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Alberta Northwest Species at Risk Committee



June 17, 2019

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Office of the Minister
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

RE: Alberta's Provincial Caribou Task Force

Dear Minister Dreeshen:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and the United Conservative Party's (UCP) election victory.

As you are aware, Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR) is a solutions-based group, comprised of Voting and Associate member municipalities, who have been working hard for local involvement in Federal and Provincial species-at-risk recovery planning.

We are delighted at the UCP's platform commitment to immediately form a *Caribou Task Force* that includes local governments, NWSAR, industry representatives Indigenous Peoples and scientists.

NWSAR members would like to meet with you, Deputy Minister Corbould, Minister Nixon, Deputy Minister Yee, MLA Williams and MLA Loewen at your earliest convenience, to discuss the structure, purpose and intent of the *Caribou Task Force*, particularly the role that NWSAR will have as part of this task force.

For your information, NWSAR was founded in November 2016 by: Mackenzie County, County of Northern Lights, Clear Hills County and the Towns of High Level, Rainbow Lake and Manning.

At present, our Associate membership includes County of Grande Prairie, Northern Sunrise County, Saddle Hills County, MD of Opportunity, MD of Fairview, Big Lakes County, MD of Peace, and the Towns of High Prairie and Fox Creek. The District of Chetwynd and Peace River Regional District, in Northeast British Columbia, have also expressed an interest in becoming Associate members of NWSAR.

Earlier this year, we applied for Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Damages Funding, for our collaborative caribou ranges research project with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, local trappers and outfitters. Our ultimate goal is to ground-truth habitat disturbance levels, estimate population densities for ten focal species, and recommend areas for habitat restoration with input from local land users and stakeholders, in two northwestern caribou ranges.

While NWSAR's predominant focus is Boreal Caribou recovery, we also have interests in the Wood Bison and Grizzly Bear recovery files, and species-at-risk recovery planning occurring in British Columbia. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to meeting with you all soon.

Yours Sincerely,



Lisa Wardley
Chair, NWSAR
Councillor, Mackenzie County



Crystal McAteer
Vice Chair, NWSAR
Mayor, Town of High Level

cc: Jason Nixon, Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks
Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Bev Yee, Deputy Minister – Alberta Environment and Parks
Dan Williams, MLA – Peace Region
Todd Loewen, MLA – Central Peace – Notley