



Reference: 236940

April 11, 2018

**VIA EMAIL: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca)**

Alan E. Burger, PhD, President  
BC Nature  
1620 Mt. Seymour Road  
North Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7G 2R9

Dear Alan Burger:

Thank you for your letter of February 23, 2018, to Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, concerning cougar pursuit-only seasons. I have been asked to respond.

I understand your concerns relate to proposed regulation 2018-8-13: Okanagan Cougar Pursuit Only Season and the associated information in the media, as well as the cougar pursuit only season that currently exists in the Kootenay-Boundary Natural Resource Region. As we have received a number of emails on this matter, I am providing information below to clarify the status of the Okanagan cougar pursuit only season proposal.

The Province of British Columbia is proposing a regulation change to establish a "pursuit only" season for cougar in the Okanagan Natural Resource Region from November 15 to March 31. There has been no decision on this proposed Okanagan cougar season. Prior to 2016, a pursuit only season for cougar existed in the region, but was closed when the general open season on hunting cougars was extended by a month to run from November 15 to March 31.

The cougar pursuit season was implemented to provide recreational hunters opportunities to track cougars when the hunting season is closed. There continues to be substantial demand from houndsmen across southern BC to maintain pursuit only seasons for opportunities to track and view cougars without harvesting them. Pursuing cougars is a specialized skill that is used for other wildlife management activities (for example, tracking cougars that represent a threat to human safety or have harmed endangered species, livestock or pets).

Amendments to existing regulations respond to the most current information available about sustainable use of wildlife populations. These amendments are proposed for conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat or to maintain or enhance recreational opportunities. There is currently no conservation concern for cougar populations in the Okanagan Region.

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Alan E. Burger, President

As part of the process of evaluating proposed regulations, the province provides an opportunity for public comment via the Angling, Hunting and Trapping Engagement (AHTE) website. The comment period on the proposed regulation is now closed and your comments have been received. The information gathered from both the hunting and non-hunting community will now be used to inform the statutory decision on the proposal.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and express your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry MacDougall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerry MacDougall  
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

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