

Feb 26th, 2021

Natural Resources Conservation Board
250 – 5th St SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 0R4

Attention: Laura Friend, Manager, Board Reviews

Re: Scott Wagner SR1 NRCB Submission Air Quality, Human Health and Terrestrial (Wildlife and biodiversity)

Please find below the submissions for the SR1 Review.

Air Quality, Human Health, and Terrestrial

Wildlife and biodiversity

The GOA is at risk of significantly reducing the Wildlife footprint within SR1 lands. I live in what can be described as a stunning wildlife preserve with Moose, Elk, Bear, Cougar, Birds, and Frogs to name just a few and we have the luxury of seeing this every day; any visitor to our house is speechless observing what we see. A few years back I even saw a Golden Eagle. The GOA has not addressed the 365 Day uncontrolled hunting mentioned earlier and has shown a lack of regard for our tiny amphibian friends. In a recent Government of Canada CEEA forum it was suggested that they would rescue frogs manually (which are the size of my thumb nail) prior to a flood event. Not sure how they would do this in waist high grass, mud up to their knees in a flood event year with ... maybe a couple days notice! Not sure the frogs are laughing!

The Elk population in the SR1 footprint is well into the hundreds if not low thousands and SR1 lands will open this population to unfettered hunting. On our property we have roughly 75 calving Elk pairs every year and have seen herds up to 500 in the fall; keep in mind we are only 10% of the land SR1 land area. Elk populations have a large range, however when they show up ... my phone rings with public wanting hunting rights. Uncontrolled hunting will have an affect on the Elk population.

I note Elk populations over Deer and Moose since the quantity of animals is many times greater for elk; having said this; increased hunting will have a localized detrimental affect on the Deer and Moose population as well. I expect the two local Moose to be on a dinner plate as they are also coveted by hunters!

In 2018 we had nine Grizzly within an estimate 25 square miles; this is an extraordinary population of Grizzly. The rough calculation is we have 1.3% of the Grizzly population on .01% of Alberta's land mass. In 2018 we had a Grizzly Sow with three cubs, I repeat ... three ... three cubs which is a strong indicator of the ecological health of the area and flies in the face of the GOA narrative. It is also known that the Grizzly population is linked with Elk. Grizzly depend on Elk Calves which is documented! The pressure of 365 day Elk hunting will have an affect on Grizzly populations in the SR1 area and Grizzly is in endangered species.

The GOA would possibly benefit from local knowledge and stop promoting mis-information.

Sincerely,

Scott Wagner

Reference Material:

- <https://albertaregulations.ca/pdfs/hunt-draws/Elk-Draws.pdf>
- <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBearHistoryHabitatDiet.php#:~:text=The%20home%20range%20for%20one%20grizzly%20bear%20may,from%20development%20or%20otherwise%20highly%20impacted%20by%20humans>
- <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/ours-bears/generaux-basics/grizzli-grizzly.aspx>
- <https://albertawilderness.ca/issues/wildlife/grizzly-bear/#parentHorizontalTab>
- <https://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80123/contributions/id/53531>