



WILD SHEEP SOCIETY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wild Sheep Society of BC concerned the province again moving to social management for wildlife
Food from the table of 75,000 British Columbians in jeopardy

Victoria, British Columbia- March 10, 2022

The Wild Sheep Society of BC is disheartened to learn that wildlife is once again being used as a bargaining chip with the end goal of putting the entire Region of 7B Peace under moose limited entry, and a complete closure of caribou hunting. The government's own data does not support moving caribou to a full closure, nor does it support moving moose to a limited entry harvest. It is unacceptable to base wildlife management against the best available science, and we are completely against this proposal.

These proposed decisions have been made in blatant contradiction to the Vision, Principles & Goals of Together for Wildlife, the Provincial Wildlife Management Strategy. It is unacceptable that in the adolescence of the Strategy's implementation its Vision, Principles and Goals are being disregarded in decision making. Instead of upholding these, the proposed decisions are being made under social values, instead of science and evidence-based management and dealing with the cumulative effects of resource extraction.

The WSSBC maintains that it is our intent to recognize and support the rights and title of First Nations in the province and has and will continue to work alongside them on projects. The province needs to put an immediate stop to using wildlife as a pawn in social management decisions that only fuel divisiveness. The division created when we only manage access to wildlife, rather than manage wildlife is unacceptable when the province is committed to implementing Together for Wildlife.

This agreement goes farther than hunting. This affects everyone that uses the outdoors, including hikers, anglers, campers and all who love to embrace the beautiful backcountry. It is imperative to the sustainability of wildlife and habitat, and outdoor recreation that land use decisions, and their associated management plans do not occur in the shadows.

It is critical to sound, successful stewardship that the province supports organizations like ours in building bridges between Stakeholder, Non-Governmental Conservation Organizations and First Nations in pursuit of bettering shared values, rather than place us at odds with one another.

We encourage everyone that is concerned by this to engage their MLA and voice their thoughts in a rational and intelligent manner.

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About the Wild Sheep Society of BC

The Wild Sheep Society of BC is a non-profit registered Society dedicated to the protection and enhancement of wild sheep and wild sheep habitat throughout "Beautiful British Columbia". Putting tens of thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars into conservation projects in BC since 1998, the WSSBC is committed to its vision statement of 'Putting more sheep on the mountains'.

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