

MAIL TO:

Ministry of Forests

Ecosystems Biologist

2000 S Ospika Blvd

Prince George, BC V2N 4W5

Annual Report for Caribou sightings from Lands file 7405593

Crescent Spur Helicopter Holidays Ltd.

Jessica Handley

PO Box 44097 RPO Southcentre

Calgary, AB T2J 7C5

COPY
OCT 4/22



Wildlife 2021-2022 Season

Date: January 7, 2022

Zone: Zig Zag

Wildlife: 6 Caribou were sighted on the Run Highlander

UTM: 638553 5919688

January 24, 2022

Morkill

8 Caribou were observed adjacent the run BC Bowl

UTM 652966 5954853

January 26, 2022

Wendel/Dore

1 wolverine was observed from the air while changing ski runs

UTM 660029 5897247

Date: February 6, 2022

Zone: Morkill

Wildlife: Roughly 10 Caribou observed mid way down the ski run Valentino

UTM: 656880 5960791

Date: February 8, 2022

Zone: Zig Zag

Wildlife: 5-7 Caribou observed close to the run Immortality

UTM: 636361 5923571

COPY

Date: January 13, 2022

Zone: Rider

Wildlife: 4 Mountain Goats near Mount Rider

UTM: 669601 5938623

Date: February 24, 2022

Zone: Zig Zag

Wildlife: 5-6 Mountain Goats observed on a alpine ridgeline during flight between runs

UTM: 641457 5928448

Date: March 7, 2022

Zone: Morkill

Wildlife: 10 Mountain Goats observed near the run Full Monty

UTM: 655267 5963783

Date: March 7, 2022

Zone: Morkill

Wildlife: 1 Mountain Goat observed above the drop for the run called Ridge Too Far

UTM: 659045 5959296

Date: March 30, 2022

Zone: Morkill

Wildlife: 6 Caribou observed mid way down the run called Ridge Too Far

UTM: 658580 5959194

COPY

Page 4 of 5 to/à Page 5 of 5

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: February 1, 2021

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

ISSUE: Approach to improving management of helicopter-supported commercial recreation (tourism) tenures on Crown land to support caribou recovery.

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

Option 1: Develop *Land Act* caribou management tenure language for consideration by *Land Act* decision makers to include in new tenure documents.

BACKGROUND:

Southern Mountain Caribou (SMC) in BC are a focus of recovery efforts for the provincial, federal, and many Indigenous governments. In February 2020, the Province and Canada signed the Canada British Columbia Conservation Agreement for Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia 2020 (Section 11 Agreement) under Section 11 of the *Species at Risk Act*. The Section 11 Agreement outlines how the Province and the federal government will work together to recover SMC herds. The Section 11 Agreement also commits the Province to conduct a comprehensive herd planning process through collaboration with Indigenous nations, local government, industry and other stakeholders.

A number of prominent BC industry sectors (such as forestry and mining) have taken steps to improve their operations to support caribou recovery. The lack of similar improvements from the adventure tourism sector, who carry out extensive helicopter-supported commercial recreation activities on Crown land under the *Land Act*, diminishes the credibility of provincial efforts to recover caribou. HeliCat Canada (HCC) voluntarily committed their members to conduct training and monitoring in caribou habitat through a Memorandum of Understanding which expired in 2017, but this has not been renewed due to failed negotiations with HCC.

Improved management of helicopter-supported commercial recreation activities on Crown land is critical to meeting BC's commitments to caribou recovery and to demonstrate improved wildlife management outlined in the Together for Wildlife Strategy.^{s.14}

s.14

DISCUSSION:

Adventure-guiding activities (including heli-skiing, heli-hiking, heli-biking and other helicopter-supported recreation) can disturb caribou, displace them from preferred habitats, increase stress levels, movement and mortality risk, and undermine species recovery efforts. The use of helicopters for adventure-guiding and the resulting disturbance to caribou (and other wildlife) is increasing rapidly across the provincial Crown land base. Tenures for adventure-guiding on Crown land in BC are issued under the *Wildlife Act* (for angling and hunting only), the *Park Act* or the *Land Act*.

s.13; s.14

The ADMs Caribou Recovery Board has recently endorsed an interagency approach to helicopter guiding tenures. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is moving forward on a parallel decision note to address helicopter-supported commercial recreation within provincial parks under *Park Act* permits consistent with the recommendations conveyed in this note. The two ministries have been working closely to move this issue forward in a consistent manner.

OPTIONS:**OPTION 1: Develop *Land Act* caribou management tenure language for consideration by *Land Act* decision makers to include in tenure documents.***Implications:*

- Enables the province and the sector to demonstrate rigour in the management of heli-supported guide activities in sensitive caribou habitats.
- Provides an interim solution while the *Wildlife Act* regulations can be developed to support the Section 11 Agreement.
- Requires staff time from both FLNR and ENV to engage with industry representatives, update/amend the guidelines and *Land Act* tenures and *Park Act* permits, post to the web and to advise tenure holders of the changes to their tenure.

- HCC, who has historically resisted requests to voluntarily supply GPS flight data, may resume lobbying efforts to block these changes, but recent meetings with industry representatives indicate an understanding and willingness to work with government to implement the measures.
- Aligns with the goals of the Together for Wildlife Strategy.

s.14

- Further decision will be required if existing tenure holders do not voluntarily accept amendments to their tenures.

s.13

RECOMMENDATION: OPTION 1



Approved / Not Approved

Signature
John Allan, Deputy Minister

2021.02.10
Date

PREPARED BY:

Michelle Porter
Director, Lands Branch
(778) 974-5845

Darcy Peel
Director, Caribou Recovery Program
(778) 220-3449

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	2021.02.10
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM (RSD)	DM	February 5, 2021
ADM (ROTE)	SF	February 2, 2021
Executive Director	RL(RS), BR (ROTE)	February 1, 2021
Program Dir/Mgr.	RL	February 1, 2021

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: August 4, 2021

PREPARED FOR: Michelle Porter, Director, Lands Branch

ISSUE: Tenure document language addition to support caribou recovery

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

Approve temporary tenure document language as an interim measure to support caribou recovery.

BACKGROUND:

- In January 2021, a Decision Note detailing an interagency approach to improving management of helicopter-supported commercial recreation tenures on Crown land to support caribou recovery was approved.
- The note included measures critical to meet BC's commitments to caribou recovery within the signed Section 11 agreement between BC and Canada and to demonstrate improved wildlife management outlined in the *Together for Wildlife Strategy*.
- To assist with these commitments, as an interim measure until regulations under the *Wildlife Act* are approved, Lands Branch agreed to include temporary 'pick clause' language in licences of occupation for Adventure Tourism (commercial recreation) as an option for use, as applicable, by *Land Act* decision makers.

DISCUSSION:

s.13; s.14



s.13; s.14

OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Approve temporary tenure document language as an interim measure to support caribou recovery

Implications:

- Assists the Caribou Recovery team with federal requirements.
- Clarifies Caribou Recovery Team requests to regional staff for caribou information.

s.13

RECOMMENDATION Approve temporary tenure document language as an interim measure to support caribou recovery.

- Option 1

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Signature

Michelle Porter, Director, Lands Branch

August 17th, 2021

Date

PREPARED BY:

Lynn Brunsdon
Mgr, Policy and Operational Support
Lands Branch

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
Director	MP	August 17, 2021
Manager	LB	August 04, 2021

MEETING NOTE

DATE: March 17, 2023

PREPARED FOR: Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

REGARDING: Kathy MacRae, Executive Director of the Commercial Bear Viewing Association
Scott Ellis, Executive Director, Guide Outfitter Association

INTRODUCTIONS: Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, Wildlife, Habitat and Species Recovery
Logan Wenham, Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch, Integrated Resource
Operations Division
Lynn Brunson, Acting Director, Lands Branch, Integrated
Resource Operations Division

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND MESSAGES:

- Adventure tourism is an important sector in the province. Nature is a big aspect of the draw to BC.
- Through the Natural Resource Sector review, there were several recommendations including improved government structures to support the sector. It is important to note that Mountain Resorts Branch does not advocate for Mountain Resorts, rather provides coordination and accountability.
- As previously discussed WLRS is not intending to move into a tenure administration role or take the lead in administering the Adventure Tourism Policy; however, there are other areas that we can support improvements.
- We appreciate the initiative the Coalition took to review and provide recommendations for changes to the Adventure Tourism Policy.
- In follow up with the Lands Branch, Ministry of Forests we understand many of the suggestions are incorporated in a revised draft.
- Some recommendations from the Coalition were not included as they were not appropriate (e.g., require consultation with indigenous rights and title holders, relate to other legislative authorities). The focus was on the operational policy aspect and improved clarity of language (e.g., the incidental use language).
- The policy draft is currently with regional staff for review.
- We will continue to review suggestions and look for other initiatives, like the Wildlife Act review, Land Use Planning, and others to seek opportunities to improve certainty and reduce conflicts.

SUMMARY:

- Kathy MacRae is Executive Director of the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC (CBVA), co-chair of the Adventure Tourism Coalition (ATC), and a representative for the Discovery Islands Working Group, and she is also Vice President of the Wilderness Tourism Association, a member organization of the working group.
- The CBVA was formed to promote sustainable bear viewing in British Columbia (BC) and aid in the protection of wild bears and their ecosystems. There are 23 CBVA member companies.
- Scott Ellis is Executive Director of the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC), which represents ~70 percent of the guide outfitters in the BC.
- Guide outfitting has a long history in the province and GOABC advocates for conservation, stewardship and sustainable use of wildlife.

Adventure Tourism Coalition

- The Adventure Tourism Advisory Committee (ATAC) was created in 2019 and aims to encourage collaboration among key players in the adventure tourism industry, influence

regulatory decision making for sustainable development, and increase the awareness of the social, economic, and environmental importance of adventure tourism in BC.

- The ATC is made up of 18 different sector organizations, such as angling, mountain biking, heli-skiing, public recreation, outfitting, and wildlife viewing.
- The Coalition represents approximately 2,200 businesses – 90 percent of them are located/operate in rural communities and most are small and medium-sized enterprises.
- ATC generates in excess of \$3 billion in annual income (Source: ATC + sector studies).
- There have been three consistent requests to government for years:
 - A level playing field – bring the sector to parity with other natural resource sectors concerning tenures, policies and decision-making.
 - Provide enhanced long-term tenure security and business certainty.
 - A supportive government structure – preferably one accountable body for the adventure tourism sector, like the Mountain Resorts Branch.
- The Coalition has submitted to government a proposed extensive revision of the Adventure Tourism Policy – a land-use operational policy that applies to tourism operators who provide outdoor recreation activities for a fee or compensation.
- Tourism Sector Strategy Division Assistant Deputy Minister, Nick Grant, has monthly meetings with co-chairs Kathy MacRae and Scott Ellis of the ATC. At his most recent meeting with them on October 24 the Coalition informed him that they will be discussing with Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS) Deputy Minister that “LWRS take the lead in administering the Adventure Tourism Policy and issuing adventure tourism tenures”.

Current Roles and Responsibilities

- Ministry of Forests has statutory decision making on tenure decisions, administers the Adventure Tourism Policy and is reviewing proposed revisions recommended by the Coalition.
- Ministry of Forests is responsible for the Wildlife Act and makes decisions on permitting consumptive use of wildlife.
- Ministry of Forests and WLRS are co-leading a review of the Wildlife Act, policy consideration is underway to determine options to improve tools to manage non-consumptive commercial use.
- WLRS leads modernized Land Use Planning, Together for Wildlife, and the development of a declaration to prioritize ecosystem health and biodiversity. These initiatives contribute to certainty by reducing land use conflicts, establishing clear objectives, aligning work across multiple ministries and external partners, and improving outcomes for wildlife and ecosystems.
- WLRS is leading revisions to Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation.

Attachment(s): ~~Summary of Proposed Adventure Tourism Policy changes and supporting materials.~~

PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Psyllakis
Executive Director
Wildlife, habitat and Species Recovery
(250) 387-5657

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM		

From: Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX(Jennifer.Psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)
To: Vukelich, Vera FOR:EX (Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca)
To: Brunsdon, Lynn FOR:EX (Lynn.Brunsdon@gov.bc.ca); Porter, Michelle L FOR:EX (Michelle.Porter@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: Another mtng between WLRS DM Lori Halls and Adventure Tourism Coalition re adventure tourism policy change response
Sent: 03/17/2023 20:44:14
Message Body:

Thanks Vera.

Lynn, attached is the draft note I am writing based on the information that you provided last time we met. I need to have to Deputy's office by the 20th. Sorry for the rush.

Please update as you like.

Jen

From: Vukelich, Vera FOR:EX

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 1:11 PM

To: Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX

Cc: Brunsdon, Lynn FOR:EX ; Porter, Michelle L FOR:EX

Subject: Another mtng between WLRS DM Lori Halls and Adventure Tourism Coalition re adventure tourism policy change response

Hi Jenn, Lynn Brunsdon has the pen on the next update to the Adventure Tourism Policy whereas I have been focused on helping regions with getting rid of the backlog of hard rec/adventure tourism tenure applications.s.22

s.22

Lynn, what would you like to share at this stage?

Cheers,

Vera

Vera Vukelich, Manager, Land Policy and Programs

Lands Branch, Integrated Resource Operations Division; Ministry of Forests

Ph: 250 889-9192 | Email: Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca | (Pronoun: She/Her)

I respectfully acknowledge Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia on whose traditional territory I live and work and whose historical relationships with the land continues to this day.

From: Psyllakis, Jennifer WLRS:EX >

Sent: March 17, 2023 12:55 PM

To: Vukelich, Vera FOR:EX >

Subject: adventure tourism policy change response

Hi Vera,

I seem to recall you sent me a briefing note on the adventure tourism coalitions changes to the policy. Lori Halls is meeting with them again and I need to do a briefing note. Do you have

anything that you can pass along?

Many thanks,

Jen

MEETING NOTE

DATE: March 17, 2023

PREPARED FOR: Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

REGARDING: Kathy MacRae, Executive Director of the Commercial Bear Viewing Association
Scott Ellis, Executive Director, Guide Outfitter Association

INTRODUCTIONS: Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, Wildlife, Habitat and Species Recovery
Logan Wenham, Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch, Integrated Resource
Operations Division
Lynn Brunsdon, Manager Policy and Lands Operations
Support, Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division

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- Through the Natural Resource Sector review, there were several recommendations including improved government structures to support the sector. It is important to note that Mountain Resorts Branch does not advocate for Mountain Resorts, rather provides coordination and accountability.
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Attachment(s): Summary of Proposed Adventure Tourism Policy changes and supporting materials.

PREPARED BY:

Jennifer Psyllakis
Executive Director
Wildlife, habitat and Species Recovery
(250) 387-5657

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM		



BRIEFING NOTE (STAKEHOLDER PROFILE)

Meeting with Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition

Member Associations:

Brad Harrison, Executive Director, **Backcountry Lodges of BC Association**
Bruce Hayne, President, **Boating BC Association**
Michael McLaughlin, Project Manager, **Ahoy British Columbia** (aka **BC Ocean Boating Tourism Ass'n**)
Donegal Wilson, Executive Director, **BC Snowmobile Federation**
Henry Tso, Chief Financial Officer, **Indigenous Tourism Association of BC**
Owen Bird, Executive Director, **Sport Fishing Institute of BC**
Kathy MacRae, Executive Director, **Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC**
Janette Galan, Executive Director, **Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC**
Kevin Smith, President, **Wilderness Tourism Association** (or Scott Benton, Executive Director)
Martin Littlejohn, Executive Director, **Mountain Bike BC** (aka **Western Canada Mtn Bike Tourism Ass'n**)
Matt Jennings, Executive Director, **BC Fishing Resorts & Outfitters Association**
Paul Button, President, **BC Commercial Snowmobile Operators Association** (or Daniel Kellie, operator)
Peter Tucker, Executive Director, **Association of Canadian Mountain Guides**
Ross Cloutier, Executive Director, **HeliCat Canada** (or Rob Rohn, President)
Scott Benton, A/Executive Director, **BC River Outfitters Association**
Sean Olmstead, President, **Guide Outfitters Association of BC** (or Scott Ellis, Executive Director)
Walt Judas, CEO, **Tourism Industry Association of BC**

Note: It is unclear why Canada West Ski Areas Association is no longer a member of the Coalition. Also, ADM Matt Austin has clarified that there is merit in the Coalition inviting the Outdoor Recreation Council to join (the Council has 50 organizations that include ATV BC, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, and the BC Wildlife Federation).

Brad Harrison, Chair, Adventure Tourism Coalition

Brad is also the tourism industry representative on the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport's (TACS) Tourism Engagement Council, Adventure Tourism Advisory Committee, as well as, FLNRORD's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council.

Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition Background:

- The goal of the Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition "is to have strong alignment and collaboration among adventure tourism sectors; to work with the public, key stakeholders, and all levels of government in an effort to provide world-class visitor experiences while supporting rural economies".
- In fall 2017, the Coalition tabled a strategy document called "Regaining the Edge for Adventure Tourism". The strategy proposal supports three strategic levers: working together, influence regulatory decision-making and raising awareness for the adventure tourism industry in BC.
- In fall 2019, the Coalition tabled an Intentions Paper, titled "A New Approach to Adventure Tourism" which provides greater focus on the governance framework for adventure tourism.
- In a June 2020 letter from the Coalition regarding the financial hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic (cliff # 256667), they requested the Province "*waive all rental fees, property taxes, tenure and lease fees, licensing and other related costs for a period of two years*".

- On December 17, 2020, the Coalition (Brad Harrison) sent two letters to the ministry requesting a meet-and-greet with the Minister (cliff #260177) and Minister of State Cullen (cliff (cliff #260221). A similar template letter was sent to Minister's Heyman and Mark.
- Additional information about the specific lobbying activities of individual Coalition member associations is described in their profiles in the [BC Lobbyist Registry](#) (e.g. "Who's Lobbying Who" monthly reports).

Issues:

Rent Relief due to COVID-19 Pandemic (ADM Lead: Sarah Fraser)

- On September 18, 2020, the Province announced rent forgiveness for eligible *Land Act* tenure and *Park Act* permit holders who have a rent invoice due between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021 to address COVID-19. This provided \$1.36M in relief for 1,035 tenures/permits (\$1.05M for 592 *Land Act* tenures and \$0.31M for 443 *Park Act* permits).
- s.12; s.13
- A second Order in Council is being prepared by Lands Branch to include the remaining tenures that have been confirmed to be primarily used for commercial recreation purpose. A Cabinet date is tentatively scheduled for mid-March 2021 for an additional 438 recreation tenures.
- Although the Coalition (Brad Harrison) supported the September 2020 news release on rent forgiveness, they may still request that an additional year of rent forgiveness be granted.

Land Act Tenure Rights and Compensation (ADM Lead: Sarah Fraser)

- The Coalition is seeking tenure rights that provide business certainty and compensation (leases are available for substantive improvements such as ecotourism lodges whereas, the appropriate form of tenure for adventure guiding is a non-exclusive Licence of Occupation to allow or overlapping interests (the majority of all *Land Act* tenures are Licences of Occupation).
- BC surpasses all other jurisdictions in the bundle of tenure rights granted for adventure guiding and this rent has not increased in 20 years (client day rent is \$1 to \$6 and the minimum annual rent is \$500 regardless even for tenures that encompass vast areas of Crown land).

Tenure Application Backlog (ADM Leads: North, South and Coast)

- The Coalition has asked the ministry to reduce its backlog of adventure tourism tenure replacements, and new applications.
- As part of Crown Land Transformation initiative, the ministry is committed to reducing the backlog.

Shared Use of Crown Land (ADM Leads: David Muter, Matt Austin and Diane Nichols)

- Once a *Land Act* tenure is issued, adventure tourism tenure holders have experienced challenges with resolving land use conflicts on the shared use of Crown land and have asked that government dedicate resources to fund land use planning (e.g. recreation access management plans).
- The Coalition is also seeking legal land use objectives to protect recreation values on Crown land; otherwise, land use plans are voluntary and not enforceable.

Wildlife & Habitat Protection (ADM Lead: David Muter)

- Coalition members support the protection of wildlife and their habitat but are concerned that areas of Crown land will be restricted/closed which can shut down adventure tourism businesses.
- The Coalition is currently focused on the ministry's efforts to protect mountain caribou and the next update to the "[Backcountry Recreation/Tourism Wildlife Guidelines](#)".

- Resource Stewardship Division (RSD) is currently working towards resolving issues with species at risk management and its impact on adventure tourism tenures. RSD will be engaging the Coalition members in spring 2021.

Recent Government Engagement

- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) chairs an ADMs “Adventure Tourism Advisory Committee” with Coalition representatives. ADMs are represented by FLNRORD (ROTE, RSD, IROD, CFO), ENV/BC Parks and MIRR. The last meeting was December 10, 2019.
- The next ATAC meeting/call is being tentatively scheduled by TACS for the week of April 5th.
- In the interim, Coalition members engage directly with ministry staff on operational issues and the approach for moving forward to resolve them, where appropriate.

Key Messages:

- **RENT RELIEF:** The Province recognizes the financial hardship the pandemic has had on the adventure tourism businesses and the one year of rent forgiveness for eligible *Land Act* tenure holders will help with recovery.
- **TENURE RIGHTS:** Although BC surpasses other jurisdictions in the bundle of rights granted for adventure guiding tenures, the ministry is committed to maintaining “BC’s edge”.

I understand that the next meeting with the ADMs Adventure Tourism Advisory Committee is being schedule in April to continue constructive dialogue with the Coalition.
- **TENURE APPLICATION BACKLOG:** The ministry is committed to reducing the backlog of adventure tourism tenure applications.
- **SHARED USE OF LAND:** The Coalition is encouraged to continue to work with regional lands staff on workable options for addressing conflicts over the shared use of Crown land.
- **WILDLIFE:** The ministry is looking for opportunities to work with the Coalition on improved stewardship of species at risk.



BRIEFING NOTE (STAKEHOLDER PROFILE)

Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition

Member Associations:

Brad Harrison, Executive Director, **Backcountry Lodges of BC Association**

Bruce Hayne, President, **Boating BC Association**

Michael McLaughlin, Project Manager, **Ahoy British Columbia (British Columbia Ocean Boating Tourism Ass'n)**

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Sean Olmstead, President, **Guide Outfitters Association of BC** (or Scott Ellis, Executive Director)

Walt Judas, CEO, **Tourism Industry Association of BC**

Note: ADM IROD has clarified that there is merit in the Coalition inviting the Outdoor Recreation Council to join (the Council has 50 organizations that include ATV BC, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, and the BC Wildlife Federation). Also, on March 12th, Mountain Resorts Branch received confirmation from the President of Canada West Ski Areas Association (CWSAA) that they are no longer a member of the AT Industry Coalition.

Brad Harrison has recently stepped down as Chair. Co-Chairs are now Kathy MacRae and Scott Ellis

Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition Background:

- The goal of the Adventure Tourism (Industry) Coalition “*is to have strong alignment and collaboration among adventure tourism sectors; to work with the public, key stakeholders, and all levels of government in an effort to provide world-class visitor experiences while supporting rural economies*”.
- In fall 2017, the Coalition tabled a strategy document called “Regaining the Edge for Adventure Tourism”. The strategy supports three strategic levers: working together, influencing regulatory decision-making and raising awareness for the adventure tourism industry in BC.
- In fall 2019, the Coalition tabled an Intentions Paper, titled “*A New Approach to Adventure Tourism*” which provides greater focus on the governance framework for adventure tourism.
- In a June 2020 letter from the Coalition regarding the financial hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic, they requested the Province “*waive all rental fees, property taxes, tenure and lease fees, licensing and other related costs for a period of two years*”. Note: the ministry received another letter from the Coalition on March 19, 2021 reiterating this request to government for financial relief.
- On December 17, 2020, the Coalition (Brad Harrison) sent two letters to the ministry requesting a meet-and-greet with Minister Conroy and Minister of State Cullen. A similar template letter was sent to Ministers Heyman and Mark.

Issues:

Rent Relief due to COVID-19 Pandemic for Commercial Recreation Tenure Holders (ADM Lead: Sarah Fraser)

- In response to COVID-19 and communications with the AT sector, a total of \$3.23 million of rent forgiveness for eligible commercial recreation *Land Act* tenure/*Park Act* permit holders, whose primary purpose is commercial recreation, has been provided.
 - September 18, 2020, \$1.36 million of rent forgiveness for 1,035 commercial recreation *Land Act* tenures and *Park Act* permit holders was approved. These tenure holders were notified in the fall of 2020.
 - March 30, 2021, and additional \$1.87 million in forgiveness for 438 eligible *Land Act* tenure/*Park Act* permit holders was announced. These are for commercial tenures that were verified to be primarily commercial recreation tenures. The tenure and permit holders who are eligible for rent forgiveness will receive a notification letter shortly.
 - This rent forgiveness is for invoice due dates between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
- Treasury Board approval did not include rent based on revenue sharing such as ski resorts and client days for adventure guiding because this rent is only due if revenue is earned by operators.
- Financial remedies for those tourism tenures not eligible for rent relief include a deferred rent payment plan agreement (e.g. a minimum of 6 months, interest-free).
- The province continues to monitor the nature and scope of the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses as new information emerges.
- NOTE: Although the Coalition (Brad Harrison) supported the September 2020 news release on rent forgiveness, they may still request an additional year of rent forgiveness be granted. NOTE: It is not known if all commercial recreation operators experienced hardships due to COVID (i.e. some campgrounds were at full capacity in 2020 and are fully booked for 2021) and further analysis would need to be done to make an informed decision.

***Land Act* Tenure Rights and Compensation** (ADM Lead: Sarah Fraser)

- The Coalition continues to seek increased tenure rights. However, BC surpasses all other jurisdictions (Canada and other countries) in how it provides tenure opportunities to the Adventure Tourism sector. For example:
 - The form of tenure for base camp lodges is a Lease and not a non-exclusive Licence of Occupation which provides more business certainty and exclusive rights.
 - Length of lease terms is significantly longer which is an advantage when compared to other types of tenures and jurisdictions.
 - Client day rent is \$1 to \$6 per day and the minimum annual rent is \$500 regardless if a tenure encompasses vast areas of Crown land.
 - BC is the only jurisdiction in Canada or any other country that offers minimal rent for adventure guiding over vast areas of Crown land. Most jurisdictions do not tenure outside of parks and if they do, the operating areas are substantially smaller with less favourable tenure rights.

Tenure Application Backlog (ADM Leads: North, South and Coast)

- The Coalition has asked the ministry to reduce its backlog of adventure tourism tenure replacements, and new applications.

Shared Use of Crown Land (ADM Leads: David Muter, Matt Austin and Diane Nichols)

- Once a *Land Act* tenure is issued, adventure tourism tenure holders have experienced challenges with resolving land use conflicts on the shared use of Crown land and have asked that government dedicate resources to fund land use planning (e.g. recreation access management plans).

- The Coalition is also seeking legal land use objectives to protect recreation values on Crown land; otherwise, land use plans are voluntary and not enforceable.

Wildlife & Habitat Protection (ADM Lead: David Muter)

- Coalition members support the protection of wildlife and their habitat but are concerned that areas of Crown land will be restricted/closed which can shut down adventure tourism businesses.
- The Coalition is currently focused on the ministry's efforts to protect mountain caribou and the next update to the "*Backcountry Recreation/Tourism Wildlife Guidelines*".
- Resource Stewardship Division (RSD) is currently working towards resolving issues with species at risk management and its impact on adventure tourism tenures. RSD will be engaging the Coalition members in spring 2021.

Recent Government Engagement

- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) chairs an ADM "Adventure Tourism Advisory Committee" with Coalition representatives and ADMs from FLNRORD, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy (BC Parks) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The last meeting was December 10, 2019.
- The next ATAC meeting/call is being scheduled for the week of April 6th.
- In the interim, Coalition members engage directly with ministry staff on operational issues.

Key Messages:

- **RENT RELIEF:** The Province recognizes the financial hardship the pandemic has had on the adventure tourism sector and the one year of rent forgiveness for eligible commercial recreation tenure holders will help with recovery.
- **TENURE RIGHTS:** Although BC surpasses other jurisdictions in the bundle of rights granted for adventure guiding tenures, the ministry is committed to maintaining "BC's edge". The Coalition is encouraged to continue to speak as one voice through its meetings with ministry ADMs.
- **TENURE APPLICATION BACKLOG:** The ministry is committed to reducing the backlog of adventure tourism tenure applications.
- **SHARED USE OF LAND:** The Coalition is encouraged to continue to work with regional lands staff on workable options for addressing conflicts over the shared use of Crown land.
- **WILDLIFE:** The ministry is looking for opportunities to work with the Coalition on improved stewardship of species at risk.