

AR 46631

July 2, 2021

Mr. Victor Benz  
President  
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
c/o Ms. Rhonda Eidick  
[office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org)

Dear Mr. Benz:

Thank you for your email of June 23, 2021 to the Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (JSG), regarding your comments relating to the level of direct involvement of stakeholders needed for Environment and Park's (AEP) *Draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan* to be effective, specifically JSG's willingness to take the necessary actions. Minister Madu has forwarded your email to me and as the Assistant Deputy Minister, for the Public Security Division, I am pleased to respond.

Alberta fish and wildlife officers employed by JSG, support fisheries management in Alberta by providing education, prevention and enforcement, with a priority concentration on species at risk, threatened and vulnerable populations.

- Enforcement of Bull Trout zero catch limits and habitats protection have historically been and will continue to be a priority for Alberta fish and wildlife officers.
- Historically, the courts have supported prosecutions involving illegal bull trout harvest and have set fines to assist with management efforts to create a strong deterrent. The continued support of Alberta Crown Prosecution Services on future prosecutions of this nature is anticipated.

A Conservation Enforcement Steering Committee was established by AEP and JSG to ensure that the conservation enforcement priorities set by AEP's Resource Stewardship, Lands, and Parks divisions are identified, communicated, implemented, reported on, and assessed accordingly.

- A Joint Management Team comprised of senior staff from JSG's Sheriffs Branch, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services, and AEP's Environmental Enforcement Branch reports to the Conservation Enforcement Steering Committee and ensures that both groups are addressing the priorities in a coordinated manner and are reporting on effort and results.

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- JSG, Public Security Division, Sheriffs Branch is fully committed to support enforcement of fisheries priorities as set out by AEP, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship.
- There is also a renewed priority to increase education, awareness and enforcement of public lands legislation in support of protecting fisheries habitat. Alberta fish and wildlife officers in JSG, along with Alberta conservation officers in AEP, together are responsible for that program delivery.
- Every effort is made by Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services management to allocate the limited resources available during today's challenging fiscal situation to effectively respond to priority conservation enforcement and public safety matters.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information addresses your concerns relating to JSG's willingness to contribute towards priority species recovery actions in Alberta.

Sincerely,



M. A. (Marlin) Degrand, M.O.M.  
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks

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