



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

90614

January 24, 2018

Ms. Sadie Parr, Executive Director
Wolf Awareness Inc.
514 Anderson Road
Golden BC V0A 1H1
wolfawareness@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Parr:

Thank you for your email regarding Alberta's management of wolves. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Our government is committed to ensuring all of our wildlife species, including wolves, remain important elements of Alberta's biodiversity. Our government's decisions concerning wildlife management are based on science and the best available evidence. The Management Plan for Wolves in Alberta identifies wolves as a valuable part of a healthy ecosystem and aims to ensure that wolf populations are self-sustaining. Currently, wolves are abundant throughout Alberta's forested lands.

Many of Alberta's woodland caribou populations are at risk due to unnaturally high levels of predation. To ensure that the most high-risk caribou populations are not lost, Alberta manages wolf populations in five caribou ranges. Government personnel employs carefully selected methods to remove wolves and management actions are strictly controlled to minimize potential undesirable effects. The use of toxicants in Alberta is limited to two caribou ranges. They are deployed only when damage prevention, mitigation and other management methods have been exhausted.

If Alberta does not act to protect our woodland caribou populations, the federal government has the ability to impose an emergency protection order against the province. This would be detrimental to Alberta's economy. We will continue to work with local communities, Indigenous peoples and the business community to protect our caribou population.

I am pleased to note that the Government of Alberta works with First Nations, agricultural producers and municipal governments to recommend preventative measures to reduce the risk of livestock losses to wolves. Some examples of preventative measures include the use of electric fencing; improved livestock husbandry practices; and the use of range riders to increase human presence with a given geographic area. In cases where livestock losses are severe, our department will conduct a targeted removal of the offending wolves.

I appreciate and share your concern for our province's wildlife. The Government of Alberta is committed to strengthening environmental standards, inspection, monitoring and enforcement to protect Alberta's water, land, air and biodiversity. Thank you again for taking the time to share your valued perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Shannon Phillips
Minister