

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Office of the Auditor General: An Independent Audit of Grizzly Bear Management Released 10/17

<http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs>

Initial PAC Meeting- 29/MAR/2018

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations  | Action Planned   | Target Date                              | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| 1.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment create and implement a grizzly bear management plan that includes: clear indication of how the plan fits into the ministries' overall wildlife management planning (where is it in the priority) clear goals and targets prioritized activities and timelines, including accountabilities for those activities resources and expertise required to undertake the activities in the plan | <p>Develop an approach to engage and collaborate with First Nations, communities and stakeholders aligned with mandate to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation.</p> <p>Collaborate with First Nations and engage with communities and stakeholders to confirm process and draft Provincial Grizzly Bear Management Plan*.</p> <p>Complete a provincial-scale management plan, that describes broad provincial goals for management and guides the development of area-based management plans where needed.</p> <p>(NOTE: The management plan will align with</p> | <p>March, 2019</p> <p>December, 2019</p> | No action taken                               | N/A                       |

<sup>1</sup>The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) will request an update (i.e Assessment of Progress and Actions Taken column completed) on a yearly basis from the audited organization until all recommendations are fully implemented or otherwise addressed to the satisfaction of the PAC.

<sup>2</sup> This action plan and their subsequent updates have not been audited by the OAG. However, at a future date that Office may undertake work to determine whether the entity has accurately represented their progress in addressing the recommendations. The results of that work will be reported in a separate report prepared by the OAG.

**Please provide your email response to:**

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations  | Action Planned  | Target Date                           | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup>  |
|--------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
|        |  | federal requirements for a <i>Species at Risk Act</i> compliant management plan, which would also likely align with any requirements under new BC endangered species legislation.)<br><br>(*NOTE: Timelines are subject to government's ability and success in our engagement and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and communities)  |                                       |   |  |
| 2.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop and implement an adequately resourced inventory and monitoring strategy for grizzly bears.  | A grizzly bear inventory and monitoring strategy, which will identify priorities and implementation timelines, will be a component of the provincial grizzly bear management plan and follow the same timelines.  | See management plan timelines above   | Partially Implemented:                        | B.C. has a draft grizzly bear inventory and monitoring strategy from 2010; however, further work on this strategy is required before it can be adopted by government |
| 3.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations revise its policy and procedures to determine how uncertainty will be accounted for when determining grizzly bear-hunt allocations and to be transparent about the process. | The Province will consider the recommendations of the 2016 Scientific Review and McLellan et al (2017) to act on this audit recommendation.<br><br>Engage First Nations and key stakeholders on proposed changes.<br><br>Grizzly Harvest Management Procedure will be modified to address uncertainty explicitly, and guidance for documenting and reporting uncertainties in population estimates will be developed. | September, 2018<br><br>December, 2018 | Partially Implemented                         | The 2016 science review and McLellan et al paper provide specific recommendations on how to address this concern.  |
| 4.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Environment ensure the Conservation  | Review current resourcing and tools for preventing and responding to conflicts with   | December, 2018                        | No action taken                               | N/A  |

**Please provide your email response to:**

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations  | Action Planned   | Target Date                           | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup>   |
|--------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|        | Officer Service has the appropriate resources and tools for preventing and responding to conflicts with grizzly bears.   | grizzly bears. Identify options to appropriately resource and develop new tools based on review outcomes.<br><br>Further review of resourcing and tools is anticipated pending the requirements of the Conservation Officer Service related to the final of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan.                                      | Upon completion of management plan    |   |   |
| 5.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop clear policies and procedures for bear viewing.   | Approve Terms of Reference and work plan for collaborative working group, including First Nations and stakeholders, to support development of policies and procedures for wildlife viewing in the interest of bear conservation and sustainability of the bear viewing industry.<br><br>Draft interim policy and procedure         | September, 2018<br><br>December, 2019 | No action taken                               | N/A   |
| 6.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment identify those grizzly bear populations that are in need of recovery and outline what actions will be taken and when. | Approve process to identify and prioritize specific populations for enhancement activities and population specific objectives.<br><br>Population specific enhancement strategies will be developed based on the prioritization process.  | February, 2018<br><br>Ongoing         | Partially Implemented                         | Most of these populations have had, and continue to have, various amounts of population inventory and monitoring and research |
| 7.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment evaluate and adjust as needed the tools used to mitigate industries' impacts on grizzly bear habitats.                | EAO will complete review of administrative inspections and effectiveness evaluations of conditions, including specifically in relation to grizzly bear conditions. In addition, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's review of professional reliance will be used to inform revisions to guidelines and policies. | March, 2019                           | No action taken                               | N/A   |

Please provide your email response to:

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations   | Action Planned   | Target Date                       | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|        |   | <p>FLNR will review and recommend guidelines and policies for commercial berry harvesting to ensure this important food source for grizzly bears is not overly impacted.</p> <p>FLNR will continue to review and make improvements to tools used to mitigate industry impacts through ongoing commitment to updating the cumulative effects assessment and reporting on the status of select values.</p>   | <p>March, 2020</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |   |                           |
| 8.     | <p>We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment to evaluate and adjust as needed tools to conserve grizzly bear habitats.</p> | <p>The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy are currently evaluating these designations at the stand and landscape-scale through the reviews of established Government Action Regulation orders, Forest and Range Evaluation Program and Cumulative Effects Framework assessments. The effectiveness review of these tools will continue and adjustments (e.g., updates to the Forest and Range Practices Act, development of guidance, creation of fines) will be recommended as required.</p> <p>ENV will be leading a review of habitat protection tools as part of the mandate commitment to develop endangered species legislation for the province. That process will</p> | Ongoing                           | Partially Implemented                         | N/A                       |

Please provide your email response to:

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations   | Action Planned   | Target Date  | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup>   |
|--------|---|--|--|---|---|
|        |   | assess gaps and develop new tools to conserve habitat (potentially including grizzly bears)  |  |   |   |
| 9.     | We recommend that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment report out to the public and legislators on how well it is managing grizzly bear populations throughout British Columbia.  | <p>Revise provincial status assessment, web-based metrics and maps, and associated reporting pages on Environmental Reporting BC.</p> <p>Complete review and provide recommendations for the effectiveness of ongoing grizzly bear management efforts in making the information available to the public and legislators</p> <p>Continuation of the practice of publishing peer-reviewed literature/research. Commit to facilitating access for the public to source these publications.</p>  | <p>Updated when new data and information are available</p> <p>September, 2018</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | Partially Implemented                         | Government biologists have a long history of conducting and publishing applied grizzly bear research. |
| 10.    | We recommend that government review the legislation, policies and accountabilities for wildlife management and ensure that roles, responsibilities and accountabilities allow the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment to be fully effective in delivering grizzly bear management. | <p>The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will work together to review the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for grizzly bear management and make recommendations for improved coordination, effectiveness and accountability.</p> <p>The ministries will also review how grizzly bear management fits into the larger approach for management and conservation of biodiversity in BC per recommendations under the OAG's Audit of Biodiversity in BC:</p> | March, 2018  | No action taken                               | N/A   |

Please provide your email response to:

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)

| Rec. # | OAG Recommendations | Action Planned                           | Target Date | Assessment of Progress by Entity <sup>1</sup> | Action Taken <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|---------------------|--|-------------|---|---------------------------|
|        |                     | Assessing the Effectiveness of Key Tools |             |   |                           |

Prepared by: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**Please provide your email response to:**

Email: Comptroller General's Office of the Government of British Columbia [Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Comptroller.General@gov.bc.ca)

Email: Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia [actionplans@bcauditor.com](mailto:actionplans@bcauditor.com)