



Reference: 78046

June 15, 2004

James Peek, Chair  
Grizzly Bear Scientific Panel  
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
University of Idaho  
PO Box 441136  
Moscow ID 83844

Dear Dr. Peek:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Grizzly Bear Scientific Panel regarding the ministry's progress in implementing the recommendations the panel made in your final report of March, 2003. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I am encouraged by the panel's findings with respect to the work we have concentrated on over the past year dealing directly with population estimates and harvest procedures. We intend to continue this work with, among other tasks, further improvements to the multiple regression model that will include investigating the specific areas of potential improvement that you have proposed. We will also prepare a report with background information on each Grizzly Bear Population Unit, including assumptions used in developing population estimates and setting harvest levels as you have suggested.


We intend to guide the implementation of the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy with a provincial Grizzly Bear Management Plan. On the specific issue of land use planning, I will discuss how grizzly bear conservation can best be addressed through the development of Sustainable Resource Management Plans and/or access management plans with my colleague the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management. I will discuss the role of forest practices in the conservation of grizzly bear habitat with my colleague the Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Forests.

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We intend to complete consultation on population objectives by the end of 2006 and will seek to use this process to further our efforts to establish a provincial system of legally established benchmark Grizzly Bear Management Areas. On the issue of research and monitoring work, I can assure you that consideration of funding needs and potential funding mechanisms will be fully considered in the development of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan. We will take the necessary steps to maintain a high level of quality scientific information on which to base our decisions.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues again for the invaluable service you have provided to the Province of British Columbia through your work on the Grizzly Bear Scientific Panel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Barisoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Barisoff  
Minister

pc: Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management  
Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Forests  
John Beecham, Beringia South  
David Garshelis, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Sterling Miller, National Wildlife Federation  
Dale Strickland, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.