



Skeena Regional Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 134 Topley, B.C., V0J-2Y0
skeenaregionalcattlemen@gmail.com

Dear CRB Members:

This letter is to ask for your support in two areas. First to support our efforts to find a solution to the increasing problems and conflicts ranchers in the Bulkley Valley/Lakes District area are facing because of the moratorium on grizzly bear hunting. Second to support our desire to have input into the Forest Landscape Plan.

We have been asking for a proper scientific investigation to determine the actual number of grizzly bears in the area with hopes a management plan can be put into place.

Ranchers are facing in increasing number of conflicts with wildlife and facing increasing losses because of wildlife preying on livestock. When cattle come home in the fall from summer pastures one finds cows without their calves. Sometimes twenty or thirty calves are missing from a herd. Predation by grizzlies is hard to prove as carcasses are quickly devoured or taken and buried for future food resulting in no support from the Livestock Protection Program. This level of loss is not sustainable.

As an Association we have been unsuccessful seeking solutions. Our requests have been met with responses ranging from silence to "there is no political will". It is time to see if there is a willingness to get stakeholders together to find a solution.

Secondly, we are very concerned that the Forest Landscape Plan will not give serious consideration to the importance of sustainable grazing tenures. Focusing on the forest without considering all aspects causes more issues. A focus on just growing trees is short sighted and has serious impacts on grazing potential and wildlife. Forage availability should be an integral part of the planning process. Without forage there will be no moose, deer, elk and such. Shortage of these animals leaves hungry predators no choice but to seek alternative sources of food or die.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.