



MEETING NOTE

MEETING DATE: May 10th, 4:30-5:00pm

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

TOPIC: Meeting with B.C. Cattlemen's Association to discuss environmental issues of interest

ATTENDEES: Kevin Boon (General Manager)
Brian Thomas (President)
Werner Stump (Vice President)
Larry Rast (Zone 7, Kootenay Director, Board of Directors)
Rick Mumford (Staff, Indigenous Affairs)
Andrea Haywood-Farmer (Staff, Land Stewardship)

Avery Gottfried (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Environmental Protection Division)

Scott Norris (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Conservation Officer Service - Acting Inspector, West Coast Region)

KEY MESSAGES:

1 - CLEAN GROWTH

- The Province appreciates the B.C. Cattlemen's Association's (BCCA) ongoing support for climate adaptation action and collaboration with provincial ministries and other partners to improve food security and the climate resilience for B.C.'s agricultural sector. Industries like agriculture are critical to B.C.'s economy and the well-being of communities and individuals.
- B.C. climate strategies such as the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 (Roadmap) and B.C. Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) aim at ensuring B.C.'s agricultural industry can continue to address the risks of climate change while maintaining a resilient workforce, contribute to rural economies and build deeper food security in a changing climate.

2 - AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS

- Tackling plastic waste and pollution remains a provincial priority.
- The BCCA was invited to engage in 2022 on a proposed provincial regulation to phase out single-use and problematic plastics and did not submit a formal response to this engagement.
- A What We Heard Report was sent to interested parties, including BCCA, in April 2023, outlining the feedback received through this engagement.

- The Ministry for Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is working to identify interim opportunities to increase recovery and recycling of packaging and paper products (PPP) from the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector in B.C.'s rural and remote communities, as part of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 5-Year Plan. Agricultural plastics fall under the ICI sector.
- ENV has also recently committed another \$25 million to a third round of funding for the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund. The third intake will open later this year. Projects that support plastic waste reduction across the province and promote the development of a circular economy are eligible, and we encourage you to reach out to the fund administrator, the Alacrity Foundation, to receive more information.

3 – CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE (COS) AND PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

- I appreciate the excellent relationship the BCCA and COS have, particularly since the inception of the Livestock Protection Program (LPP), and I am well-aware of the support the COS is providing to this program.
- The COS has a history of working with producers across B.C. on mitigation techniques to minimize the number of livestock lost to wild predators and continues to respond to livestock predation complaints, which are a concern for farmers and my Ministry.
- Proper livestock husbandry management is critical to help reduce predation and livestock losses. In case of unavoidable conflict, the COS will respond to ensure public safety and the protection of property.

4- IMPACTS OF UNMANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION

- I understand your concerns about recreational overuse and its impacts on livestock. Recreation Sites and Trails BC's operational focus is on managing recreational values through established recreation sites and trails on Crown (public) lands.
- There are provincial regulations governing recreational use on public lands, to make things safe for everyone. Any concerns about littering, wildlife attractants, fires not complying with the Wildfire Act or other issues should be reported to the Natural Resource Officer Service or the Conservation Officer Service through the natural resource violation line:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/natural-resource-law-enforcement/report-natural-resource-violations> .

KEY FACTS:

The BCCA has requested a meeting with Minister Heyman to discuss environmental issues of common interest. The following topics for discussion have been identified: clean growth, predator management, and recycling of agricultural plastics.

The BCCA met with Minister Heyman in June 2022, to discuss CPAS, agricultural plastics, and water storage and proposed Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, which has been developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

1 - CLEAN GROWTH

- Cattle (beef and dairy) are the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions of any sub-sector in agriculture. However, B.C.'s agriculture sector, being relatively small, has relatively small emissions (<5% of B.C. emissions) compared to other provinces with agriculture representing 10% of national emissions in Canada.
- BCCA are highly involved in promoting innovation and uptake of rotational grazing, cover cropping and other climate-related beneficial management practices being promoted by Canada and B.C. through various programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- BCCA Vice President, Werner Stump, is an active participant in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's sustainability strategy / regenerative agriculture and agritech process, as a farmer nominated by the BC Agriculture Council.
- The Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program is the main vehicle for driving adoption of practices in the areas related to the carbon drawdown potential of regenerative agricultural practices that increase soil carbon, and decrease reliance on water and fossil-fuel based inputs.
 - The program provides cost-shared funding to farmers to incent adoption of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve carbon sequestration, water use efficiency, energy efficiency, soil health, air quality, and biodiversity (the full BMP list is at the link above).
 - 2022/23 funding received by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food through the CleanBC Roadmap (\$5M) and CPAS (\$3M) has increased the availability of funds for the BMP program, which is consistently over-subscribed.
- The Province recently announced it will be investing \$200M to enhance B.C. food security through new and enhanced programs to strengthen B.C.'s food supply chain and expand local food production from producers to processors and from packers to retailers.

2 – AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS

- The Province is proposing a new regulation to reduce single-use and plastic waste by limiting or banning the use of certain single-use items.
- The scope of the proposed regulation includes banning Polystyrene foam trays – these are used in the meat packaging industry. New more recyclable alternatives for meat packaging are now being implemented by large grocery chains in Canada.
- ENV is aware of recycling pilot projects taking place in B.C. for agricultural plastics. Four regions (Peace River, Bulkley-Nechako and Fraser-Fort George and Kent District) have partnered with an organization called Cleanfarms to implement pilots that are collecting on-farm plastics including containers, silage wrap, bailer twine and other plastic items. Cleanfarms has been provided with three-year federal funding to assist with these pilots.
- ENV partnered with the Canada Plastics Pact to conduct a research study to better understand the current management of plastics and packaging from the ICI sector in B.C. Results of the study were published January 2023 and will be used by the ministry to support the

development of potential interim and long-term solutions for the management of plastics and packaging from the ICI sector.

- ENV is working to explore new regulatory or policy approaches to better manage ICI materials, recognizing the challenges associated with proper management of plastic and packaging in a commercial or industrial context.
- This work will be done primarily through a cross-sector working group, focused on identifying and assessing interim options to improve diversion of ICI and PPP materials within B.C.'s rural and remote communities, in accordance with the province's pollution prevention hierarchy.
- Plastics and packaging from the ICI sector were identified as a priority for the expansion of B.C.'s EPR system through public consultation in 2020 on a Policy Intentions Paper regarding the Recycling Regulation; however, feedback on this product type varied significantly, confirming the overall ICI sector is complex and requires a measured, phased approach.
- The feedback was consolidated in the Summary of Feedback Report, made publicly available in June 2021, and helped inform the development of a Five-Year EPR Action Plan for EPR expansion in B.C., released in September 2021. Expansion plans include adding more products to the Recycling Regulation and researching opportunities for how plastics and packaging can be diverted from the ICI sector.
 - No feedback specific to agricultural plastics was received.

3 – CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE (COS) AND PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

- The COS has supported the LPP by providing a Verification Training Course for livestock producers.
- The COS also encourages producers to explore all options with respect to mitigation and working with the LPP – BCCA.
- The COS has a history of working with producers across B.C. on mitigation techniques to minimize the number of livestock lost to cougars, bears, and other predators. These strategies include:
 - with support of the LPP, the COS assists by providing advice to producers on best management practices regarding livestock, including installing electric fences, locking up animals overnight, regularly checking the condition of animals and the use of livestock guardian dogs;
 - proactive outreach in the community on preventing human-wildlife conflicts; and,
 - working with partners, such as WildSafeBC, to further help educate the public on the importance of attractant management.
- Responsibility must be placed on producers to take adequate steps to protect their livestock from wildlife.
- Conservation Officers prioritize public safety calls as the highest priority, such as those related to dangerous hunting, or dangerous wildlife in urban and rural settings that pose a significant risk to human safety.

4- IMPACTS OF UNMANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Camping is permitted on Crown lands for up to 14 days except where specific regulations restrict camping.
- Where BC Parks (BCP) or Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) manage camping facilities at established locations, other camping restrictions may apply. Learn more about BCP at <https://camping.bcparks.ca/> and RSTBC at <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/> .

Attachment 1 – BCCA package of materials received on Tuesday, May 9th.

Lead:

Amy Avia
Strategic Services Division
(778) 698-7296

Alternate contact for content:

Lisa Paquin, Director
Strategic Policy Branch
(778) 698-4419

Prepared by:

Marta Giménez Sánchez, Sr. Policy Advisor
Strategic Policy Branch
(236) 478-2834

Page 6 of 7 to/à Page 7 of 7

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13