



MAR 20 2019

Ms. Lisa Wardley
Chair, Northwest Species at Risk Committee
Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County
lisa@mackenziecounty.com

Dear Ms. Wardley:

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources, has forwarded to me your correspondence of August 27, 2018, concerning Canada's commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2010 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011–2020 period, and the potential impact of federal and provincial protected areas on the growth of communities in northwest Alberta. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, Canada is committed to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, which aims to conserve 17 percent of this country's land and freshwater by 2020. The Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative (a pan-Canadian collaborative process to achieve this goal) involves federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments; Indigenous organizations; and non-governmental organizations. As noted in your correspondence, the Local Government Advisory Group was created to provide recommendations on how local governments can be involved in protecting and conserving biodiversity with respect to their own priorities and capacity for engagement. The perspectives of municipal governments are an important consideration under the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative. The Advisory Group's report is available at www.conservation2020canada.ca/resources.

Canada tracks and reports progress toward the 17 percent goal through the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database. It includes federal, provincial and territorial protected areas, as well as some privately protected areas and municipal parks and conservation areas. Other effective conservation measures are also included in this database.

The caribou protection areas referenced in your correspondence are being considered for inclusion in the Database by the Government of Alberta. The province is the jurisdiction responsible for screening and assessing protected areas and conservation measures and reporting them to Environment and Climate Change Canada for inclusion in the Database.

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The importance of private and municipal protected areas to conservation in Canada is referenced in the recently released report *One with Nature - A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada*, which is available online at www.conservation2020canada.ca/home. Other effective conservation measures are defined in this report as “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values.” Federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions have committed to recognizing and reporting these areas in the Database.

Please be reassured that Environment and Climate Change Canada is working closely with Natural Resources Canada, as well as other jurisdictions, to co-ordinate federal actions related to the boreal population of woodland caribou. Environment and Climate Change Canada is supporting provinces and territories, as well as Indigenous and local communities, stakeholders and the public, to develop specific population recovery plans for each jurisdiction and take adapted actions toward habitat recovery in order to enhance sustainable development.

I appreciate being made aware of the concerns of Alberta’s Northwest Species at Risk Committee. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.