



October 18, 2017

Jennifer Psyllakis
Director of Fish and Wildlife, Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9391
Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M3

Vancouver Humane Society Submission Re. Proposed Grizzly Bear Hunting Regulations

Dear Ms. Psyllakis,

In response to the call for feedback regarding the province's grizzly bear hunt, the Vancouver Humane Society (VHS) submits the following comments (also being sent by post).

While we are pleased that the provincial government is working to end the grizzly bear trophy hunt across the province and all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest, we strongly oppose plans to allow grizzlies to be hunted for meat throughout the rest of the province. Such a policy would in effect allow the trophy hunt to continue under the guise of a meat hunt.

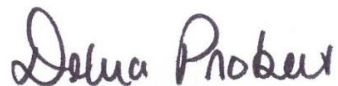
It is common knowledge that grizzlies are hunted for sport and not for their meat, which is deemed unpalatable by hunters. In addition to this, the province's population estimates for the species and the overall sustainability of the hunt have been called into question by independent scientists. Grizzlies are considered a vulnerable species and the environmental pressures they face, including climate change, habitat loss and inadequate food supply, only continue to grow. As a keystone species that contribute to the health and stability of their environment, protecting grizzlies is also about protecting the larger ecosystem. The grizzly hunt also jeopardizes a sustainable eco-tourism and bear viewing industry that attracts thousands of tourists to British Columbia every year and creates employment opportunities in rural and remote communities.

A policy that permits a meat hunt for grizzlies creates a dangerous loophole that would enable trophy hunters to continue killing bears under the guise of a meat hunt. In today's increasingly digital world, photos of hunters posing with their kill serve as a modern "trophy". Therefore, requiring the meat to be packed out and prohibiting the possession of certain parts (hide, head, paws, etc) won't effectively prevent trophy hunters from continuing to kill these animals for sport.

To continue to allow a hunt that threatens a vulnerable species, that costs more for taxpayers than it brings in to the economy, and that ultimately conflicts with the values of the vast majority of British Columbians is unjustifiable. In fact, recent pollingⁱ suggests 74% of British Columbians and 58% of hunters are in favour of a province-wide ban on all hunting of grizzlies. A province-wide ban would also be far less burdensome to manage and enforce, both financially and logistically.

VHS urges the provincial government to afford the same protections for all grizzlies across British Columbia for the reasons stated above through the implementation of a complete and total ban on grizzly hunting, with the exception for First Nations sustenance and traditional purposes.

Sincerely,



Debra Probert
Executive Director
Vancouver Humane Society

ⁱ <https://insightswest.com/news/british-columbians-support-ban-on-all-grizzly-bear-hunting/>