



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

April 22, 2025

Michael Burwash, Associate Director, Wildlife
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Michael.Burwash@gov.bc.ca

BCCA File # 2025-005
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Michael,

RE: Ungulate Baiting Regulations

The BC Cattlemen's Association is expressing concern about the location of bait stations placed by hunters, with the intent to attract ungulates for hunting purposes.

While bait stations (typically consisting of grains, hay, fruit, vegetables, or other natural food materials) are intended for ungulates, they are inadvertently attracting bears and other dangerous wildlife. Given that bait stations are often a high-energy food source and dangerous wildlife instinctively protect that food source, we are concerned about the potential for dangerous interactions.

We have received reports of bait stations being placed alarmingly close to ranches and family dwellings by individuals that are not the landowners. When individuals who are unaware of the bait station locations—such as ranchers, other hunters, or hikers—accidentally come into contact with bears or other wildlife, there is potential for a dangerous situation to quickly arise.

The BC Cattlemen's Association also has concerns about livestock in regards to this issue. We have received numerous reports of cattle being killed by grizzly bears. Grizzly bears, and other predatory wildlife, are unintentionally attracted to bait stations, where they encounter and prey upon nearby cattle. Once livestock have been killed by bears, the carcasses, in addition to the bait stations, attract more predatory wildlife to the site.

While it is not our intention to create consequences that infringe upon hunters' rights, we are increasingly concerned about the heightened risk of dangerous wildlife encounters near bait stations.

We propose the following amendments to the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis to improve safety and ensure a more responsible approach that benefits all land users:

- Require a 500-meter buffer between private land and bait sites.
- Hunters must notify bordering private landowners prior to placing bait stations and consult with private landowners regarding the locations of intended bait stations.
- Prohibit baiting during September and October, as bears are more active during these months prior to hibernation.



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Our Association welcomes and encourages further discussion on the impacts of baiting and how to effectively enhance safety for all involved.

Sincerely,

Judy Madden
Environmental Stewardship Committee Chairs

Brett Squair

CC: Gerad Hales, Gerad.Hales@gov.bc.ca