From:

Venn, Tania GCPE:EX

Sent:

Thursday, December 14, 2017 4:23 PM

To:

Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX

Cc:

Meadows, Jennifer L TAC:EX; Jack, Carolyn GCPE:EX

Subject:

Approval for Grizzly Bear Hunt ban IN / Q&As

Attachments:

IN_GrizzlyBearHunt_November2017_DRAFT (2) (3)_tvedits2.docx

Hi Sandy,

For your approval: the IN with Q&As for the Grizzly Bear Hunt ban.

We will need approval back asap as this issue is heating up.

Thanks,

Tania

Tania Venn

Communications Manager
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Phone: 778-698-9499 (office) 250-208-6183 (cell)

Email: tania.venn@gov.bc.ca

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Date: December 14, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Banning Grizzly Bear Hunt

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

British Columbia's natural beauty and wildlife attract people to the province from all over the globe, and protecting this environment is essential to keeping B.C. beautiful.

British Columbia is one of the few places on earth where grizzly bears can thrive. In fact, half of Canada's grizzly bear population resides in B.C.

So the government is protecting this species by immediately ending the hunting of grizzly bears across the province.

We do recognize that grizzly bear viewing is a growing industry with positive economic benefit.

And we do want to promote a healthy grizzly bear viewing experience for tourists to British Columbia.

Grizzly bear viewing is an iconic B.C. tourism experience and an important economic contributor to the Tourism sector, which generates approximately \$15 million in economic activity in the Great Bear Rainforest, alone.

If asked when the grizzly bear hunt will end?

• The ban on hunting for resident and non-resident hunters takes effect immediately.

If asked how the province came to the decision?

- We held consultations with British Columbians during the fall, and we listened to what they had to say.
- The majority of British Columbians do not support the hunting of grizzly bears.

If asked how this impacts guide outfitters?

 Some guide outfitters will be impacted by this ban, and we will be working with those people to ease them through this transition.

If asked how many guide outfitters will be impacted?

There are approximately 120 licensed guide outfitters that may be impacted.

If asked what the Province is doing to help impacted guide outfitters?

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) has been engaging directly with the Guide Outfitters Association of BC on a consultation process for this policy change.
- FLNR will also partner with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture on a program to identify opportunities to help transition the impacted businesses.

If pressed more about the program to transition the impacted businesses?

• This may include providing access to Destination BC's educational and skills development programs and services, as well as marketing support for the sector through their Co-operative Marketing Partnerships Program.

If asked questions about the grizzly bear hunt NOT related to tourism

 Thank you for the question, however, my colleagues at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will be best positioned to give you an answer.

KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

Background

Guide Outfitters:

- Number of impacted licensed guide outfitter businesses is approximately 120.
- There are approximately 250 guiding territory certificates in B.C. and approximately 160 guiding territory certificates that have a guide outfitter with a grizzly bear quota.
- Approximately 10 guiding territory certificates have a First Nations interest.

Guiding territory certificates provide the certificate holder with the exclusive right to allow
a guide outfitter to operate within the area described in the certificate. Guide outfitters
must have the permission of a guide territory certificate holder to operate in an area and
are licensed by the Province. Quota (i.e. how many animals can be harvested) for grizzly
bears is assigned to the guide outfitter.

FLNR

- Hunting is regulated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) under the Wildlife Act (Hunting Regulation). Non-B.C.resident hunters are allowed to hunt only in the company of a guide, or with a resident with the appropriate permit.
- Guide outfitters are licensed by FLNR to guide resident and non-resident hunters in an exclusive territory. There are currently 240 licensed guide outfitters in B.C.
 - o In 2015, 224 licences were issued for hunters from outside B.C., and of these licences, 55 grizzly bears were killed.
 - Based on preliminary analysis (provided by the Office of the Auditor General) of advertised hunting packages and the number of hunting licences issued, nonresident hunters spend approximately \$5 million annually on grizzly bear hunting packages.
- In August 2017, the Government of British Columbia made a public commitment to close the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest and end grizzly bear trophy hunting in the remainder of the province after the 2017 fall grizzly bear hunt concluded on November 30, 2017.
- Two policy intent papers were developed and posted to the Fish and Wildlife website on October 2, 2017, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations & Rural Development announced a public engagement process. These policy intent papers were also directly provided to key stakeholder groups and First Nations within British Columbia for their input. A total of 4,180 emails were received, which included 1,765 emails based on form letters published by interest groups. Very few respondents simply supported the ban on the trophy hunt as proposed. The majority of responses were from those requesting that Government "ban grizzly bear hunting in all parts of the province"

Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

 Engagement emails and letters were sent on September 27, 2017, to FLNR's key stakeholders and meetings were later held with these organizations. Letters were also received from many key stakeholders. Many of the same issues that were raised during public engagement were also raised by stakeholders. Certain groups provided more indepth feedback than was provided by members of the general public.

Summary of First Nations Engagement

 Engagement emails and letters were sent on September 27 and 28, 2017, to more than 200 First Nations across the province (including First Nations with signed treaties) regarding the grizzly bear trophy hunting ban. Emails were also sent September 27 and 28, 2017, to the 41 First Nations that either overlap or are adjacent to the Great Bear Rainforest. Engagement meetings were set up with First Nations. The proposed regulation changes will not apply to First Nations who harvest grizzly bears within traditionally used areas pursuant to aboriginal rights for food, social, or ceremonial purposes, or treaty rights. Treaty First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bears and possess all parts of grizzly bears when the harvest is done pursuant to treaty rights.

Communications:	Sukhi Tomana	250-886-1221				
Program:	Amber Mattock	250-208-4743				
Approvals (initials only)						
MO	Program	ADM	CD			
	SF					

From: Jack, Carolyn GCPE;EX

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 12:23 PM

To: Wyllie, Sandra TAC:EX; Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX; Meadows, Jennifer L TAC:EX

Cc: Tomana, Sukhi GCPE:EX

Subject: UPDATED - INs and QUESTIONS for Estimates MERRITT VISITOR CENTRE, GRIZZLY

HUNT & TOURISM

Attachments: Est_Questions_Merritt Visitor Centre. Updated CJ.docx;

EST_IN_GrizzlyBearHunt_November2017_cj.docx

Please note that numbers and dates have been revised in MERRITT VISITOR CENTRE.



Carolyn Jack, Acting Director of Communications

Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Responsible for Sport and Multiculturalism

25 (250) 893-4449



CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Date: November 27, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

Banning Grizzly Bear Hunt

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

British Columbia's natural beauty attracts people to the province and protecting our environment and wildlife is essential to keeping B.C. beautiful.

British Columbia is really one of the few places on this earth where the grizzly bear population can thrive.

In fact, more than half of Canada's grizzly bear population resides in B.C. and the government is protecting this species by banning grizzly bear trophy hunting in our province.

Ecotourism, including bear viewing, is a growing industry.

Grizzly bear viewing is an iconic B.C. tourism experience and an important economic contributor to the sector, generating about \$15 million in economic activity – more than double the amount generated by grizzly hunting.

If asked cutting jobs for guide outfitters?

- We expect some guide-outfitters will be negatively impacted and we are working with those impacted on easing the transition.
- The Guide Outfitters Association of BC has been directly engaged by FLNR through the consultation process on the policy change.
- Very few guide outfitters specialize exclusively in grizzly bear hunting, and most will balance their business in other ways.

If asked when will the grizzly bear hunt end?

- The trophy hunt will end in all areas of the province November 30, 2017 the last day of fall hunting season. Hunting for meat will be allowed to continue.
- Grizzly bear hunting will not be allowed to continue at all in the Great Bear Rainforest after November 30, 2017.

If asked about the next steps in banning the hunt?

 The Province will consult with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms and a renewed wildlife management strategy.

Key Facts Regarding the Issue: Background:

- Hunting is regulated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) under the Wildlife Act (Hunting Regulation). Non-B.C.-resident hunters are allowed to hunt only in the company of a guide, or with a resident with the appropriate permit.
- Guide outfitters are licensed by FLNR to guide resident and non-resident hunters in an exclusive territory. There are currently 240 licensed guide outfitters in B.C.
 - In 2015, 224 licences were issued for hunters from outside B.C., and of these licences, 55 grizzly bears were killed.
 - Based on preliminary analysis (provided by the Office of the Auditor General) of advertised hunting packages and the number of hunting licences issued, non-resident hunters spend approximately \$5 million annually on grizzly bear hunting packages.
- On August 14, 2017 Minister Donaldson announced an end to grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout B.C., and an end to all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest. Details of the policy change are still being confirmed, but hunting for meat will be allowed.
- This fall, the Province will consult with First Nations and stakeholder groups to determine next steps and mechanisms to end the hunt and a renewed wildlife management strategy.
- The Tourism & Creative Sectors Branch is in regular contact with FLNR and will ensure the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia (GOABC), the Wildlife Stewardship Council (WSC), and other tourism stakeholders are included in these consultations.
- Over the past year, the two ministries have worked collaboratively to identify ways to address the
 concerns of GOABC and the broader Adventure Tourism Coalition (of which GOABC is a
 member) about land use conflicts, the administrative burden of permits, and business certainty of
 licences and leases.
- In recent stakeholder meetings on the subject of grizzly bear hunting and viewing, GOABC suggested hunting and viewing can co-exist on the land base with proper zoning and communication between users. Scott Ellis has been in the media since Minister Donaldson's announcement, suggesting the decision was based on emotion, not science.

• The WSC is another group that represents guide outfitters in coastal B.C. WSC has issued press releases indicating that they oppose the recent policy change.

Communications:	Sukhi Tomana		250-886-1221			
Program:	Ben Clark	Ben Clark				
Approvals (initials only)						
MO	Program	ADM	CD			
	AB					

GRIZZLY BEAR TOURISM

Relevant Note: Grizzly Bear Tourism note.

Ministry responsible: FLNR - suggest Minister directs questions back to Minister of Forests,

Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development as appropriate.

Key Messages:

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

- The grizzly bear hunt will still occur without the trophy component to the hunt, and we are monitoring how these changes will impact guides and outfitters.
- Grizzly bear are an iconic species. Approximately 25% of the North American population is in B.C. and 50% of the Canadian population is in B.C.
- The total estimated population of grizzly bear in B.C. is 15,000, which is considered to be stable and self-sustaining.
- According to Destination BC, grizzly bear viewing operations make an
 economic contribution of over \$15 million and support 510 jobs in the
 Great Bear Rainforest, while resident and non-resident hunting in the Great
 Bear Rainforest contribute \$1.2 million and 11 jobs.
- According to Destination BC, by diversifying operations to include wildlife viewing, back country horse tours, and other non-consumptive activities, it is possible for guide outfitters to offset the end of the grizzly bear trophy hunt.
- Province-wide, grizzly bear hunting contributes an estimated \$6 to \$7.6 million to the provincial economy.
- The economic benefits and jobs from bear viewing, based on numbers provided by the sector exceed bear hunting revenue. Bear viewing, like bear hunting, happens in rural areas and supports rural jobs.

 It is expected that both the end of the trophy hunt and improved wildlife management will benefit grizzly bear populations in the province. There is also the potential for expanded economic opportunities in the area of wildlife viewing.

Is there something specific in this budget for the guide-outfitters who will be affected by the policy change to the trophy hunt?

A:

- The guide outfitters have been directly engaged in the policy consultations being led by FLNR.
- The Guide Outfitters Association of BC has been a past recipient of funding through Destination BC's Co-op Marketing Partnership Program. I have encouraged them to apply for continued funding so that they can market their tourism product to visitors.
- Destination BC will work with the Guide Outfitters Association of BC to ensure any marketing initiatives are consistent with the new policy.

What are you doing in response to the recommendations contained in the report from the Office of the Auditor General?

A:

 As recommended by the Auditor General, my staff are working with staff from the ministries of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of B.C. to develop clear policies for bear viewing operations.

What consultation occurred as part of the policy change to the trophy hunt?

A:

 Government consulted with the public and engaged with First Nations on the details of how to implement a ban on trophy hunting and closure of the Great Bear Rainforest to hunting. All 203 First Nations in the province were sent notification letters in relation to these amendments and Treaty First Nations were notified in accordance with the terms of their Final Agreements. Engagement meetings were held with several First Nations. Approximately 4,108 public and stakeholder submissions were received.

From:

Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX

Sent:

Friday, November 24, 2017 4:35 PM

To:

Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX

Subject:

Re: GB Trophy Hunt.

Let me know if this helps.

Grizzly bear hunting vs grizzly bear viewing

- Grizzly bear viewing operations provide good-paying jobs for rural British Columbians and make a provincial economic contribution of over \$15 million.
- As recommended by the Auditor General, the ministries of Environment and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development are working with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of B.C. to develop clear policies for bear viewing operations.
- The economic benefits and jobs from bear viewing, based on numbers provided by the sector exceed bear hunting revenue. Bear viewing, like bear hunting, happens in rural areas and supports rural jobs. One of the most vocal bear viewing advocates has a bear viewing operation in the Kootenays.

Hunting and Fishing in general

- Are both important economic drivers. The Freshwater Fisheries Society Economic report (2013) estimates approximately 957 million dollars is contributed to the economy through direct and indirect spending. For hunting, the estimate is approximately \$330 million from both resident and non-resident hunters.

Trophy hunt

- When an animal is hunted and the only retrieval requirement is the hide and/or skull.

Other:

- Grizzly bear hunting contributes an estimated \$6 to \$7.6 million to the provincial economy.
- Grizzly bear viewing in the Great Bear Rainforest alone contributes at estimated \$15 million.

Note: although viewing primarily occurs in the GBR, it does occur in other areas, such as the Kootenays and some guides offer viewing opportunity outside of hunts, but we don't have it quantified for the full province.

Sent from Tim Sheldan's iPad

On Nov 24, 2017, at 12:10 PM, Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX < Sandra.Carroll@gov.bc.ca > wrote:

Do you have your definition of Trophy?

From: Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX

Sent: Friday, November 24, 2017 8:55 AM

To: Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX Subject: GB Trophy Hunt.

Here are a few notes. Let me know what else you need.

Sent from Tim Sheldan's iPhone

From:

Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX

Sent:

Friday, November 24, 2017 8:55 AM

To:

Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX

Subject:

GB Trophy Hunt.

Attachments:

0.9 Grizzly Bear - Trophy Hunt Nov. 16 (3).docx; ATT00001.htm; Chetwynd - Grizzly Bear

Trophy Hunt.docx; ATT00002.htm; UBCM 2017 RDBN Grizzly Bears_final.docx;

ATT00003,htm

Here are a few notes. Let me know what else you need.

Sent from Tim Sheldan's iPhone

2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

Issue: Ending trophy hunting of grizzly bears in B.C. and ending the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest

Key Facts Regarding Issue:

General

- Grizzly bear are an iconic species. Approximately 25% of the North American population is in B.C. and 50% of the Canadian population is in B.C.
- The total estimated population of grizzly bear in B.C. is 15,000, which is considered to be stable and self-sustaining.
- The overall estimated expenditure total for grizzly hunting in B.C. is between \$6.12 million to \$7.55 million.
- Currently, grizzly bear are harvested by both residents and non-residents (who
 must employ a licensed guide to hunt in B.C.), as well as by First Nations. For
 licensed hunters, hunting opportunities are only provided where it is biologically
 sustainable. This management approach is generally applicable to all game
 species.
- While more than 3,000 authorizations to hunt grizzly bear are issued each year, on average 250 grizzly bears are harvested by hunters per year.

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt and Great Bear Rainforest Hunt

- Government announced that effective November 30, 2017, grizzly bear trophy
 hunting will stop throughout the province and all hunting of grizzly bear will cease
 in the Great Bear Rainforest. At the time of the announcement by government, a
 commitment to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in the
 province was reaffirmed.
- Hunting grizzly bear for meat will continue in the province outside of the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Government consulted with the public and engaged with First Nations on the
 details of how to implement a ban on trophy hunting and closure of the Great
 Bear Rainforest to hunting. All 203 First Nations in the province were sent
 notification letters in relation to these amendments and Treaty First Nations were
 notified in accordance with the terms of their Final Agreements. Engagement
 meetings were held with several First Nations. Approximately 4,108 public and
 stakeholder submissions were received.
- Effective January 1, 2018, hunters that harvest grizzly bear in B.C. will be required to deliver restricted grizzly bear parts to a regional fish and wildlife office. These restricted parts may not otherwise be possessed.
- Restricted parts will include the following parts: skull, tooth, hide, paws, claws, baculum (penis bone) and male genitalia.
- Grizzly bear parts lawfully harvested prior to the trophy hunting ban or from another jurisdiction may continue to be possessed.

2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

- Taxidermists and tanners will be required to report information about grizzly bear parts that are brought in to them for processing.
- First Nations will continue to be able to harvest grizzly bear and possess all parts
 of the grizzly bear when the harvest is done within traditionally used areas
 pursuant to an Aboriginal or Treaty right.
- Ending the trophy bear grizzly hunt and all grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest may reduce Government revenue from licence and permit fees by up to \$540,000. There will be additional costs to regional offices associated with the storage and disposal of grizzly bear parts.

Special Reports

- In mid-October 2017, the Office of the Auditor General released an audit of grizzly bear management in B.C. The draft audit concludes: "Clear targets and accountabilities are needed in order to ensure that government is meeting its management objectives. We concluded that in the absence of these key elements, government is not able to ensure that its activities will be sufficient to maintain healthy grizzly bear populations throughout British Columbia". Though the audit is critical of the program's approach to grizzly bear management, it does not conclude that the current population is not sustainable, nor that hunting is a threat.
- Concerns were raised regarding adequate planning and road density management in another recent report by the Forest Practices Board (Forest Roads and Grizzly Bear Management in the Kettle-Granby Area, August 2017).

Advice and Recommended Response:

- Trophy hunting of grizzly bear in B.C. and all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest will end after November 30, 2017.
- It is expected that both the end of the trophy hunt and improved wildlife management will benefit grizzly bear populations in the province.

Date Prepared/Revised: November 16, 2017

Ministry Executive Sponsor:

Name: Tom Ethier, ADM Phone: 250-356-0972

Alternate Contact for Issue:

Name: Jennifer Psyllakis, Director Fish and Wildlife Phone: 250-387-5657

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

BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2017 UBCM CONVENTION

I PREPARED FOR:

Minister Donaldson – request from District of Chetwynd

II ISSUE:

Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

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

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

IV SPEAKING / RESPONSE POINTS

- Grizzly bear hunt will still occur without the trophy component to the hunt
- We are monitoring how these changes will impact guides and outfitters
- Grizzly bear are managed by the Province with a high level of rigour and adequate safeguards are in place to ensure the long-term stability of grizzly bear populations
- We are looking at opportunities to improve stewardship and management of grizzly bears through the government commitment to a renewed wildlife management strategy
- There is the potential for expanded alternative economic opportunities in the area of wildlife viewing
- Changes to legislation are designed to reduce the potential for increases in black market trophy hunting

Michael Burwash, Assoc. Dir. Of Wildlife September 11, 2017

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

BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2017 UBCM CONVENTION

I PREPARED FOR:

Minister Donaldson Meeting with Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

II ISSUE:

The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (RDBN) requests that grizzly bear populations be managed and culled in consultation with local input including the farming community.

III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

- RDBN is concerned that that the Province's recent announcement to end grizzly bear trophy hunting may lead to increased bear populations and increased human/bear conflicts.
- RDBN believes that increased bear populations should be managed to reduce the risk to humans and livestock. Management would include some level of increased harvest in areas of human development and activity.
- Populations are assessed primarily using models with inputs arising from habitat quality and availability, industrial/urban development and proximity and availability of salmon stocks. Models indicate that the grizzly bear population in the RDBN are currently stable.
- FLNRO monitors incidents of problem grizzly bears and works with the Conservation Officers Service to respond to problem grizzly bear incidents where there are risks to public safety or livestock.
- Attempts are made to relocate problem grizzly bears that meet specific criteria.
 Bears not meeting the criteria are humanely destroyed.
- The WildSafeBC program was established in 2014 to reduce human-wildlife conflict through education, innovation and cooperation. It has evolved out of the highly successful Bear Aware program and is owned and delivered by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.

IV SPEAKING / RESPONSE POINTS

- The government has announced its intention to end the trophy hunting of grizzly bears and will be initiating consultation soon on the appropriate means to achieve this commitment. Your thoughts can be contributed via that process.
- FLNRO monitors incidents of problem grizzly bears and works with the Conservation Officer Service to respond to problem grizzly bear incidents where there are risks to public safety or livestock.
- The WildSafeBC program provides a range of tools and resources that can help communities avoid or minimize adverse encounters with bears.

• The provincial harvest rate established for licensed hunting is determined to have no net positive or negative effect on population trend.

Troy Larden September 8, 2017