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Reference: 248627

July 15, 2019

Via Email: jsham@csrd.bc.ca

Chairperson Rhona Martin  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
555 Harbourfront Drive NE  
PO Box 978  
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chairperson Martin and Members of the Board:

Thank you for your letter to Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development regarding crown land closures and protection of mountain caribou. As Executive Director for Species at Risk Recovery, I have been asked to respond. I want to first apologize for the long delay in getting back to you and to thank you for taking the time to write.

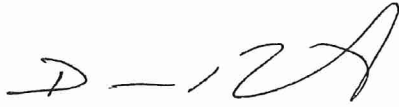
Thank you for the invitation to attend a future Board meeting – I will certainly accept and will reach out to your office to coordinate the details.

In your letter you emphasized the importance of including the perspective of local governments and community members before decisions are made on the draft Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Southern Mountain Caribou Central Group (Partnership Agreement), and the draft Section 11 Agreement. I want to assure you this is our intent and that we are gathering and considering all feedback to inform our efforts on caribou recovery. The draft Section 11 Agreement is a framework agreement that puts in place a collaborative approach where all resource users, communities, Indigenous governments and local governments can contribute towards caribou recovery with a long-term goal of achieving self-sustaining populations.

We welcome you to read more about the Provincial Caribou Recovery Program on our website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/caribou>. I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D - 12A'.

David Muter  
Executive Director

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development