

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

April 17, 2015

Jocelyn Campbell, Land and Resource Specialist
Len Vanderstar, Ecosystems Biologist
Karen Diemert, Acting Director of Resource Management
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Skeena Region
3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Re: Proposed Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA 6-333) for Telkwa Caribou in the Bulkley and Morice TSAs

Dear Jocelyn, Len and Karen,

Thank you for meeting with the Bulkley Valley Community Resource Board (BVCRB) on March 17, 2015 in Smithers, BC for discussion, further to our December 19, 2014 letter, on the proposed Telkwa Caribou WHA. This letter provides an update on BVCRB deliberations facilitated by your answers to questions.

The BVCRB recognises that caribou are an LRMP value and that the intent is to maintain LRMP values. We recognise that the WHA is a critical part of a strategy to maintain the Telkwa Caribou Herd, and hence **the BVCRB supports the WHA in principle as part of a complete package that works towards maintaining the Telkwa Caribou Herd.**

The BVCRB continues to believe, as stated in our previous letter, that actions to maintain caribou will increase risk to other LRMP values. We cannot identify an easy solution. Our support for the WHA thus depends on several additional considerations for the Telkwa Caribou Herd:

- 1) We understand that the ministry will continue to work with VRAM to find an effective solution to the access issue;
- 2) We understand that if additional data show an increase in predation, the ministry will undertake public consultation before implementing further activities (e.g., predator control);
- 3) We understand that the WHA will be removed—and any offsets also removed—if caribou are extirpated from the Telkwa habitat.

The BVCRB recognises the tremendous challenges that the ministry faces in balancing values and we appreciate the considerable work of ministry staff to find a solution within a limited mandate. We are encouraged to hear that the ministry is pursuing funding opportunities because we believe strongly that success will depend on sufficient funding to implement effective strategies and to monitor success.

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Regards,



Bob Mitchell

On behalf of the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Cc:

Len Vanderstar, Ecosystems Biologist, Smithers, FLNR

Jevan Hanchard, District Manager, Regional Operations, Skeena Stikine, Smithers, FLNR

Karen Diemert, Acting, Director, Resource Management, Skeena, Smithers, FLNR

Tony Pesklevits, Acting Regional Executive Director, Skeena, Smithers, FLNR