



March 6, 2020

Travis Ripley
Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch
Alberta Environment and Parks
2nd fl Forestry Building, 9920 - 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2M4

RE: Alberta livestock industry recommended changes to the Wildlife Act and Regulations

Dear Mr. Ripley,

As part of our on-going work on wildlife management and stewardship, please find attached our submission to the current Wildlife Regulation renewal process which includes our recommendations for improvements to the Wildlife Act and Regulations.

Our recommendations reflect the need to address increasing trends in wildlife depredation affecting livestock owners and the need to improve the legislation to allow the livestock industry to better co-exist with wildlife on farms and ranches. We work very hard on environmental stewardship which includes ensuring healthy wildlife populations on private and public land. However, we continue to see increased incidents of conflict in Alberta and the current program is not sufficient in addressing or mitigating these issues.

We have proposed improvements to the wildlife predator compensation program in the Wildlife Regulation as one tool that we believe will help increase tolerance for predators on the landscape and compensate livestock owners properly for most of the losses they incur when living with predators. We greatly value wildlife, including predators, as part of a healthy ecosystem and are willing to co-exist with them provided livestock owners will be well supported when losses do occur. In addition, we believe these changes will greatly help reduce stress in livestock owners who deal with predation, will help reduce conflict between Fish and Wildlife Officers and landowners, will maintain or increase healthy wildlife populations, and will benefit conservation as a whole.



We recognize that the wording in our recommendations may not serve the intent of the change so we are very willing to work with Alberta Environment and Parks on how we improve the legislation to accomplish the desired outcomes.

Thank you again and we look forward to working with you on these legislative improvements.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smith-Fraser
Chair, Alberta Beef Producers

Jeff Bectell
Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association

Callum Sears
President, Western Stock Growers' Association

Kyle Forbes
Chair, Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Assoc.

Ryan Greir
Chair, Alberta Lamb Producers

cc Stephanie Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister, AEP
Bev Yee, Deputy Minister, AEP
Dean Miller, Special Advisor to Minister Nixon, AEP