



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MORE BAD NEWS FOR RURAL BC

The bad news for rural BC continues to roll out, with a politically motivated announcement closing grizzly bear hunting in BC, effective November 30th, 2017. The announcement, while not surprising, was done with no consultation with the guiding outfitting industry or the families affected.

‘It’s not about the numbers’ says Forest, Land and Natural Resource Minister Doug Donaldson. ‘It’s a matter of society has come to the point in BC where they are no longer in favour of the grizzly bear trophy hunt.’ Minister Donaldson bases his opinion on polling data commissioned by powerful, foreign funded anti-hunting organizations.

The announcement from the new NDP government stipulates a permanent closure on grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest on the coast of BC, and the requirement to remove grizzly bear meat, but prohibit the removal of hides, in the rest of BC.

‘What’s next?’ asks GOABC Vice President Mark Werner. ‘Leaving deer and moose antlers in the bush because the anti-hunting David Suzuki Foundation commissions another misleading anti-hunting poll?’

Grizzly bears in BC are the mostly closely managed and conservatively harvested species in British Columbia. In October 2016, the previous BC Liberal government released the *Scientific Review of Grizzly Bear Harvest Management System in BC*, which found that the Province has a high level of rigor and adequate safeguards in place to ensure the long-term stability of grizzly populations. They also note that BC has produced more DNA-based population estimates for grizzly bears than any other similar jurisdiction in the world. By abandoning a science-based approach for resource management, government is creating great uncertainty for all resource industries in the province.

‘There are real issues affecting wildlife in BC’ says GOABC Wildlife Chair Darwin Cary. ‘Let’s get back to science-based wildlife management by protecting and enhancing habitat, not playing political games with people’s livelihood.’

The GOABC is again calling on the Province to amend the Wildlife Act to remove the meat retrieval exemption for grizzly bear meat, and to re-state its commitment to the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act, the public right to hunt and fish.

For more information contact Mark Werner, (604) 541-6332.

About the GOABC

The GOABC is a nonprofit society that was established in 1966 to represent the guide outfitting industry to government, and advocate for science-based wildlife management. Currently, the industry directly employs approximately 2,000 people in rural communities and our industry generates over \$116 million annually.

Our vision is for a province with a strong and stable guide outfitting industry and abundant big game populations for all to enjoy, both today and in the future. As passionate advocates for wildlife, the GOABC is the recognized voice of the guide outfitting family. With integrity and professionalism, GOABC promotes conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use of wildlife. Learn more at www.goabc.org.