



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOES PRIMARY PREY THEORY TO PROTECT CARIBOU IN BC?

Caribou are listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and long-term conservation and eventual restoration of stable caribou populations are national and provincial priorities shared by hunters and other conservationists.

The Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) and SCI Canada support conservation, stewardship, and sustainable use of wildlife. Together with conservation partners Safari Club International (SCI) and the Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF), the GOABC believes that reliance on a Primary Prey strategy, especially in the absence of an aggressive predator control program, is a risk to caribou survival.

“Primary prey theory suggests that impacts to secondary prey, in this case caribou, can be mitigated by limiting populations of the primary prey species of moose through more liberal hunting seasons. The theory contends that wolves will lose interest in an area when the populations of primary prey drop, and then either die off or disperse to a new area, thus sparing the remaining population of caribou,” stated GOABC’s Executive Director and CEO Scott Ellis. “Too much focus is on primary prey reduction and not enough on habitat protection, habitat restoration, and predator management.”

SCI Canada chair Eric Moland agrees. “The theory ignores the fact that even if moose decline, there are a host of other secondary prey species that can sustain predator populations. BC needs comprehensive herd plans and to use all tools, including predator management to protect threatened caribou.”

Extensive and long-term literature supports the effectiveness of wolf control in sustaining caribou populations. It is premature to end these programs and rely on primary prey reduction to sustain caribou. There are many factors, including multiple potential primary prey species (e.g., white-tailed deer and elk) that can sustain wolf density and alternative predators (e.g., bears and cougars) that affect caribou populations and mitigate the potential benefits of a single-species primary prey reduction.

For more information, contact Scott Ellis at GOABC (604) 541-6332 or Eric Moland at SCI Canada (613) 401-8037.

About the GOABC

The GOABC is a non-profit 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 2,500 people in rural communities and our industry generates over \$191 million annually.

Our vision is for a province with a strong and stable guide outfitting industry and abundant wildlife 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.

About SCI Canada

SCI Canada's mission is to provide value to members by shaping policies and legislation that protect the freedom to hunt and maintain the rights of firearms owners. Keep members informed regarding issues that impact hunting while educating and entertaining members with engaging articles about the rich heritage of hunting in all forms of media. Provided a community for hunters where camaraderie is enjoyed and expert information is exchanged, and where members are able to participate in a market for quality hunting goods and services. Promote a positive image of hunters and portraying them as responsible citizens who fund wildlife conservation, education and other programs which benefit the community. Learn more at <https://safariclub.org/sci-canada/>