

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

August 16, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF#: 328516

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator Ranker on August 16, 10:30am, regarding a potential limited entry permit system for whale watchers in the Salish Sea.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) recognizes that the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is the lead agency for Northern and Southern resident killer whales (RKW).
- Killer Whales are an iconic species and B.C. is generally supportive of actions to protect and recover the population.
 - British Columbian's are concerned for this species and conserving wild salmon, and are prepared to make sacrifices.
- Consistent with our bilateral conversations through the Oceans Coordinating Committee (OCC) and the Regional Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM), B.C. requests that the federal government continue to engage with us on initiatives related to southern resident killer whales and give us the opportunity to provide feedback in a meaningful way.

Background:

- In 2003, Northern RKW were listed as Threatened and Southern RKW were listed as Endangered, under the federal Species at Risk Act.
- The Recovery Strategy (RS) for RKWs was drafted by DFO and Parks Canada Agency and was finalized in 2008 and amended in 2011. Partial Critical Habitat was defined as part of this Recovery Strategy.
- In 2017 the Action Plan for RKWs was published to the Species at Risk Public Registry and one of the actions identified was to – identify and protect additional areas of critical habitat.
- In 2018, DFO initiated the update for an Amended Recovery Strategy identifying 2 additional areas as Critical Habitat
 - Waters on the continental shelf off southwestern Vancouver Island, including Swiftsure and La Perouse Banks (important for both Northern and Southern Resident Killer Whales); and
 - Waters off Dixon Entrance, along the north cost of Graham Island from Langara to Rose Spit (important for Northern Resident Killer Whales).
- In June 2018, DFO imposed fishery management measures to reduce the total harvest for Chinook salmon by 25-35 per cent. Closures are intended to help increase the availability of this critical food source for Southern Resident killer whales. The closures are in three key foraging (feeding) areas: Strait of Juan de Fuca, Gulf Islands and the mouth of the Fraser River.
- In 2018, ENV (along with other Ministries, e.g., AGRI, FLNR) reviewed the amended Recovery Strategy and provided comment – key comments included:

- Cumulative impacts of activities that may affect critical habitat components for RWK are not discussed enough or at all
- Limited identification of terrestrial impacts to critical aquatic habitat, impacts of implementing the recovery strategy are unclear
- Recovery Strategy does not do a good job at identifying the most critical threats to RKWs
- Suggestion for the Recovery Strategy to prioritize areas of Critical Habitat for the SRKWs to focus recovery
- High levels of toxins found in autopsy reports for SRKW (vs. NRKW) is not addressed in Amended Recovery Strategy
- AGRI has an interest from a commercial and recreational fisheries perspective. Recent recovery measures have led to fishing reductions/elimination for Chinook Salmon.
- In July, 2018 Premier John Horgan was planning to send a letter to Hon. Dominic LeBlanc regarding recent decisions regarding Northern and Southern RKW and related Chinook salmon fisheries management
 - The process which DFO Pacific Region Staff engaged w/ stakeholders was poorly timed
 - Indigenous peoples carrying out traditional harvests and fisheries-related businesses (both recreational and commercial businesses) are affected by such closures
 - Following the closure, DFO initiated external review while many of B.C.'s indigenous peoples, recreational and commercial stakeholders were involved in peak-season operations
 - These groups are one of the primary sources of information about whale foraging and Chinook salmon abundance for DFO staff.
 - The final closure will have a significant impact on tourism opportunities in some the communities.
 - Strong encouragement for DFO to reconsider timelines of its in-season consultation plan to provide stakeholder w/ the opportunity to provide meaningful input.
- AGRI sits on a committee w/ DFO with a specific focus on prey availability of chinook salmon.

Recent federal funding announcement:

- There have been numerous funding announcements from the federal government related to the protection of southern resident killer whales since the announcement of the Oceans Protection Plan.
 - On June 22 the federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau announced \$167.4 million to support the recovery of Canada's three iconic and endangered whales: the southern resident killer whales; the North Atlantic Right whales; and, the St. Lawrence-Estuary beluga whales.
 - Most of the initiatives from this funding announcement have already been announced, including \$12 million in new funding for research (announced March 15) and reductions in allowable catch of Chinook salmon by 25-35% (announced May 25)

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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

September 26, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 332324/11892

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV); Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR); and Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO)

SUBJECT: Joint meeting with Minister Heyman, Minister Fraser and Minister Donaldson regarding a proposed Cave Protection Act and related karst protection issues.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- Karst is a distinctive topography in which the landscape is largely shaped by the dissolving action of water on carbonate bedrock (usually limestone, dolomite or marble). This geological process results in unusual surface and subsurface features ranging from sinkholes, vertical shafts, disappearing streams, and springs, to complex underground drainage systems and caves.
- British Columbia has an abundance of world-class caves and karst topography particularly in the Rocky Mountains and on Vancouver Island. No other part of Canada has caves in anywhere near the variety and numbers found in B.C.
- These unique and irreplaceable resources contain many highly sensitive values and resources of geological, ecological and cultural significance and are likely irreplaceable if destroyed.
- Included in their ecological significance, the protection of caves and karst habitats is critical because of their importance to bats, especially as several of the cave-using bats in the province may be at risk of White Nose Syndrome, a highly infectious fungal disease that has decimated bat populations in eastern Canada. Protecting these habitats is important for building resilience in these populations for future recovery.
- Regulating access to caves may increase in importance with the emergence of White Nose Syndrome. One of the hypothesized ways of spreading this disease is through cavers moving fungal spores during recreational activities.
- Some caves or cave networks are protected within the provincial protected areas system such as at Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park on Vancouver Island and Cody Caves Provincial Park in the Kootenays. Groups such as the British Columbia Speleological Federation has called for increased conservation and management provisions in these areas; however, there are also many caves and karst features which are not currently afforded any protections and are even more vulnerable to damage.
- There are currently several tools to protect caves and other karst features in the province, though the absence of any overarching or specific cave protection legislation has been identified as a problem. Current provincial tools include:
 - The *Park Act* and *Ecological Reserve Act* protect natural resources (including caves and karst features) within the BC Parks protected areas system. The *Park Act* and *Ecological Reserve Act* protect both the subsurface and surface resources within these areas.

- The *Heritage Conservation Act* automatically protects all sites of historical or archaeological value. However, this protection is limited to caves or archaeological features that have evidence of use or habitation predating 1846 or that are burial caves.
- The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and regulations has three tools available through orders under the Government Actions Regulation (GAR) to provide protection for caves or other karst features from forestry activities, these include:
 - GAR s.10: Establishing Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) for bats that roost in cave features (e.g., some WHAs are established on northern Vancouver Island around caves in which Keen's Myotis are found);
 - GAR s. 11: Identifying caves where bats hibernate as Wildlife Habitat Features (WHF) (e.g. the recent Kootenay Boundary WHF signed by Minister Heyman included bat hibernacula, which are often caves); and
 - GAR s.5: Identifying karst caves and structures as Resource Features. Karst Resource Features are currently identified by GAR orders in six of the seven South Coast districts.
- "Cave protection" acts do not exist in other Canadian jurisdictions. They do exist in the US, UK and in New Zealand.
- These GAR tools may be used when caves require special management not otherwise provided in FRPA or another enactment, and apply to *Forest Act* and *Range Act* agreement holders only. ENV is authorized to identify WHFs, whereas FLNRO is the authorized ministry for identifying WHAs and Resource Features.
- Concerns have been raised with respect to the limited protection afforded B.C.'s caves, including the lack of any overarching legislation to recognize and protect these fragile ecosystems and the limited ability for government to prosecute those who vandalize caves and to regulate potentially harmful activities surrounding them. Minister Fraser introduced a Cave Protection Act as a Member's Bill in 2010 and 2016 but these did not proceed.
- A review of current practices pertaining to the protection of these valued resources may help determine whether additional protections are needed and what actions could be taken.

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ENV Approvals		
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 22/18
DMO	KK	Oct 19/18
ESSPD ADM	JMcG	Oct 15/18
BCP ADM	JS	Oct 18/18
A/ED	DJ	Oct12/18

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
DECISION NOTE**

October 2, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/tracking #: 333052/11798

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

ISSUE: Long-term funding for the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (Office)

BACKGROUND:

Following the release of the independent final report of the professional reliance review, Cabinet provided direction (June 19, 2018) to develop new umbrella legislation to govern five regulators of professions and establish an Office to administer the new *Professional Governance Act* (Act) and provide an oversight role. This direction included a requirement for cost recovery, envisioned as a fee for service to the five regulators.

DISCUSSION:

The Office is expected to become operational by early 2019 and will fully implement the new legislative model for the professions within three to five years. Government has committed to paying the initial costs to establish the Office and develop regulations to fully implement the Act. The Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) will budget for these costs via its annual budget planning process. The current direction is for the five regulators to pay for the operational costs over the long term (beyond the first three to five years) of the Office, estimated at \$1.5M per year.

Through engaging with the five regulators it has become clear that the expectation that they pay for the long-term operational costs of the Office is a major impediment to gaining their support for these changes. They cite the following concerns with government's approach:

- Creates a two-tiered system in the province whereby some professions are required to pay for government oversight and others, such as lawyers, accountants and health professions do not. They argue this is discriminatory and creates a constitutional concern that could result in legal action.
- The professions that have right to title authority (biologists, agrologists and science technicians) argue the financial burden associated with the cost of the Office will significantly reduce membership, increasing the number of people practicing without any professional accountability, and hence reducing their ability to protect the public interest.

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Ultimately, it will be Treasury Board's decision on the final cost structure for the Office; however, the five regulators have indicated they will not support the new Act when it is introduced if the Ministry maintains its position of the regulators paying for the Office over the long term.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Long-term costs of the Office to be covered by mechanism other than regulators paying

A variety of other options to fund the Office would still be considered by Treasury Board at a later date, which could include:

- Government paying the long-term costs (either through a new vote in MAG's base budget or through the costs being shared across the ministries that currently have responsibility for the five regulators).
A small fee on regulatory activities that create the need for professional reliance such as on natural resource applications and authorizations (10-50 cents) and/or on stumpage.

Implications:

- Will result in all five regulators supporting the proposed legislation and Office.
- Avoids creating a two-tiered model for government oversight.
- May result in short-term costs for government until an approved funding model is established.
- Administrative burden of adjusting an existing funding mechanism, with potential legislative changes, to cover Office costs.

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Option 2: Long-term costs of the Office costs to be covered by regulators (starting in 2022/2023)

Implications:


- This option is in line with the original "cost neutral" direction for the Office.
- The financial burden on professionals to fund the Office (approx. \$30/professional/year) may be reduced by the time the Act is fully implemented (e.g., increased membership through right to title, increased number of professions governed by the Office).
- All five regulators will not support the proposed new Act and Office.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Long-term costs of the Office to be covered by mechanism other than regulators paying

It is recommended that briefings take place with Minister Eby and Minister James to establish a common understanding of this issue and ensure Treasury Board supports the recommendation.

Option 1 / 
DECISION & SIGNATURE
Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

October 2, 2018
DATE SIGNED

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DM	MZ	Oct 2/18
DMO	KK	Oct 1/18
ADM (ENV)	JLM	Oct 1/18
Dir./Mgr.	LG	Sept 28/18
Author	JT	Sept 28/18

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

October 30, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 334248

PREPARED FOR: Geoff Meggs, Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier

SUBJECT: Meeting with federal counterpart regarding South Mountain Caribou

BULLETS:

- In May, 2018 the federal government identified 10 caribou herds as under Imminent Threat in BC.
- Under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) the Federal Cabinet must consider issuing an order to protect critical habitat in herds under Imminent Threat.
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- s.16

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ENV Approvals		
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 30/18
DMO	KK	Oct 30/18
ADM	JLM	Oct 30/18

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

October 1, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 326161/11692

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

ISSUE: Oliver Brandes meeting on October 2, 1:30pm, regarding progress to the Hullcar source drinking water concerns.

BACKGROUND:

There has been ongoing discussion between Mr. Brandes and ENV staff regarding the implementation of the Polis report recommendations. In general, Mr. Brandes has supported the work to date but has raised several concerns, detailed below.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brandes has identified aspects of the Polis report recommendations that he believes would benefit from additional activities or a different approach. These are outlined below.

1) Agricultural Waste Control Regulation

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2) Hullcar Aquifer Response Report (HARP)

In response to the Polis recommendations report, ENV led an inter-agency working group (IAWG) (included Splatsin representation) to develop the Hullcar Aquifer Response Plan (HARP) Report. The HARP incorporates 81 of the 91 Polis recommendations. The HARP was shared with Mr. Brandes and staff had a follow-up meeting with Mr. Brandes on September 13. As with the regulation, Mr. Brandes generally supported work to date, he did however raise a few areas where further work is needed.

3) Area Based Management Plan.

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4) Other Recommendations

Mr. Brandes has also made several other recommendations including:

- There have been some recent improvements in measured nitrate levels. See attached chart.

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Attachment 1: Graph showing N levels 2015-present

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ENV Approvals		
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DM	DM	Oct 1/18
DMO	KK	Oct 1/18
ADM	DM	Oct 1/18
Dir./Mgr.	KO	Oct 1/18
Author	CZH	Sept 20/18

EMAIL RESPONSE

Reference: 329122

Ian Paton, MLA
Delta South
Email: Ian.Paton.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear MLA Paton:

Thank you for your letter of August 17, 2018, sharing the concerns of your constituents regarding odours from the Enviro-Smart Organics composting facility in East Ladner. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this topic further with you on November 5, 2018.

As we discussed in the meeting, the regulation of air emissions has been delegated to the Metro Vancouver Regional District under the *Environmental Management Act*.

I understand that Metro Vancouver issued an air discharge permit to Enviro-Smart in early August 2018, which required the enclosure of the open air compost operation and the installation of bio-filters by 2020. Subsequently, Enviro-Smart and a number of nearby residents appealed this permit decision and the matter is now pending resolution by the Environmental Appeal Board. As this matter is before the board, I cannot comment further.

Thank you for raising these concerns with me.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

October 16, 2018

File: 280-20PJH

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333482/12016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

ISSUE: Potential meeting between Premier Horgan and Cowichan Tribes.

BACKGROUND:

Premier Horgan received a request to meet with representatives from the Cowichan Tribes. Topics for discussion have not yet been clarified to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), but regional ENV staff were made aware of one possible topic from the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) in late September. The CVRD indicated that Cowichan Tribes was planning to bring this forward to the Premier at a meeting.

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DISCUSSION:

A request to amend CVRD's LWMP has been received by ENV. Staff have not yet completed a detailed review of the submission; this work is planned for the near future.

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ENV's technical review process also requires First Nations consultation and Cowichan Tribes will be involved at that time over and above any work they are doing now or have done already with the CVRD. This has not yet commenced, but will occur once the technical review is underway.

NEXT STEPS:

Cowichan Tribes will be formally engaged in ENV's LWMP amendment review process.

ENV staff will brief Minister Heyman when the amendment review is complete and the application is ready for the Minister to make his decision.

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DM - ENV	N/A	
DMO - ENV	KK	Oct 19
ADM - ENV	DM	Oct 19
Author	VCJ	Oct 16

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

October 15, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333532/12031

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

ISSUE: Release reports on consultations and policy direction for Phase 2 spill enhancements.

BACKGROUND:

In February of 2018, ENV released the Phase 2 Policy Intentions Paper regarding: (1) response times; (2) geographic response plans (GRPs); (3) loss of public and cultural use and community cost recovery; and, (4) marine application of provincial spill regulations.

Extensive consultations have been undertaken with Indigenous people, industry, the public and other stakeholders regarding the intentions paper and proposed regulation. Four background papers have been prepared summarizing the consultations. A fifth paper has also been developed outlining the proposed policy direction for regulations.

Proposed policy direction

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NEXT STEPS:

- Post papers that summarize consultations and policy direction in October or early November.
- Completed regulations expected to be done by June 2019.

Attachment: Phase 2 Update presentation, August 23, 2018.

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DM	DM	Oct 18/2018
DMO	KK	Oct 17/2018
ADM	DM	Oct 16/2018
Dir./Mgr.	PB	Oct 16/2018
Author	BJVS	Oct 15/2018

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

October 12, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333583/12059

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

ISSUE: Options to further address plastic waste in British Columbia

BACKGROUND:

There is increased global attention on the impact of plastics entering the environment. Means of addressing this issue are in keeping with circular economy initiatives, such as BC's extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs.

BC sets the bar for other North American jurisdictions in the area of EPR. Key highlights include:

- More EPR programs than any other jurisdiction, many of which include plastics;
- The only jurisdiction that requires manufacturers to pay 100% of the costs for collection and management of obligated products at end of life;
- Strong recovery of currently regulated plastics:
 - 280,000 metric tonnes of plastics associated with end-of-life electronics
 - 11,000 metric tonnes of plastic beverage containers
 - 41% of residential plastics packaging sold (50% of rigid plastics and 20% flexible plastics); and
- Stimulated investment by BC processors - thereby being less reliant of foreign markets - and attracting leading edge pilot programs from international manufacturers e.g. Keurig's recyclable coffee pods.

BC has taken a leadership role in working with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) to develop the national plastics strategy using a circular economy approach. BC has ensured that a 'prevention first' approach is a core component of the strategy.

DISCUSSION:

Given the current profile of plastics in the environment and work being done at the CCME on a national plastics strategy, there is an opportunity to showcase BC's leadership in EPR for plastics. In the short term, BC can regulate additional categories of plastics that have been identified as "relatively easy" to implement and in the longer term by continuing to add even more plastic related products to the regulation to further divert this material from landfill.

1. Short term Phase 1 (six months):

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Education and Outreach

There is an opportunity to educate and communicate with the public to ensure a prevention first approach and to support ongoing longer term efforts to address plastic waste.

Education and outreach to support consumers in lifestyle decisions could include:

- Focus on reducing single use items;
- Support for packaging free alternatives; and
- Proper recycling of plastics, to reduce virgin materials needed in production.

This initiative would be tied to the province's "Love Food Hate Waste" outreach materials which are delivered via provincial social media campaigns and local government initiatives. A "tool-kit" would be developed containing ready to use materials for local governments use.

Government Procurement

There are important actions that could come forward through the CCME national plastics strategy and action plan that will support and improve BC's ability to tackle plastic waste such as the development of national recycled content protocols and performance standards which would enable:

- Inclusion in government procurement standards;
- Support bans for items that do not meet standards; and
- Set industry standards that can be measured, tracked and enforced.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Begin to Implement Phase 1.
2. Continue to show leadership in the CCME development of a Zero Plastic Waste strategy that will support BC's strategies.
3. Develop longer-term strategies to manage plastic waste and consult on a future IP Phase 2 (18 months).

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DMO	KK	Oct 17
ADM	DM	Oct 16
Dir./Mgr.	BM	Oct 16
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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

October 16, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 327501/11996

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

SUBJECT: Minister Heyman and Minister Donaldson meeting with Valhalla Wilderness Society (Craig Pettitt, Wayne McCrory and Amber Peters) and MLA Conroy, on October 22 at 4:15pm, regarding the protection of caribou and the proposed establishment of Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) developed the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposal which identifies a 156,460 hectare area of important old-growth habitat to be protected in the central and north Selkirk Mountains of southeastern BC (Attachment 1).
- The proposal would connect Bugaboo and Goat Range Provincial Parks and Glacier National Park to maintain grizzly bears, a herd of endangered mountain caribou and old growth stands believed to provide important caribou habitat.
- The previous implementation of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan and a 2009 Government Action Regulation (GAR) Order have already protected nearly 50% of the area described within the park proposal as Ungulate Winter Range for Caribou, which is effectively closed to logging. The remaining area falls within the existing timber harvest land base impacting a portion of Interfor's Tree Farm Licence 23 and BC Timber Sales' operating area. Implementing the VWS proposal would reduce timber supply to local mills, thereby impacting jobs and the local economy.
- VWS points out that the BC Auditor General's reports on Biodiversity and Grizzly Bears recommend that the Province further prioritize and implement actions for conserving biodiversity, which would be supported by the expansion and connection of protected areas.
- Although the proposed park is one option for protecting at risk species and habitats in the area, other actions are being considered concurrently to support effective caribou recovery, such as the immediate need to address predators, use of maternal penning programs, and increased backcountry recreation management.
- The Province is working with the federal government to assess and improve upon current approaches to achieve maximum effectiveness in our caribou recovery efforts. The Province has committed \$27 million over three years to support improved caribou management and enhanced recovery efforts. A provincial-scale plan that will inform and guide efforts in caribou recovery is developing and being delivered, with current efforts focused on public consultation, and will consider the need for additional parks or protected areas.
- Until that work is complete, the establishment of new protected areas may be premature. In the meantime, the Province is focused on exploring options and

tools within existing legislation and GAR orders to protect and improve caribou habitat and populations on the Crown forest land base.

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Attachments 1: VWS Park Proposal Map

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ENV Approvals		
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DM	MZ	Oct 18/18
DMO	KK	Oct 18/18
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Ex. Dir., PSB	DR	Oct. 16/18
Mgr., PLA	KM	Oct. 16/18
Author	HD	Aug. 13/18

Background Information

The Interior Wetbelt of British Columbia (BC) has a major ecosystem as important to BC and Canada as the Great Bear Rainforest on BC's coast. Its iconic forest type — Inland Temperate Rainforest — is more rare than Coastal Temperate Rainforest and occurs nowhere else in the world but in BC.

Its iconic species, the Mountain Caribou, belongs to an ecotype that has been assessed as endangered, unique and irreplaceable, and is found nowhere else in the world but the Interior Wetbelt of BC (some migrate a short distance across the borders into the US and Alberta).

Yet it has received substantially less full, permanent protection than the Great Bear Rainforest. Vast areas of old-growth forest have been destroyed or fragmented into small parcels by clearcutting.

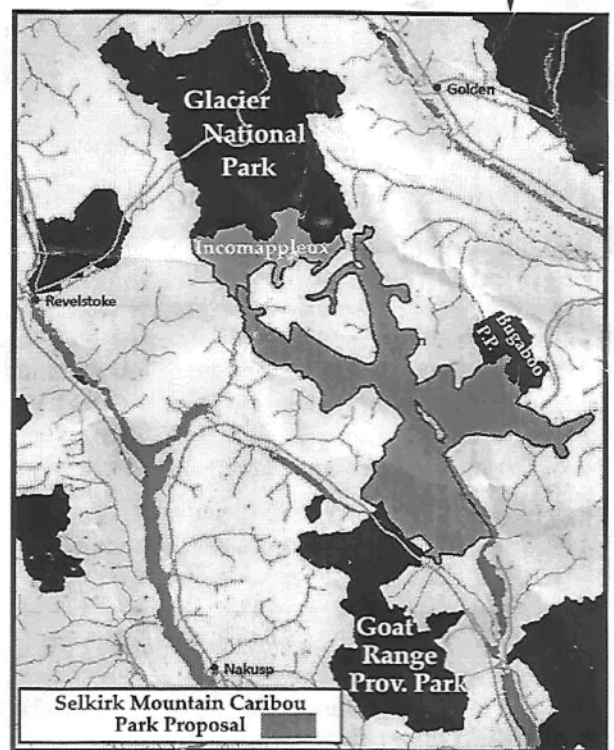
Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan offers too little habitat protection. It set aside about 50% of the park proposal, which is core caribou habitat, from logging. But these reserves offer only partial protection; they do not cover all the caribou habitat, and can be removed if the caribou fail to thrive.

These no-logging zones do not cover the oldest forest with the highest biodiversity, including the Incomappleux. This exclusion means no protection for approximately 40 known species-at-risk in the humid forest of the Central Selkirs.

The Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal would add much that has long been missing from BC's park system. The region has several existing parks but they are too small, ecologically incomplete and too far apart to protect biodiversity over the long-term (BC Auditor-General Report, 2010). They lack sufficient low-elevation habitat, which has the highest biodiversity. The proposed Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park joins parts of four rivers to connect three existing parks.

Please consider these key points for your letter

- The 156,000-hectare Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposed by the Valhalla Wilderness Society should have full protection as a Class A provincial park.
- The park proposal would protect the last surviving stands of old-growth Inland Temperate Rainforest in BC's Central Selkirk Mountains.
- These include the famous Incomappleux Rainforest, which has trees up to 4 metres across and 1,800 years old, hundreds of species of lichens, and a concentration of rare species not known to exist in this region until relatively recently.
- The Incomappleux part of the park proposal is adjacent to Glacier National Park (GNP). Environment Canada biologists have said it is critical to the survival of GNP's grizzly bears and should be protected.
- As of the 2016 census, the Central Selkirk Mountain Caribou herd has crashed to 35 animals, from 102 in 2008.
- Many other species are at risk in the forests within the park proposal; the protected area should be expanded and made permanent for them all.



Other ways to take action

While writing a letter and sending it by mail is the most effective action at this time, there are other important things you can do:

- Sign the paper petition at any Valhalla Wilderness Society event.
- Sign the separate online petition at: <https://www.change.org/primeval>
- For more information go to: www.vws.org, FB: ValhallaWilderness; twitter: @ValhallaWild.
- Donations will support our work.

Thank you for whatever you can do.

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 4, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/tracking #: 330143/11637

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

ISSUE: Logging and associated activities in the Upper Skagit watershed

BACKGROUND:

The Silverdaisy area, often referred to as the “donut hole”, is an area of approximately 5,800 hectares of Crown land in the upper Skagit River watershed near Hope. The “donut hole” is made up of three separate areas:

- Lands removed from the original Skagit Valley Recreation Area in 1995 because of extensive mineral tenure holdings.
- Skagit Provincial Forest.
- Land removed from E.C. Manning Park in 1968 because of extensive mineral tenure holdings.

These parcels of land are adjacent to one another and are surrounded by both Skagit Valley Park and E.C. Manning Park (Attachment 1).

The Silverdaisy Integrated Management Plan (prepared in October 1998 but unsigned) provides management guidance for the “donut hole” and allows for resource exploration and development. Respecting forestry management strategies, the Silverdaisy Integrated Management Plan directs:

- The lands removed from Skagit Valley Recreation Area are *“to be returned to park status once mineral exploration and development is completed. As such, [forest] harvesting will be restricted to mineral purposes only.”*
- Respecting the Provincial forest lands and the lands removed from E.C. Manning Park, to *“provide opportunities for timber extraction and silvicultural activities for the purpose of access development, mining activities and economic realization”* and *“commercial harvesting will be allowed.”*

The integrated management plan also provides guidance on road access, including:

- Ensure that the tenure holder has the long-term right of access to the integrated management area through E.C. Manning Park, and within the plan area, by the issuance of the appropriate Park Use Permits and Road Use Permits.
- Ensure that vehicle access is restricted to the Cayuse Flats entry point through E.C. Manning Park.
- Ensure all resource values are considered when establishing any future roads.

The Upper Skagit watershed is recognized in the Ross Lake/Seven Mile Reservoir Treaty between Canada and the U.S. and is within the purview of the binational Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC). SEEC is a governance body mandated by the treaty to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities in the Skagit basin, and acquire mineral and timber rights consistent with conservation and recreational enhancement. The commission consists of a Canadian delegation appointed by the Premier of B.C. and a U.S. delegation appointed by the Mayor of Seattle. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNROD) plays a coordinating role on behalf of Canada for SEEC.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has one active license for 40,000 m³ in the Silverdaisy area and is preparing road construction contracts and configuring cutblock layout to access an additional 60,000 m³ for future sale for harvesting in 2019. BCTS' current investment in Silverdaisy is \$380,000 to date with an additional \$770,000 budgeted for fiscal year 2019. Past harvesting activities have occurred in the Skagit Provincial Forest lands and the lands removed from E.C. Manning Park. The harvesting activities that occurred earlier this year were on the lands removed from E.C. Manning Park. The proposed future harvesting blocks are on lands removed from the former Skagit Valley Recreation Area (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION:

s.13,s.16

S

Attachments:

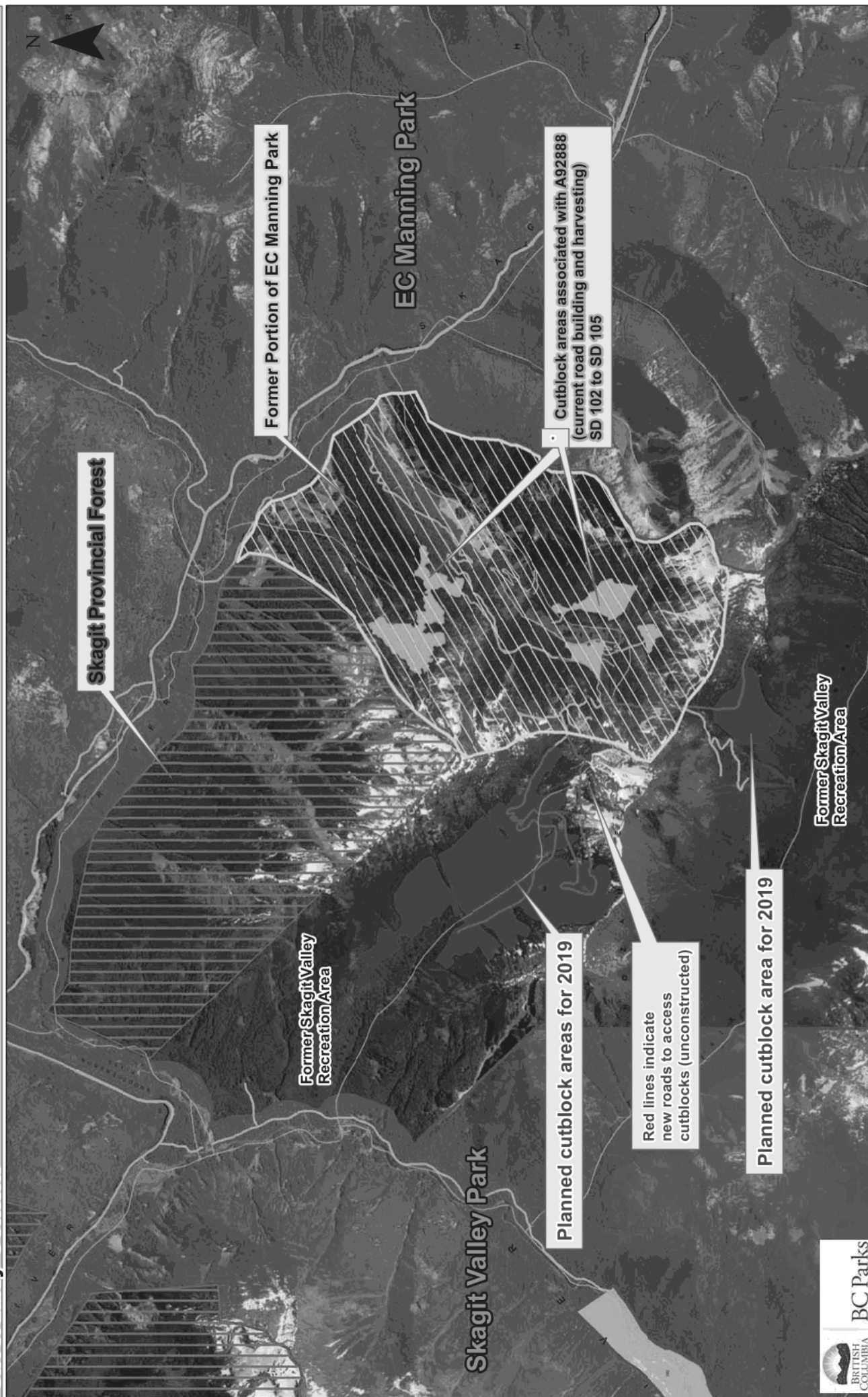
Attachment 1: Map of the Silverdaisy Area showing the various land parcels
s.16

Attachment 5: August 2, 2018 letter from City of Seattle Mayor Durkan to Premier Horgan
s.16

Contact: <i>Jim Standen, ADM BC Parks & COS 250-387-1288</i>	Alternate Contact: <i>David Ranson, ED BC Parks 778-698-4298</i>	Prepared by: <i>Ken Morrison, Manager BC Parks, Planning and Land Admin 778-698-4264</i>
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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
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DM	DM	Oct 17/18
DMO	KK	Oct 5/18
ADM	JS	Oct 3/18
Ex. Dir., PSB	DR	Sept 5/18
Mgr., PLA	KM	Sept 4/18
Author	KM	Sept 4/18



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City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

August 2, 2018

The Honorable John Horgan
P.O. Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W9E1 Canada

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am writing to you about a very concerning issue that has been brought to my attention by the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) and other important stakeholders. Without any notice to the SEEC, the British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS) has approved extensive logging in the Silverdaisy area in the Upper Skagit Watershed. This area is in the “donut hole” created when the western boundary of Manning Provincial Park was moved to exclude some mining claims.

This letter is intended to signal the City of Seattle’s grave concern about the proposed action and to formally request the Province of British Columbia to inform BCTS that the logging plans are inconsistent with the purposes of the United States-Canada High Ross Treaty (1984) and the concurrent Agreement signed by the City of Seattle and British Columbia. These actions also directly contradict the environmental stewardship and fish protection priorities your government values. We strongly believe that the BCTS must consult with the City of Seattle (Seattle) and the SEEC before authorizing any activity that would impact the ecological integrity and recreational resource value of the Silverdaisy area.

The 1984 Treaty resolved the dispute over raising Seattle’s Ross Dam and avoided flooding part of the Upper Skagit Watershed (Watershed). One of the main purposes of the Treaty was to maintain the environmental integrity of the Watershed. The Treaty also created SEEC to administer this collaborative partnership. As you know, SEEC Commissioners are appointed by the Premier’s office and the Mayor of Seattle. The Treaty recognized the Upper Skagit River as a unique watershed that provides recreational opportunities to both Americans and Canadians, and that the Upper Skagit River has extraordinary environmental value that we should protect.

The SEEC was directed to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat; enhance recreational opportunities; and acquire mineral and timber rights consistent with conservation and recreational purposes in the Watershed. Since 1984, SEEC has worked to protect the Skagit headwaters and sought to eliminate the risks of mining in the donut hole. With the encouragement of the British Columbia government, promising conversations were beginning with the mining company when news of the proposed logging operation reached the SEEC. Such logging would impact the unique terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the Watershed and would greatly impair the recreational opportunities supported by these ecosystems. The proposed logging in the Silverdaisy area is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the 1984 Treaty.

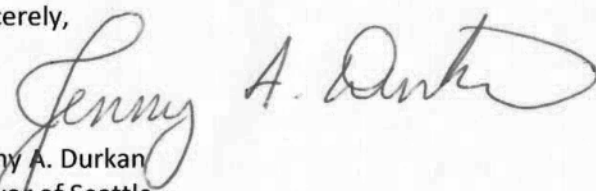
The Watershed supports large, diverse fish and wildlife populations and provides over 30 percent of the freshwater flowing into Puget Sound. Seattle recognizes the local, regional, and national importance of these populations and the unique role that the Watershed has in supporting them. The Skagit River supports the largest populations of threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Puget Sound, and the largest run of chum salmon in the conterminous United States. Furthermore, the Upper and Lower Skagit River supports the largest and most diverse population of bull trout in western Washington and lower British Columbia. This species is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in the United States and listed as a Species of Special Concern in Canada. The City of Seattle has worked diligently to protect these populations from further harm and to support threatened populations in their recovery. The BCTS logging would degrade water quality conditions that are important for sustaining these vulnerable fish populations.

Notably, the State of Washington has invested approximately \$90 million in salmon recovery funds into the Skagit River, while the City of Seattle has invested an additional \$77 million in habitat and flow protection. Furthermore, the local communities and Native American tribes that depend on these fish have gone to extraordinary lengths to protect and restore the river and its salmon stocks. Failure to protect the ecologically and economically valuable fish populations and clean water quality of the Skagit River risks many millions of dollars of ongoing investment in salmon recovery and jeopardizes the biodiversity of the Salish Sea on both sides of our shared border.

In addition to this letter from the City of Seattle, we have been in communication with the Washington State Governor's Office, the SEEC, and concerned stakeholders.

We urge you to immediately direct BCTS to halt any further planning and on-the-ground activities in the Silverdaisy area. I have directed my staff to contact your office about scheduling a call between us. This is an opportunity for our two governments to develop a better understanding of how decisions to take this action were made and how to avoid similar situations from occurring again in the future. The City of Seattle and British Columbia have an important mandate under the Treaty, and an obligation to honor the intent and spirit of the groundbreaking Treaty signed in 1984. The public we serve expects nothing less.

Sincerely,


Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

Cc: Governor Jay Inslee
Shaun Hollingsworth, SEEC BC Co-Chair
Leo Bodensteiner, SEEC US Co-Chair
Mike Falkier, Executive Director, British Columbia Timber Sales
Jim Baggs, General Manager/CEO, Seattle City Light
Lilly Wilson-Codega, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Seattle

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the licensee is currently building access roads, falling timber, and yarding in the area. This licence was issued in accordance with BC's laws and regulations that govern forest management and in accordance with the Treaty that permits responsible resource use in this area.

Protection of Ecological Integrity

When viewed in terms of the SEEC mandate to preserve and conserve the Skagit Watershed above Ross Lake Dam, it is important to note that 70 percent of the Canadian portion of the watershed is fully protected within parks. There are also additional areas within the watershed designated as Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) that further increase protection as these areas may not be impacted by harvesting. In Silverdaisy, OGMAs and WHAs are located to provide long-term spotted owl habitat and protection for other sensitive species. These areas protect 1,900 hectares or 30 percent of the Silverdaisy area.

Past and current forest harvesting operations in the Canadian portion of the Skagit Watershed represent approximately three percent of the Silverdaisy area and only 0.2 percent of the Canadian portion of the watershed by area. This modest opportunity for sustainable resource use within the watershed overall is consistent with conservation objectives, particularly given the significant additional special management practices being undertaken.

With respect to your specific concerns regarding impacts to the park and fish conservation, the current activities of BCTS will not compromise the integrity of adjacent park lands as the BCTS operations are a significant distance from the park boundaries and have been carefully planned to ensure that they will not impact wildlife, biodiversity or recreation values. Additionally, these operations were designed with special consideration to fish conservation. During the development of harvest plans, creeks are surveyed by registered professionals to determine if they are fish bearing, and all streams in the active operation are non-fish bearing. Roads and ditches are designed to minimize sedimentation and culverts have been designed to handle peak storm flows.

When designed and executed properly, forest harvesting operations are not incompatible with fish and other species conservation. We are confident that these operations represent the highest standard of sustainable forest management, especially when viewed in the appropriate context of the significant protection and conservation measures in place in the area.

Extensive Public Consultation

A number of planning activities to seek public input on the land management objectives for Silverdaisy have occurred recently, including the Chilliwack District Fraser Timber Supply Review in 2015, the Chief Forester's Allowable Annual Cut Determination in 2016, and the BCTS Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) replacement in 2017. All of these processes included significant engagement of British Columbians – the FSP process alone included advertisements in nine newspapers throughout the lower mainland, five open houses, extensive online engagement, and individual consultation packages mailed directly to over 170 organizations, individuals, First Nations, and government agencies. All of these public engagement processes identified a timber management objective for Silverdaisy.

The active forest management areas were established through these public consultations, and include the active licence for 38,000 cubic metres of timber and a potential additional harvest area of approximately 67,000 cubic metres. This additional harvest area is in the initial stages of evaluation, but if approved following public consultation, this area would not be put to auction before 2019. Together, these two licences represent all planned and potential harvesting in Silverdaisy through to 2035.

Public consultation is also undertaken on operational plans, where stakeholders can provide more direct input for on-the-ground activities. Operational plans in Silverdaisy have been shared in BCTS Operating Plans online, initially in 2012 and again in 2017. Hard copy operating plan packages were also provided directly to stakeholders, First Nations, and agencies within the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development for review and comment. The next operating plan referral will provide information on the potential additional harvest area, and the SEEC will receive an independent hard copy referral package to ensure the appropriate opportunity to directly engage in the planning process.

In summary, the scale of active BCTS activities in Silverdaisy will not impact salmonid enhancement or flow control projects that have been completed on the Skagit River below Ross Dam. Potential future operations are similarly limited in scope.

Active and proposed harvest plans in Silverdaisy are consistent with broader government objectives for the Fraser Timber Supply Area. The planning for the existing and future harvest licences has been completed in a manner that conserves and sustainably manages the resource values of the Silverdaisy area in accordance with the laws of British Columbia and the sustainable management principles of the BCTS' independent third-party SFI forest management certification. This stewardship, in conjunction with the established protected areas in Silverdaisy, will maintain the biodiversity and hydrologic integrity of the broader Canadian Skagit watershed over time.

It is important to note that the proposed blocks are in the initial planning stages and there will be opportunities for SEEC, and other interested stakeholders, to provide input on these plans. A final decision on whether to proceed with these blocks will be made over the coming months.

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns. Please be assured that the Province of British Columbia takes your comments very seriously and is committed to working transparently with all stakeholders to deliver on our sustainability objectives.

I would be pleased to talk with you if you wish to discuss this further. To arrange a phone call, please contact my office at 1 250 387-6240.

Sincerely,



Doug Donaldson
Minister

Mayor Jenny Durkan

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

September 17, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/tracking #: 332189

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

ISSUE: Summary of Class C Park program and proposed appointments of members to the Tarahne Park Board.

BACKGROUND:

The Class C parks program originally began in the early 1900s with the intent to provide local recreational amenities before there were parks programs in most local governments and regional districts. As regional districts and municipalities developed more park programs to serve local recreation needs, the case for provincial management of Class C parks has diminished.

Until the 1980s, the government maintained a modest budget for Class C parks and boards received occasional grants from the government and other agencies for specific actions or to support park operations. The grant program was terminated in the 1980s; the boards currently do not receive any funding from the government and board members do not receive remuneration for their work.

Since the mid-1980s, it has been the government policy not to create new Class C parks and to seek opportunities to transfer existing Class C parks to local governments or to convert them to Class A parks if their conservation values warrant it. There are currently 13 Class C parks totalling 484 hectares.

Class C parks are established by order in council under the *Park Act* and they receive the same degree of legal protection as Class A parks. Section 10(1) of the *Park Act* directs that every Class C park must be under the jurisdiction of a separate park board appointed by the Minister. Class C parks receive no funding and very limited administrative support from BC Parks. Class C park boards are composed of volunteer members of the community, and are responsible for the management of the site, including maintenance of facilities and provision of services to park visitors. Community-minded individuals interested in the management and operations of the community-oriented park are appointed to these volunteer positions. Park boards are in place for 8 of the 13 Class C parks.

Tarahne Park (3.4 hectares) is a Class C park located in the town of Atlin in northwestern BC. The park was established on May 2, 1974. The park is named after the boat “Tarahne” which is a historical monument owned by the Atlin Historical Society. Tarahne Park is an important recreation hub for community members, tourists and sporting events, as well as social gatherings and festivals. Park facilities include a baseball diamond, basketball court, playground equipment and open play fields (Attachment 1 – Tarahne Park).

DISCUSSION:

The *Park Act* [section 10(2)] provides that a board must consist of not less than three and not more than seven members. It appears that there may only be two active members on the Tarahne Park Board at this time, which is not consistent with the *Park Act*. In June 2018, the Chair of the Park Board wrote to BC Parks requesting that the Minister appoint three new members s.13 to the Board.

Upon reviewing its files, BC Parks could find no records of appointments to the Board after 1985. Information provided by the Chair of the Board suggests subsequent appointments were made to the Board in 1989. Given the differences in the records, the last appointments being three decades ago and that many of those earlier appointees no longer being active on the Board, it is recommended that all past Tarahne Park Board appointments be rescinded and that new appointments be made for Board members.

The term of appointment to Class C park boards is indefinite as there is no authority granted to the Minister in the *Park Act* or regulations to appoint members for a specified term.

BC Parks regional staff have reviewed the nominations and support the proposed new appointments.

NEXT STEPS:

Following the briefing and, s.13

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s.13 as new members to the Class C Park Board for Tarahne Park. Letters to the board members from the Minister will also be prepared.

Attachment 1: Tarahne Park

Contact:

*Jim Standen, ADM
BC Parks and COS
(250)387-1288*

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Planning and Land Admin.
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Prepared by:

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 2/18
DMO	KK	Oct 1/18
ADM	DR	Sept 29/18
Ex. Director Reg. Ops.	JL	Sept 24/18
Manager PLA	KM	Sept. 24/18
Author	JT	Sept. 17/18

Tarahne Provincial Park (Class C)

Atlin, BC

Tarahne Provincial Park (Class C) is centered in the community of Atlin. It is an important recreation hub for community members, tourists, sporting events as well as social gatherings and festivals. The park has been historically and is currently maintained by community volunteers (Tarahne Park Board) giving their time and effort for the betterment of the park and community.

Facilities (Photos 2017):

Outhouses- 4 non BC Parks standard pit toilets in good condition
-1 old BC Parks standard pit toilet in poor condition



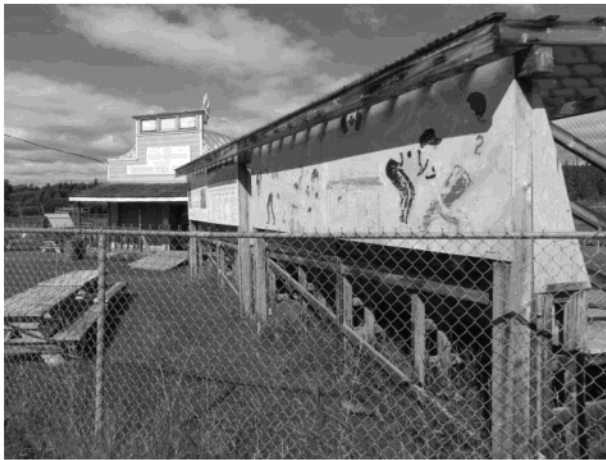
Playground/structures are in fair condition.



Baseball diamond and Basketball court are in fair condition.



Larger building is in good condition and remains locked. The bleachers appear to be in good condition.



There are also a dozen picnic tables, 6 fire rings, a small concession stand, and a sheltered area.



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

October 5, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333047/11982

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNROD)

SUBJECT: Joint Minister's meeting with MLA Donna Barnett and Alexis Creek First Nation on October 23 at 3:30pm to discuss the 2014 Supreme Court *Tsilhqot'in* decision.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- The 2014 Supreme Court decision regarding the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) land claim did not address the Dasiqox Tribal Park.
- In the 2014 *Tsilhqot'in* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) found the Tsilhqot'in Nation had established proof of Aboriginal title over the claimed area.
 - Aboriginal title confers on the group that holds it the exclusive right to decide how the land is used and the right to benefit from those uses, including economic benefits.
- Dasiqox Tribal Park (DTP) is approximately 300,000 hectares and located in the claimed traditional territory of the Tsilhqot'in, but not within the lands the SCC acknowledged Tsilhqot'in title to in 2014.
 - It was "established" by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government and Yunešit'in Government, and supported by the Tsilhqot'in National Government as an expression of their right to govern unceded territory.
- DTP is not designated as either a park or other protected area under provincial legislation, nor has it been recognized in any other formal way by the Province.

s.13,s.16

Contact:

*Jim Standen, ADM
BC Parks and COS
250-387-1288*

Alternate Contact:

*Hilary Wheeler, Manager
BC Parks,
778-698-4284*

Prepared by:

*Christine Crockford, Advisor
BC Parks
778-698-5450*

ENV Approvals		
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 22, 2018
DMO	KK	Oct 19, 2018
ADM	JS	Oct 19, 2018
Dir./Mgr.	N/A	
Author	CC	Oct 11, 2018

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

October 2, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333104/11940

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

SUBJECT: Briefing on Golden Ears Park Reservation System, October 9, at 2:30pm.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- The number of reservable sites at any given campground or park is driven by consumer demand for fair access to BC Parks camping and the associated reservation opportunities. BC Parks adjusts reservable inventory on an annual basis in response to occupancy demand.
- Parks moving to 100% reservations is a management strategy used for high-demand parks where demand greatly exceeds supply. Popular parks in BC that are 100% reservable during the peak season include: Rath Trevor Beach and Gordon Bay on Vancouver Island, Cultus Lake and Alice Lake on the Lower Mainland and Swiws and Okanagan Lake in the Okanagan.
- Reservations can be made as early as four months prior to arrival, with generally only peak/holiday weekends being booked that far in advance. Many sites are available on shorter notice.
- Mid-week camping has significantly more availability than weekends throughout the summer. Off-season camping (Sept-May) also has increased availability.
- Past experience from all other parks that increased inventory of reservations saw an increase in attendance resulting in a better (yield management) utilization of available camping sites and in turn maximizing the number of visitors able to enjoy camping in the park.
 - 2017 saw a 7% increase in attendance at Golden Ears from 2016
 - Full 2018 stats are not yet available but we are expecting a similar increase in attendance from 2017 to 2018 (approx. 6% increase in attendance)

Golden Ears Provincial Park is one of the busiest parks in the province, given its location in the Fraser Valley and proximity to Vancouver.

- Campsites at Golden Ears Provincial Park will be 100% reservable during the peak season in 2019 (from mid-May to Labour Day weekend). This change has been made gradually over the last 3 years in response to the increased demand for sites as well as to respond to public concerns regarding non-standard First Come First Serve (FCFS) inventory management at Golden Ears (GE).
 - An observable trend is that campers reserve for one night followed by using the FCFS system to extend their stay once in the park.
 - The practice of combining one-night reservations with FCFS to extend duration of camping stays at GE has resulted in reduced customer service and satisfaction; increased maintenance time/costs to clean the sites, and added pressure to the FCFS waiting list.
 - The previous FCFS access to camping at GE was often being exploited by local area campers who would camp in their cars at the park gate in order to secure a FCFS spot.

- To manage the volume of campers lining up at the gate, a FCFS waiting list was established, which creates a shadow reservation system and inadvertently encouraged what became a public safety issue, given the number of cars parking outside the gate before the park opened.
 - This system also enabled campers to “reserve” sites by paying and leaving chairs/tents, but without actually occupying the site.
 - This activity was not fair to the broader public who were not able to wait or camp outside the gate in order to get a spot.
- The implementation of a fully reservable system during peak periods of camping at GE ensures fair access for all users while eliminating public safety issues and reducing operational inefficiencies and expenses encountered by BC Parks. All Golden Ears campsites are 100% FCFS outside of peak season (typically before mid-May and after Labour Day weekend). Campsites that are not reserved will still be available on a FCFS basis at the park gatehouse, as capacity allows, all season.
 - Alouette campground is reservable only between May 15-19 and June 12-Sept 1 (closed outside of those dates).
 - North Beach campground is reservable only between May 15-19 and June 19-Sept 1 (closed outside of those dates).
 - Gold Creek campground is open all year round and is only reservable from May 10-Sept 1. This campground is 100% FCFS before May 10 and after Sept 1.
- Group campsites are open and reservable year-round. BC Parks is currently working on a strategy to manage capacity pressures in specific parks.
- BC Parks added an addition of 431 campsites this year with six additional campsites created in Golden Ears for the 2018 camping season.
- Of the 10,700 campsites BC Parks manages, approximately 55% are reservable and 45% remain available on a FCFS basis.

Contact:

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Division
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Alternate Contact:

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ENV Approvals		
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 5, 2018
DMO	KK	Oct 5, 2018
ADM	JS	Oct 4, 2018
Dir./Mgr.	DR	Oct 4, 2018
Author	LW	Oct 4, 2018

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

October 2, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 333279/11987

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Lisa Beare, MLA, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

SUBJECT: Meeting between Minister Heyman and MLA Beare on Golden Ears Park Reservation System, October 10, at 2:30pm.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- The number of reservable sites at any given campground or park is driven by consumer demand for fair access to BC Parks camping and the associated reservation opportunities. BC Parks adjusts reservable inventory on an annual basis in response to occupancy demand.
- Parks moving to 100% reservations is a management strategy used for high-demand parks where demand greatly exceeds supply. Popular parks in BC that are 100% reservable during the peak season include: Rath Trevor Beach and Gordon Bay on Vancouver Island, Cultus Lake and Alice Lake on the Lower Mainland and Swiws and Okanagan Lake in the Okanagan.
- Reservations can be made as early as four months prior to arrival, with generally only peak/holiday weekends being booked that far in advance. Many sites are available on shorter notice.
- Mid-week camping has significantly more availability than weekends throughout the summer. Off-season camping (Sept-May) also has increased availability.
- Past experience from all other parks that increased inventory of reservations saw an increase in attendance resulting in a better (yield management) utilization of available camping sites and in turn maximizing the number of visitors able to enjoy camping in the park.
 - 2017 saw a 7% increase in attendance at Golden Ears from 2016
 - Full 2018 stats are not yet available but we are expecting a similar increase in attendance from 2017 to 2018 (approx. 6% increase in attendance)
- Golden Ears Provincial Park is one of the busiest parks in the province, given its location in the Fraser Valley and proximity to Vancouver.
- Campsites at Golden Ears Provincial Park will be 100% reservable during the peak season in 2019 (from mid-May to Labour Day weekend). This change has been made gradually over the last 3 years in response to the increased demand for sites as well as to respond to public concerns regarding non-standard First Come First Serve (FCFS) inventory management at Golden Ears (GE).
 - An observable trend is that campers reserve for one night followed by using the FCFS system to extend their stay once in the park.
 - The practice of combining one-night reservations with FCFS to extend duration of camping stays at GE has resulted in reduced customer service and satisfaction; increased maintenance time/costs to clean the sites, and added pressure to the FCFS waiting list.

- The previous FCFS access to camping at GE was often being exploited by local area campers who would camp in their cars at the park gate in order to secure a FCFS spot.
- To manage the volume of campers lining up at the gate, a FCFS waiting list was established, which creates a shadow reservation system and inadvertently encouraged what became a public safety issue, given the number of cars parking outside the gate before the park opened.
- This system also enabled campers to “reserve” sites by paying and leaving chairs/tents, but without actually occupying the site.
- This activity was not fair to the broader public who were not able to wait or camp outside the gate in order to get a spot.
- The implementation of a fully reservable system during peak periods of camping at GE ensures fair access for all users while eliminating public safety issues and reducing operational inefficiencies and expenses encountered by BC Parks. All Golden Ears campsites are 100% FCFS outside of peak season (typically before mid-May and after Labour Day weekend). Campsites that are not reserved will still be available on a FCFS basis at the park gatehouse, as capacity allows, all season.
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 - North Beach campground is reservable only between May 15-19 and June 19-Sept 1 (closed outside of those dates).
 - Gold Creek campground is open all year round and is only reservable from May 10-Sept 1. This campground is 100% FCFS before May 10 and after Sept 1.
- Group campsites are open and reservable year-round. BC Parks is currently working on a strategy to manage capacity pressures in specific parks.
- BC Parks added an addition of 431 campsites this year with six additional campsites created in Golden Ears for the 2018 camping season.
- Of the 10,700 campsites BC Parks manages, approximately 55% are reservable and 45% remain available on a FCFS basis.

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ENV Approvals		
Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	MZ	Oct 9, 2018
DMO	KK	Oct 9, 2018
ADM	JS	Oct 9, 2018
Dir./Mgr.	DR	Oct 4, 2018
Author	LW	Oct 4, 2018

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
INFORMATION NOTE**

October 9, 2018

File: 280-30

CLIFF/tracking #: 333467/12003

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

ISSUE: Park Operators (PO) Model Overview

BACKGROUND:

BC Parks moved from an ‘own forces’ service delivery model to a private-sector delivery model in 1986. This change in service delivery was focused on frontcountry camping and day use areas only; most backcountry areas continue to be managed by BC Parks staff.

From 1986 to 2002, BC Parks signed individual contracts for the operation of each park with POs. In 2001, BC Parks had approximately 130 permits for the maintenance of 180 campgrounds and day use areas. These permits (also known as “agreements”) were signed annually.

In 2002, BC Parks budget was substantially reduced and several key changes were made to the service delivery model to increase its efficiency and effectiveness: parks were grouped into 27 “bundles” to reduce the number of contracts administered by BC Parks staff; contract terms were extended to 10 years with financial re-negotiation periods every three years; and contract language shifted from prescriptive to results-based requirements.

In 2008, BC Parks budget was further reduced and an extensive service reduction process was undertaken. In addition to a reduction in BC Parks’ Ranger staff, various services were reduced through negotiations with POs to save approximately \$680k.

In 2014, BC Parks adopted the Parks Integrated Service Delivery Model (PRISM). This model brought about new Facility Specification requirements (related to cleaning and facility maintenance); annual cost-of-living adjustments and payments in years 4 through 10; and enhanced monitoring and reporting requirements. These changes aimed to address concerns of the previous “bundle model” such as: vague contractual language; difficulty holding POs accountable for service delivery; time-consuming renegotiation of contracts every three years; and, an overarching goal to ensure financial sustainability of the PO model.

Over the past 30 years, BC Parks has consistently worked towards financial sustainability. The movement from own-forces to individual contracts to bundled contracts to service reductions to PRISM all occurred to address the reoccurring budget pressures facing BC Parks. Costs to operate parks have steadily increased (e.g. labour costs, fuel costs, overall inflation etc.), but without subsequent budget lifts or the ability to increase revenue from fee increases, BC Parks must cover fixed budget pressures from PO agreements from operational and/or staffing budgets.

DISCUSSION:

Operators collect and retain Recreation User Fees set by government as part of their compensation. Most POs also receive a “deficiency payment” from the Province to cover the shortfall between projected retained revenue and projected operating costs. If projected revenue exceeds projected expenditures, POs pay a “return to Crown” amount back to the Province’s Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). Without a lift to BC Parks’ base budget or the ability to retain “return to Crown” revenue, the only mechanism to ensure cost containment is to increase revenue through fee increases or other concessions, such as revenue-sharing initiatives with POs (e.g. merchandise sales).

When the Minister approves changes to Recreation User Fees, the Province calculates the impact of the fee increase or decrease and negotiates potential revenue changes with the PO. Even nominal fee increases help to balance the increasing cost of delivering services while ensuring that BC Parks operational budgets remain whole. For example, the re-tender of 75% of the bundled contracts in 2014 (under the new “PRISM model”) resulted in a \$1.737M increase in the PO budget. This significant increase was a reflection of the current market conditions and was not anticipated by BC Parks. The fee increases implemented in 2015 and 2016 generated \$1.722M, recouping almost all this budget pressure.

The rising costs of delivering services through the PRISM Agreements are due to the increasing cost of service delivery by Operators and the inclusion of a new price adjustment mechanism to account for cost-of-living increases, called the Annual Price Adjustment (APA). The APA was created to: ensure POs are receiving fair overall compensation; reduce negotiation risk for both parties inherent with the previous “bundle model”; and spread the risks and benefits of attendance and revenue variation between both parties. POs bid on the Agreements by submitting a fixed price for the first three years. For each of the last seven years, an APA payment is calculated and made annually to Operators based on various indices calculated by Statistics Canada (Labour Index, Fuel Index and Consumer Price Index) as well as revenue changes due to attendance variations.

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BC Parks has been piloting an own-forces model in South Tweedsmuir Park over the last operating season (June-Oct 2018). In 2017, the PO agreement for Tweedsmuir Park South ended and BC Parks initiated an own-forces pilot project in order to better manage rising human-bear encounters in the Bella Coola Valley. A thorough assessment of this pilot project will be completed in the coming months and costs will be compared to the previous PO model.

BC Parks also completed an own-forces analysis this September for service delivery in the Peace Liard PO bundle. This analysis showed an own-forces model is more expensive but has benefits such as better human-wildlife management, direct control over service delivery and increased flexibility to work with First Nations in Parks.

BC Parks continues to focus on finding a financially sustainable service delivery model to ensure BC Parks continues to deliver excellent service to park visitors.

CONCLUSION:

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DM	MZ	Oct 22, 2018
DMO	KK	Oct 19, 2018
ADM	JS	Oct 19, 2018
Exec Dir	DR	Oct 17, 2018
Author/Mgr	SM	Oct 10, 2018

Date: October 23, 2018

Prepared for: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Re: Meeting with Mayor Simpson, City of Quesnel: Thursday Oct 30th, 11:45-12:15.
Neil Dobson, a/Executive Director at CAS to attend.

- Forestry Think Tank Initiative
 - Forestry is a foundational industry for the Quesnel region, which has been hard hit by both the pine beetle epidemic and two years of unprecedented forest fires.
 - In May 2018, the City of Quesnel hosted a “Future of Forestry Think Tank” with universities, forest industry representatives, and the Province (FLNRO), to explore how the region might become an incubator for ideas on adapting forest management in BC to climate change.
 - Minister Donaldson has been briefed on the outcomes of the Think Tank.
 - The Think Tank produced seven recommendations:
 1. Plan and manage ecosystems for ecological resilience;
 2. Optimize fibre recovery and utilization, realize more value, and reduce costs;
 3. Assess the market demand for future forest products;
 4. Secure investments that diversify the manufacturing hub;
 5. Develop the non-timber or non-fibre forest product potential; and
 6. Expand training, education, and research at the North Cariboo Community Campus;
 7. Establish a Quesnel & Area Forestry Leadership Group
 - CAS is engaged with FLNRO, PICS, the federal government and the forest industry to develop policy options that will, in part, address the central issues raised by the Think Tank with respect to optimizing fibre recovery and utilization.
 - A two day workshop to bring the fibre utilization policy work together will take place November 1st and 2nd in Victoria. This work will support the policy objective behind the mandate letter commitment to price emission from slash pile burning and will inform CAS’s recommendations in this area going forward.

- Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI)
 - In 2017, BC committed approximately \$150M to support the implementation of the FCI.
 - FCI activities include planting projects, rehabilitation, fertilization, investments in alternatives to burning of wood waste, and projects to increase sequestration of carbon.
 - In March 2018, BC and Canada finalized agreement on the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, which means \$290M in funding for eligible forest carbon investments from 2017-22.
 - In 2017, following the fire season, funding was provided for a rehabilitation project in the Quesnel region under FCI.

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO	TC	24/10/18
ED	ND	23/10/18
Manager		
Author	DC	23/10/18

Bullets

CLIFF/Reference # 328353

Branch: Clean Growth Branch, CAS

Date: October 5, 2018

Prepared for: Honourable George Heyman, Minister

Re: Community Energy and Emissions Inventory - Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 4:30pm
phone call with Stephen Price, Board Chair, Capital Regional District. Neil Dobson,
A/Executive Director, Clean Growth, CAS will join the call at VCO.

- *The Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) was the first and only state or provincial system of monitoring and reporting energy and greenhouse gas emissions for local governments.*
- *CEEI reports were created by the Province to support local government staff in their reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, and help communities meet the second commitment under the Climate Action Charter to measure and report on community-wide GHG emissions. The Province chose to develop CEEI to create consistency of reporting across jurisdictions, support smaller communities who have less skills and resource and to create economies of scale in data collection and analysis.*
- *Community level data for buildings and solid waste has been posted annually for 2007, 2010, 2012 – 2016. The Climate Action Secretariat will be posting 2017 community level data for these sectors in early 2019.*
- *The Province continues to believe in the value of local emissions analysis and reporting but is (1) trying to align the methodologies used for the Provincial, Industrial and Community Inventories; and (2) the methodology behind the CEEI is no longer robust.*
- *Due to phase out of the AirCare program in the Lower Mainland in 2015, Vehicle Kilometer Travelled data is no longer available to inform transportation emissions in British Columbia.*
- *Climate Action Secretariat is working on robust and defensible GHG estimates through improving the Provincial Inventory and enabling it to be broken out at the community level.*

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