



Reference: 276689

January 2, 2023

**VIA EMAIL: [bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca](mailto:bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca)**

Brian Thomas, President  
BC Cattleman's Association  
4-10145 Dallas Dr  
Kamloops, British Columbia  
V2C 6T4

Dear Brian Thomas:

Thank you for your detailed comments, dated October 12, 2023, regarding the draft provincial Grizzly Bear Stewardship Framework (GBSF) addressed to the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests, Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food. As this matter now falls under the purview of the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, Ministers Ralston and Alexis have requested that I respond on their behalf. I apologize for the delay.

As part of the Province's commitment to reconciliation and implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* the Province pursued a new approach to collaboration in preparing the draft Provincial Grizzly Bear Stewardship Framework (GBSF) and Commercial Bear Viewing Strategy (CBVS). This included direct collaboration with First Nations representatives, stewardship staff, advisors, knowledge holders, and in some cases the hereditary chiefs and councillors, of approximately 85 Indigenous Communities across B.C. These documents have also been reviewed by a diverse group of provincial wildlife and habitat interest groups and a recently concluded comprehensive public engagement.

The GBSF and CBVS are set within an overarching objective to ensure grizzly bears do not become threatened or endangered. The documents are intended to provide guidance to proponents, decision makers, and participants on initiatives related to land and resource planning to steward and co-exist with grizzly bears in B.C. I know you share these goals and appreciate your continued interest in ensuring the GBSF and CBVS are as robust as possible.

The BC Cattleman's Association comments will improve the document and I am pleased that many are consistent with the intent of the GBSF. You have highlighted several opportunities to improve the emphasis of priorities such as public safety, regional considerations, and

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effective stewardship partnerships. I will note that the past grizzly bear hunt opportunities were not provided as a population management action and there is no consideration of opening a licensed grizzly bear hunt. The province will continue to manage the behaviours of people and bears to avoid conflicts and protect public safety and property.

I appreciate your offer to meet and encourage you to reach out to Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Jennifer Psyllakis ([jennifer.psyllakis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer.psyllakis@gov.bc.ca)) if you wish to discuss your comments in more detail or explore other engagement opportunities with related initiatives (for example the [Wildlife Act Review](#)).

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food  
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests  
Jennifer Psyllakis, A/Assistant Deputy Minister of Resource Stewardship Division