

May 3, 2018

Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister FLNRORD
PO BOX 9049, STN PROV GOVT.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2



Re: Restoring Wildlife in BC

Dear Minister Donaldson;

The Elk Valley is the heart of the Rockies and has long been known for its abundant wildlife populations. Recently the counts of various wildlife species in that region including; elk, moose and sheep indicate that populations are severely depressed and in many cases are now only 50% of previously surveyed numbers. We cannot stand by and watch this continue, we must seize opportunity and act to address this crisis.

The BC Government has committed to improving wildlife management in the premiers mandate letter to the Minister of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

The Elkford Rod and Gun Club, the Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association and the Fernie Rod and Gun Club, in alignment with BCWF believes that the actions taken to improve wildlife habitat and wildlife populations must address regionally specific needs, must consider the input and knowledge of local communities and must be inclusive of First Nations.

Given the significance of the decline in wildlife populations and desire by multi-stakeholder sectors in the region to address this issue in the region, we call on the government to act now and initiate a wildlife recovery pilot that levers community technical and financial support to restore the productivity of our landscapes for wildlife.

Wildlife is an important component of the economic, social and cultural values of the regions where we live. The time for action is now. We are asking you to initiate this pilot immediately as a demonstration to their commitment to wildlife management.

We look forward to hearing from you. Regards,

Kevin Marasco

President, Fernie Rod & Gun Club

C.C. Jennifer Psyllakis, Director Wildlife and Habitat, FLNRORD

Chris Hamilton, Director Strategic projects and Indigenous Policy, FLNRORD

Garth Wiggill, Regional Executive Director, FLNRORD

John Krebs, Director, Resource management, FLNRORD

Harvey Andrusak, President, BCWF