



Reference: 218800

FEB 18 2016

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter to Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia, regarding trophy hunting in British Columbia. As this issue falls under the purview of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, I have been asked to provide you with a response.

In your letter you request a prohibition on “trophy or sport hunting” within the province. It is important to note that the term “trophy or sport hunting” is subjective and carries different meaning to different hunters. For many hunters their most cherished trophy is their first harvested deer, for others it may be a specimen that carries desirable attributes, for example, an elk with large antlers or a sheep with full curl horns. Hunting can be a physically demanding activity that requires patience, agility, knowledge, and endurance. The prime examples of this are sheep hunters that spend significant time and resources accessing and exploring rugged terrain in pursuit of their quarry. However, this concept is not limited to sheep hunters, the same principles can be applied to the hunting of any species, and many hunters do feel that hunting is a sport. The concept of prohibiting “trophy or sport hunting” is difficult to quantify as most hunts inherently have a component of trophy or sport included. Without knowing your specific concerns with trophy or sport hunting it is not possible to provide a more detailed response.

One common interpretation of trophy or sport hunting implies that there is no sustenance component to the hunting activity. Current regulations under the *Wildlife Act* require that the edible portions (four quarters and the loins) of most harvested big game species must be retrieved. However, this requirement does not apply to grizzly bears or cougar, provided the hunter removes the hide of the harvested animal. It is assumed that by “trophy or sport” hunting you are referring to the hunting of species where there is no requirement to remove edible portions; the hunt is for the sole purpose of obtaining wildlife parts other than meat.

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Wildlife management in British Columbia incorporates a variety of objectives that reflect the interests of British Columbians, including ecological roles, conservation goals, recovery efforts in areas where grizzly bear populations are threatened, First Nations rights for food, social and ceremonial purposes, tourism and hunting. Hunting opportunities are only provided where such activities are biologically sustainable. Under no circumstances does the British Columbia government allow hunting that threatens the conservation of any species.

Wildlife viewing and tourism are recognized as important economic and social components of British Columbia's resource-based industries. Hunting and wildlife viewing are not mutually exclusive. The ministry manages game animals foremost for conservation and secondly with consideration for both wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

For more information on grizzly bear management in British Columbia, please visit the *Grizzly Bear Hunting Frequently Asked Questions* document, written in 2010, available online at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/management-issues/docs/grizzly_bear_faq.pdf

Thank you again for writing to express your concerns.

Yours truly,



Tom Ethier
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations