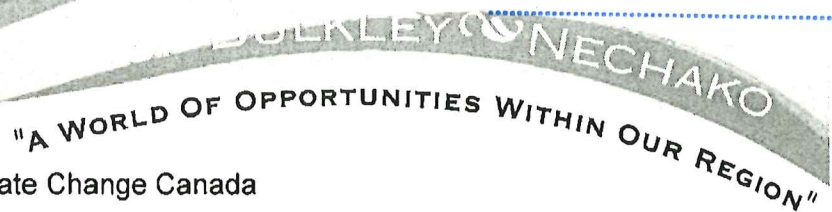


JUL 10 2018

Referred To CAO



37, 3RD AVE, PO Box 820
BURNS LAKE, BC
VOJ 1E0



Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H3

Attention: The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dear Ms. McKenna,

RE: Support of the Province of B.C.'s Caribou Recovery Program

The Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), would like to request that Ottawa support the Province, in collaboration with all relevant local interests and inclusive of local governments, to develop and implement Caribou Recovery Program to maintain and recover BC's caribou herds.

The RDBN agrees with Minister Donaldson, FLNRORD's opening remarks, in the *Provincial Caribou Recovery Program Discussion Paper*, that it is important to "reduce threats to caribou, while balancing the needs of all British Columbians, including Indigenous communities, industry and recreation enthusiasts."

We cannot understate the need to balance socioeconomic needs while developing plans to maintain and recover caribou. Forestry, mining, and recreation are important values that must be considered concurrently with the caribou recovery. The Province has advised that it aims to include local governments in developing predictable zonation and thresholds to provide certainty to affected natural resource users.

The RDBN is committed to work with the province to plan natural resource utilization that supports our local communities and minimizes impacts to local caribou herds. Minister Donaldson has committed to involving local governments in the caribou recovery to ensure that local knowledge and priorities are incorporated as we move forward.

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS FORT ST. JAMES
VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE
HOUSTON TELKWA
BURNS LAKE GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL E - FRANCOIS/OOTSA LAKE RURAL
B - BURNS LAKE RURAL F - VANDERHOOF RURAL
C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G - HOUSTON RURAL
D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

INQUIRIES@RDBN.BC.C
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PH: 250-692-319
FX: 250-692-330
TF: 800-320-333

We support the Province's ongoing efforts to compile current and accurate data reflecting caribou use as the most recent updated scientific information, including spatial representation of habitat, as an essential step to achieve the objectives of protecting caribou herds while balancing the socioeconomic impacts and the needs of other species, including moose habitat and predator management.

Thank you for your consideration,



Bill Miller
Chair
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

cc: The Honourable John Horgan, Premier, Province of B.C.
The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
The Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
North Central Local Government Association Members
Union of B.C. Municipalities Members