

## OPEN LETTER TO PREMIER CHRISTY CLARK

The undersigned conservation organizations and concerned citizens oppose the ongoing inhumane slaughter of wolves by helicopter in the South Selkirk Mountains and the South Peace region. We demand that this killing be immediately halted and that the cost of this slaughter (\$575,000) to BC taxpayers be put towards caribou habitat protection.

Your government's claim that killing wolves will save these caribou populations has no scientific basis as proven by the failure of BC's wolf "reduction" programs, involving the sterilization, killing, trapping and/or poisoning of wolves. For years, these programs have failed to halt the decline in imperiled caribou populations. Killing more wolves will not miraculously save the caribou.

The caribou populations are declining because for decades your government has failed to adequately protect their habitat. In the Selkirk Mountains, the caribou population has crashed because of logging in addition to snowmobilers, heli-skiers and cat-skiers scaring them off their critical winter feeding grounds. In the South Peace, critical caribou habitat has been destroyed and fragmented by logging, oil and gas development, access roads and coal mines. Recreational users and industrial development can increase wolf populations and their access to caribou, however, studies of wolves in BC and Alberta show that wolves prefer deer to caribou and that the greatest stressor to caribou is human activity. Years of scientific studies have also proven that mountain caribou require large areas of intact wilderness habitat to survive.

We, the undersigned, therefore join our voices of 172,680 and climbing (total will be updated before publishing) persons who have signed the #SaveBCWolves petition, and call on the BC government:

- to immediately halt the ongoing inhumane aerial wolf slaughter;
- to develop caribou recovery plans in line with procedures for identifying critical habitat under the federal Species at Risk Act. These plans should include the creation of large intact protected areas in high and low elevation habitat that are off limit to logging, resource extraction and recreational users with buffer zones where minimal industrial or recreational human encroachment is permitted;
- to ensure the recovery plans are implemented through a transparent and open process, including the publication of annual reports compiled by government scientists and peer-reviewed by independent conservation experts;
- to increase the immediate protection of the 18 surviving caribou in the Selkirk Mountains by enforcing all snowmobile closures recommended by government scientists, excluding overlapping heli- and cat-ski tenures from protected caribou habitat and its buffer zones and prosecuting trespassers. Ongoing Snowmobile Management Agreements negotiations with snowmobile clubs should be open to public review and comment.

Sincerely,

See List of Signators Next Page

CC. Honorable Mary Polak, M.L.A., Minister of Environment  
Honorable Steve Thomson, M.L.A., Minister of Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Honorable Bill Bennett, M.L.A., Minister of Energy and Mines

## **British Columbian Non-Profit Organizations (18)**

Bears Matter  
Clayoquot Action Society  
Friends of Clayoquot Sound  
Friends of Nemaiah Valley  
Friends Uniting for Nature Society  
Lifeforce Foundation  
Pacific Northwest Collective  
Pacific Wild Alliance  
Purcell Alliance for Wilderness  
Save the Cedar League  
Sierra Club BC  
Silva Forest Foundation  
Standup4Greatbear  
Valhalla Wilderness Society  
Watershed Watch Salmon Society  
Wilderness Committee  
Wolf Awareness Incorporated  
Yellowhead Ecological Association

## **Canadian Non-Profit Organizations (10)**

Animal Alliance of Canada, ONT  
Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, ONT  
Bear With Us Sanctuary, Mike McIntosh, ONT  
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, ONT  
Coyote Watch Canada, ONT  
Earthroots, Ont  
International Fund for Animal Welfare, ONT  
Western Wildlife Conservancy, Ont  
World Animal Protection Canada, Ont  
Zoocheck, ONT

## **International Non-Profit Organizations (16)**

Animals Asia, China/UK  
California Wolf Center, USA  
Change for Animals Foundation, UK  
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research, USA  
Endangered Species Coalition, USA  
Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center, USA  
International Animal Rescue, UK  
Klamath Forest Alliance, USA  
National Wolfwatcher Coalition, USA  
North American Wolf Foundation (Wolf Hollow), USA  
Northeast Wolf Coalition, USA  
Pacific Northwest Collective, USA  
Predator Defense, OR, USA  
Spectacled Bear Conservation Society-Peru, BC  
Wolf Conservation Centre, USA  
Wildlands Network. USA

## **Canadian Businesses and Individuals (36)**

Aboriginal Journeys Whales and Grizzly Bear Tours, BC  
Applied Conservation GIS, Baden Cross, BC  
Behavioral & Enviro Solutions, Biologist, Else Poulsen, ONT  
Bluewater Adventures Ltd., BC  
Brian Brett, Poet and Novelist, BC  
Charlie Russell, Bear Specialist and Author, AB  
David Polster, M.Sc., R.P.Bio., Ecologist, BC  
Ellie Archer, Wildlife Viewing Guide, BC  
Evelyn Kirkcaldy, Wildlife Artist, BC

Dr. Faisal Moola, PhD - Adjunct Professor, Faculties of Forestry and of Environmental Studies, University of Toronto  
Genevieve Singleton, Nature Interpreter, BC Great Bear Chalet, BC  
Grizzly Bear Ranch, BC  
Holly Arntzen, Conservationist, Musician, BC  
John E. Marriott Wildlife and Nature Photography, AB  
Kathy Henley, MS Conservationist, Educator, NH  
Kootenay Reflections, Jim Lawrence, Photographer, BC  
Dr. Lorna Crozier, Professor Emerita, OC, BC  
Malcolm R. MacPherson, Ph.D. Retired Scientist, NM  
Maple Leaf Adventures, Kevin Smith, BC  
Mark Leiren, Author, Journalist and Playwright, BC  
Mothership Adventures, BC  
Natural Art Images, Brad Hill – Photographer, BC  
Ocean Adventures Charter Co Ltd., BC  
Ocean Light II Adventures Ltd., BC  
Dr. Patrick Lane, D. Letters, OC, BC  
Dr. Paul Paquet, Wildlife Biologist, AB  
Peggy Sowklen, DVM, Artists for Conservation, BC  
Remote Passages Marine Excursions, BC  
Robert Bateman, Artist, BC  
Ross Peterson, Retired Biologist, BC  
Steve Williamson Photography, BC  
Susan Musgrave, Masset, Haida Gwaii, BC  
Sylvia Dolson, B.C. Animal Welfare Advocate, BC  
Vicky Husband, CM, OBC, BC  
Watershed Sentinel, BC  
Wayne P. McCrory, RPBio, BC