

Fish and Wildlife Division

Second Floor, 9920 - 108 Street
Great West Life Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2M4

Telephone: (780) 427 9503

January 4, 2010



Ms. Karen Goodings
Chair, Agriculture Advisory Committee of the Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek, British Columbia V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Goodings:

Thank you for your November 13, 2009 letter expressing your concern about relocated cougars and grizzly bears. I welcome the opportunity to clarify Alberta Fish and Wildlife's program to relocate nuisance wildlife.

Cougars are relocated only a short distance out of urban and semi-urban areas. There are very few cougar relocations and these have occurred in areas well south of the Peace River area. Banff and Jasper National Parks would buffer any movement of these cougars into British Columbia.

Fish and wildlife officers have been relocating grizzly bears into the Chinchaga area of Alberta for many years. This area is one of many where bears are moved, and the release site has been getting closer to the British Columbia border in recent years because of road development. The fate of these relocated bears has been mainly unknown until last year, when Sustainable Resource Development began placing satellite transmitter collars on relocated bears and as a result, we receive a location from these collared bears every few days. This information is being gathered so release sites can be selected to prevent the bears from eventually coming into conflict with people. This winter, we will be reviewing the information we have collected and adjusting our relocation protocols accordingly.

When we discovered that a bear had moved into British Columbia, we were immediately in touch with appropriate staff in British Columbia, and ongoing discussions will occur as we look at future relocation sites.

Thank you for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Ron Bjorge

Ron Bjorge
Executive Director, Wildlife Management Branch

January 28, 2010