



Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board, BVCRB

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July 6th, 2023

To: Hon. Nathan Cullen
Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Wildlife Habitat Management Areas

Dear Minister Cullen,

Since inception, the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board has been encouraged to continue to participate in monitoring the implementation of the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan. We are interested in the status of the Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs).

A process was in place to transfer authority of these parcels from the Land Act (S.17) to the Wildlife Act. They would then be Administered Conservation Lands eligible for provincial funding and management plan establishment. The Board provided a letter of support to the Ecosystem Section, Resource Management Division, for this process in early 2018.

In April 2019, the Director of Authorization cancelled Land Act S.17 and S.16 (Fish and Wildlife Reserves) before the Transfer of Authority was completed. The Board sent a letter of concern to the Regional Director in the fall of 2020 requesting reinstatement of the S.17 and S.16 designation.

It is our understanding that a process is currently in place to establish new or re-establish previous designations for existing and candidate WHMAs (we refer to the 2022 Ag/Wild Zone shapefile).

When can we expect to see the completion of the Transfer of Authority so that these areas can be managed appropriately?

In the interim, the Board would like to see a freeze on all resource development in these areas until a management plan is in place, post long-term protection designation.

Sincerely:

Ron Vanderstar

Treasurer

Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

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