



January 8, 2020

General Open Letter to Our Members – Position Statement

BC Interior SCI recently received a copy of an open letter one of our members sent to the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) regarding wildlife/habitat management in BC and the author's belief that the BCWF is not living up to its mandate or doing its job as their members have so directed them.

More specifically, this letter referenced the use of glyphosate for vegetation control and its affects on mule deer, road densities, affect on predator and prey alike and the overall lack of effective wildlife management in BC.

In that these same issues affect us all, and BC Interior SCI has concerns about these same topics, we respond with a view from an organization that has a diverse membership with a wide range of beliefs, wishes and desires.

In general, it is exceedingly difficult for organizations such as ours to take "*hard*" stands where the request is an "*all or nothing*", or "*take it or leave it*" proposition.

First, we start with the reference to better wildlife and habitat management.

This is easy to support, and we do, as there is almost universal agreement that BC needs better and more effective wildlife management that supports the needs of all our critters and their habitats so these same critters can and will thrive.

But that is where broad based support ends.

Getting support for how to accomplish better management is another can of worms. Solutions will vary widely, depending upon location, species and what the specific management strategy may accomplish or affect.

One needs to look no further than the public reaction to our government's proposal for caribou management in the south Peace River area to see the debacle poorly thought-out plans and implementation processes created.

As an organization we should be able to say, "***We Support***" plans and processes that are based on science, supported at the local or regional level, and that consider the affects that they may have on the local people and communities.

Simple to say, hard to accomplish.

What is much more difficult to do is support the "*all or nothing*" proposals.

If we do not support the “stop the wolf kill”, “ban the grizzly bear hunt”, or “take our guns away”, why would we unilaterally support the “stop the spray” for glyphosate as some ask?

Fairly simple answer.

These types of proposals are usually based on the theory that if it is being used incorrectly or inappropriately in one place, then it must be so for all other places; or it is an emotional issue where “I” wish to impose “my” beliefs on “you” and “I” really do not care what “you” or others think or believe.

We, as an executive are confident that 100% of our membership believe that wolves are part of our environment and do not wish to see them eliminated. Come below that standard and opinions begin to vary as to where they should be managed and how many wolves we should have.

Same for grizzly bears.

Pretty confident that 100% of our membership does not believe grizzly bear hunting is appropriate for all parts of BC, or that all bears should be fair game. Come below that level and like the wolf debate, opinions begin to diverge.

Same arguments for gun control.

The use of glyphosate creates much the same dilemma for an organization such as ours.

Pretty much 100% of our membership support the belief that glyphosate should not be used everywhere with no controls or rules. Once we come below that level and get to the “how and where”, support varies.

Some will not come off the just ban it stump, and that is their prerogative, just as it is for others to believe there is a need for glyphosate to be used for specific management objectives.

Rather than get into these no-win debates, BC Interior SCI would much rather see our government(s) view the use and management of glyphosate as a priority and create a process where its use is managed to respect a wider range of needs than currently considered.

Just as we are joining with other organizations to create a coalition and process that will lobby/pressure government to make wildlife and wildlife management a priority for BC, so should we for the use of glyphosate.

We, as the executive of this organization do wish for some understanding from our members that we only exist because of you, our members, and that if we wish to take up sides or views that are only supported by part of our organization and membership, we will fail to meet the needs of others, which can affect our ability to survive.

We want to encourage our members such as the one who wrote in (below) to please continue to advocate for wildlife! Let’s keep raising our voice and expecting better wildlife management for today & tomorrow.

Thanks, and we do appreciate any comments you may have.

Your Executive,

**HUNTERS FOR BC
INTERIOR CHAPTER SCI**