



Reference: 262017

April 29, 2021

**VIA EMAIL: [Jeff.McDonald@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.McDonald@prrd.bc.ca)**

Brad Sperling, Board Chair  
Peace River Regional District

Dear Brad Sperling:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2021 to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, regarding your concerns related to a *Land Act* Section 17 Conditional Withdrawal of lands for the conservation of the central group of the southern mountain caribou. As Executive Director of the Species at Risk Recovery Branch I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Premier.

I note these concerns were also raised in a letter addressed to myself on October 19, 2020 and forwarded to regional decision makers regarding this *Land Act* decision. I have forwarded this letter to regional decision makers, so they are reminded of your concerns.

As discussed on the phone we would like to work directly with the Peace River Regional District and the Community of Mackenzie on a process to collaboratively understand socioeconomic impacts of the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou. I look forward to meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> to further this discussion and engage cooperatively to identify impacts and benefits of caribou recovery on the region.

In the meantime please call me at 250-551-3925 or email me at [Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Russ.Laroche@gov.bc.ca) if you have any further questions or comments.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

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Russ Laroche  
Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery  
Resource Stewardship Division

Brad Sperling, Board Chair

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development

Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia



March 8, 2021

File: 5280.20

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.  
Premier of British Columbia  
Office of the Premier  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Via email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier:

**RE: Referrals for Conditional Withdrawal of lands and socio-economic impact study**

As you know, the Government of British Columbia signed the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Southern Mountain Caribou with Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations and the Government of Canada on February 21, 2020. The agreement established new conservation measures and protected areas within the habitat of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou.

On September 21, 2020, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) received three FrontCounter BC referrals for Section 17 Conditional Withdrawal of lands for the conservation of the Central Group of the Southern Mountain Caribou. I'm writing to advise you that the PRRD Board does not support the three referrals. Staff have compiled information on the referral lands and identified the impacted PRRD Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws, as well as applicable land use designations and zones. The impacts are not acceptable to the PRRD.

At its October 8, 2020 meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:

*That the Regional Board authorize that a letter be forwarded to the Premier of BC regarding the designated interest area for Southern Mountain Caribou recovery in the PRRD to advise that the Regional Board is not in support of the three Section 17 Conditional Withdrawal of land for Southern Mountain Caribou conservation which will reserve designated lands in support of caribou recovery, and reminding the Province of its commitment to completion of a comprehensive socio-economic impact study of the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement between the Province, West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations.*

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**PLEASE REPLY TO:**

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: [prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca)  
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It is my understanding that your government has committed to completing a comprehensive socio-economic impact study of the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement. On behalf of the Board, I urge your government to complete the study and share the findings with impacted residents of the PRRD as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Brad Sperling  
Board Chair, Peace River Regional District