



The Alberta Fish & Game Association is your voice in conservation

January 7, 2021

Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier, President of Executive Council
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
Email: premier@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Jason Nixon,
Minister of Environment and Parks
Office of the Minister
323 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
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Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Office of the Minister
229 Legislature Building
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Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
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Dear Premier Kenney, Minister Nixon, and Minister Dreeshen,

The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) represents the common interests of ethical hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts. Almost 40 years ago, the AFGA had the foresight to see that critical wildlife habitat was rapidly disappearing and responded by creating the province's first land trust. The AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund Program has conserved close to 50,000 acres of vital wildlife habitat ensuring that our wildlife populations, including cervids, continue to thrive and roam free. Wildlife are a public resource. As the voice of hunters and anglers in Alberta, the AFGA has worked hard for over one hundred years to conserve healthy wildlife populations.

We believe that game ranching is in direct conflict with the conservation of Alberta's wild cervid populations and remain in steadfast opposition of it, which includes a call for the phase-out and elimination of existing game ranches in the province. The introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to Alberta was the direct result of the initiation of game ranching in the early 1990s. In addition to the risk of prion-transmitted diseases like CWD, game ranching also results

in the spread of other diseases, invasive species, genetic contamination, disruption of wildlife movements and habitat fragmentation.

It has now come to the attention of the AFGA, that the Alberta Elk Commission has established a sub-committee to pursue the legalization of Cervid Harvesting Preserves (CHPs) in Alberta and are lobbying the Government of Alberta to change the very legislation, *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, and associated regulation, *Domestic Cervid Industry Regulation*, they lobbied to have applied to their game ranches in the 1990s.

The Boone and Crockett Club defines fair chase as the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals. Hunting within fenced paddocks most certainly does not represent fair chase, and completely contradicts North American hunting culture, at its very core. Although hunting for food is generally accepted by society, the commercialization of penned hunting would undoubtedly lead to a dramatic decline in public support for all hunting.

The AFGA will continue to voice its opposition to game farming and penned hunting of domestic cervids to ensure that the irreversible ecological and cultural damage resulting from these types of businesses are seriously considered on behalf of all Albertans, and we ask that our provincial government make the decision to conserve our wild cervid populations.

Yours in conservation,



Brian Dingreville, President
The Alberta Fish and Game Association

C.c.

Travis Ripley, Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship, Resource Stewardship Division, Alberta Environment and Parks