Tete Jaune Cache and Valemount areas to the Simpcw First Nation, as part of accommodation for the Valemount Glacier Destination resort approval, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Minister Doug Donaldson has announced.

"We're pleased to support Simpcw First Nation in re-establishing their presence in this part of their territory," Donaldson said. "This land transfer is an exciting opportunity for the Simpcw to participate in the economic diversification of Robson Valley."

The ski and sightseeing resort encompasses 4,997 hectares in the Premier range of the Cariboo Mountains. The resort's master plan was approved in August 2016, and the Master Development Agreement was signed in March 2017. As part of the Master Development Agreement, accommodation for the Simpcw First Nation included revenue sharing and the transfer of land.

"The Simpcw First Nation has been involved in the planning of the Valemount Glacier Resort initiative from the beginning and look forward to its implementation," said Simpcw First Nation Chief Nathan Matthew. "The recognition of our rights to the land and the significant inclusion of our community in this project is a step toward reconciling the challenging history we have in the area."

The land parcels being transferred to the Simpcw are within the northern portion of the Simpcw's territory and include a historical village site on the banks of the Fraser River, as well as hunting and fishing camps in proximity to the Cranberry Marsh, the Canoe River and the Village of Valemount.

Quick Facts:

* With the addition of the Valemount Glacier Resort, there are now 37 mountain resorts in B.C.

* B.C.'s mountain resorts and ski areas play host to amateur and professional sport, from the 2010 Olympic Games, the 2015 Canada Winter Games, to hundreds of amateur skiing, snowboarding and Nordic competitions that take place every year.

* The resort proposal was a locally born initiative brought to the developer by the Valemount Ski Society and the Village of Valemount.

Learn More:

Valemount Glacier Destinations project: <http://valemountglaciers.com/> and <http://valemountglaciers.com/master-plan/>

Contact:

Media Relations

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

250 356-5261

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect>

Page 083 to/à Page 103

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Page 104

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s.12;s.16;s.13

WASHINGTON STATE

- In August 2017, a net-pen failure at an aquaculture facility in Puget Sound released >305,000 Atlantic salmon into the Salish Sea;
 - Cooke aquaculture attributed the failure to excessive tides and currents and natural causes.
- A state investigation by the departments of Natural Resources (DNR), Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – found that 110 tons of mussels and plants had accumulated on the nets before the incident due to Cooke Aquaculture's failure to properly clean them. Extensive corrosion of the net pen structure also contributed to the collapse.
- Non-compliance with other Cooke aquaculture lease sites in WA state have led to lease terminations recently – over the past six months.
- As a result of outstanding controversy in WA, a state bill was recently passed (Bill 2957) which prohibits WA State Department of Natural Resources from entering into new leases or renewing existing leases for marine aquaculture of non-native species including Atlantic salmon.
 - The bill would end state leases and permits for operations that grow non-native finfish in state waters when current leases expire in 2022.
- Washington state joins Alaska, which has banned commercial finfish aquaculture. Oregon and California do not have commercial salmon farming operations.
- ➡ • State agencies in Washington have full regulatory authority over aquaculture in state waters (internal waters /offshore out to 3nm).
 - The Federal government is the main authority in Canada including structural and operational requirements.
- According to WA State industry reports, there are around 10 salmon aquaculture farms in Pudget Sound / Juan de Fuca Strait areas, the industry has been operating for for 30 years in state waters, accounts for approximately \$75M to WA state economy and employs approximately 600 rural employees.

s.13,s.16

Broughton Archipelago Fish Farms

Highlights:

- Opposition MLAs may believe that meeting with First Nations about disputes regarding fish farms within their territorial claims will be bad for the aquaculture industry

Contrast:

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Page 107

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s.13

Background:

- **Wed, Aug 27, 2017:** Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Midsummer and Swanson Islands began.
- **Tues, Oct 10, 2017:** Alert Bay visit from Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Transportation to hear the concerns of the Namgis, Dzwawdaenuxw, Kwikwasutnuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamlalikula, and Kuterra Nations.
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- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright. *A cabinet minister + DFO staff*
- **January 30, 2018:** Meeting in Vancouver with five Broughton First Nations who are opposed to fish farms and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Page 109 to/à Page 110

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Salmon

Highlights:

- The Green Party has been asking a series of questions about the government's role in the protection of wild salmon.

Contrast:

s.13

Page 112

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Background:

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- Interview with Randy Shore regarding fish farms where he accused Minister Popham of launching an investigation into an individual.
- **October 25, 2017:** Review of Animal Health Centre launched. To be conducted by Don Wright.
- **December 20, 2017:** Minister of the Environment announces review of fish processing plants to ensure waste materials do not affect wild salmon stocks.
- **January 30, 2018:** Meeting in Vancouver with five Broughton First Nations who are opposed to fish farms and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- **February 28, 2018:** Vancouver Sun publishes story on preparation of October letter to Marine Harvest regarding restocking in the Broughton Archipelago.

CBCV, 05-Mar-2018

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Chamberlin - atlantic salmon farming

By CBC On the Island

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Page 115 to/à Page 116

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Reference: 233824

January 31, 2018

VIA EMAIL: Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Adam Olsen:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2017, requesting an update on the status of steelhead in the Thompson River watershed.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working closely with other provincial ministries, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada and local First Nations, to address the historical lows in estimated spawning abundance of these iconic fish in the Thompson/Chilcotin watersheds. Please review the below details regarding the current management situation of the Interior Fraser steelhead stocks.

The Interior Fraser steelhead population has been near or within conservation concern for most of the past decade, currently at record lows, and are in the process of being assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Threats to the health of steelhead include interception by salmon fisheries managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and losses to freshwater habitat.

The province, federal and First Nation governments have a role in managing steelhead. Currently, accountabilities for fisheries and ocean-related issues and initiatives are distributed across the provincial government. Several provincial agencies play lead roles in delivering key aspects of this work, including the ministries of:

- Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, for example: integrated marine planning, issuance of coastal tenures, freshwater fisheries regulations and fish habitat protection decisions under the federal *Fisheries Act*, and the provincial suite of tools including the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, and the *Water Sustainability Act*;
- Agriculture, for example: seafood sector development, aquaculture policy;

Page 1 of 2

Adam Olsen, MLA

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy, for example: fisheries science, aquatic invasive species science and policy expertise, species at risk (science, legislation, regulation and policy development), compliance and enforcement of the federal Fisheries Act, Water Sustainability Act (legislation, regulation and policy development); and,
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, for example: First Nation engagement and treaty negotiations;
- And other ministries, such as Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, also have interests in fisheries and ocean-related work.

In terms of provincial action, the recreational freshwater fishery is already limited to a short time window and is catch and release. Furthermore, additional conservation measures are being considered by the province, and proposals for Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds and Temperature Sensitive Streams are currently being developed in the Interior as part of habitat protection measures. Such habitat protection and restoration measures can influence the productive capacity of freshwater habitats to produce juvenile steelhead where habitat is limited, degraded or fragmented.

Ultimately, significant mortality factors that strongly influence steelhead numbers are not under provincial management authority; they reside within areas of federal jurisdictional authority and influence.

I will be reaching out to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the integrated fisheries management plan and the necessary discussion for the proactive management for the survival of steelhead.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture

Olsen - wild salmon secretariat

CBCV, 06-Mar-2018 06:52

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Key Messages

s.13

Background

There has been some recent media speculation that the Throne Speech commitment to “revitalize the forest industry’s social contract” means that government wants to restore “appurtenancy”, which required some tenure holders to mill logs from their forest tenures at a specific mill. In 2003, appurtenance clauses were removed from most licence documents as part of the Forestry Revitalization Plan and to encourage logs to flow “to their highest and best use.” Pulpwood agreements still contain appurtenance clauses.

2018 Budget – Main Message

Highlights:

- Budget 2018 contains bold measures to address housing and childcare.

Contrast:

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Page 123 to/à Page 124

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Min. Doug Donaldson

Page 126

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s.16

Page 127 to/à Page 130

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Budget 2018 – Resource Sector

Highlights:

- The opposition has noted that the budget projects lower revenues from the natural resource sector.
- The opposition has also claimed that the carbon tax will hurt natural resource businesses and jobs.

Contrast:

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Page 132 to/à Page 135

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Background:

- A Fraser Institute report in November suggested that BC was the least attractive Canadian jurisdiction for oil and gas investment but the old government had criticized their previous reports.
- In November, the respected Mining Journal's "World Risk Report" ranked BC as the least risky jurisdiction in the world to invest in a mining project and gave the province a AAA rating.
- The Premier visited the company in Japan that is purchasing a large share of propane shipped from the new Altagas facility at Prince Rupert.

Natural Resource Revenues (\$000,000):

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Natural Gas Royalties	144	368	542	151	159	145
Crown Land Tenures	863	859	835	767	623	376
Other Energy and Minerals	472	453	365	316	431	609
Forests	543	674	757	833	859	992
Other Natural Resources	480	481	463	463	490	464
Total	2,502	2,835	2,962	2,530	2,562	2,586

Chart 1.2 Revenue from energy, metals and minerals

