



May 7, 2014

Hon. Mary Polak  
BC Minister of Environment  
PO BOX 9047 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Via Email - [ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) had a successful AGM in Victoria, hosted by the Rocky Point Bird Observatory and the Victoria Natural History Society. We are a federation of naturalists clubs throughout BC with a membership of over 5,400. As a conservation society, our main objective is to foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations.

A resolution was unanimously passed by our clubs and its members this year as follows:

**Resolution 2014-01 Conservation of BC's Grizzly Bear Populations - Submitted by Arrowsmith Naturalists**

**WHEREAS** grizzly bears are designated a species of "special concern" by both the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife and BC's Conservation Data Centre; and

**WHEREAS** grizzly bear numbers in many of BC's 56 sub-populations are too low to maintain optimal healthy, genetically-diverse populations; and

**WHEREAS** grizzly bears reproduce at one of the slowest rates of any North American land animals; and

**WHEREAS** grizzly bear populations are particularly sensitive to loss of habitat and human activity; and

**WHEREAS** government estimates of grizzly bear populations do not consistently reflect the use of rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific methodology and yet provide the basis for the limits of allowable human-caused mortality, of which trophy hunting accounts for 88% of the mortalities; and

**WHEREAS** a recent study suggests that in as many as 70% of BC's Grizzly Bear Population Units, allowable mortality limits may have been exceeded; and

**WHEREAS** the provincial government's 1995 BC Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy has been promised but never implemented;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that BC Nature urge the BC Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to halt the sport hunting of grizzly bears in British Columbia; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that BC Nature urge the provincial Government departments responsible to recommit to implementing an updated BC Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that BC Nature urges the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) to consider recommending Canada's grizzly bears a Species At Risk under the federal Species At Risk Act (SARA).

(N.B. Information for this Resolution has been based on "Failing B.C.'s Grizzlies" a report by the David Suzuki Foundation, 2014 - [http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/2014/DSF\\_grizzly\\_2014.pdf](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/2014/DSF_grizzly_2014.pdf)

We would like to report back to our members at either our Fall General Meeting being held in Salmon Arm, September 27, 2014 or our Annual General Meeting being held in Salt Spring Island, May 2015, on business relating to this resolution and look forward to discussing the resolution "**2014- 01 Conservation of BC's Grizzly Bear Populations**" with your office at a mutually convenient time.

We can be contacted through email or phone at [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca) or [cnvisser@shaw.ca](mailto:cnvisser@shaw.ca) - office telephone number 604 985 3057.

Regards,



Kees Visser  
President, BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

cc

Hon. Premier Christy Clark - [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Steve Thomson - [FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P. - Minister of the Environment - [minister@ec.gc.ca](mailto:minister@ec.gc.ca)

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