



May 23, 2017

Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
5421 Robertson Road
Delta, BC, V4K 3N2

William J. Andrews Barrister & Solicitor
1958 Parkside Lane
North Vancouver, BC
V7G 1X5
By email: wjandrews@shaw.ca

Dear Mr. Andrews,

I'm writing in response to your application of April 7, 2017 requesting, among other things, that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada form an opinion under s. 80(2) of SARA that the Wells Gray-Thompson LPU of southern mountain caribou faces imminent threats to its survival or recovery due to planned timber harvesting activities within the Wells-Gray Local Population Unit and that the Governor in Council make an emergency order to provide for the protection of the Wells Gray-Thompson LPU. As you asked for a response by May 22, 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our progress.

As set out in section 80 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), a recommendation for an emergency protection order only occurs after the Minister has formed an opinion that there is an imminent threat to the survival or recovery of a SARA-listed species. For the past several weeks, the Department has been engaged in gathering information on potential threats to the recovery or survival of the woodland caribou, south mountain population, and its critical habitat, in order to provide the Minister with a comprehensive and clear understanding of the situation.

At this time, I can inform you that the Department will be submitting information to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada that will support her in forming an opinion under section 80 of SARA. The information will include your full submission as well as any additional information the Department obtained or received during its information gathering process.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I can assure you that we recognize the importance of this issue, as well as the need to respond in a timely matter.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Smith, Director
Pacific Region
Canadian Wildlife Service

cc. Ms. Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service