



June 6, 2018

Christine Cleghorn  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Environment Yukon  
Government of Yukon Box 2703 (V-3A)  
Whitehorse, Yukon

Dear Christine Cleghorn,

**Re: Timing of Release of the Yukon Grizzly Bear Survey Report**

The Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan Working Group has learned that the report and visual summary of the 2017 public survey will be released by Yukon Government prior to the Draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan. At this time, the Draft Plan is yet to be reviewed by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board before it is brought out for public review. We strongly believe the survey report and summary should not be released before the Draft Plan is also available to the public.

While we understand the Yukon Government policy of releasing information within a reasonable time frame after it has been collected, in this situation it is critical that the information from the survey is released with the appropriate context, meaning the Draft Plan. The Working Group has put considerable time and energy in to this Plan since 2015, and we want Yukoners to be able to make informed conclusions and decisions based on the information we provide.

Specifically, the questions in the visual summary of the survey related to the level of support for resident and non-resident harvest may be controversial in their interpretation. We are concerned that people may make harvest decisions based on their assumption of the Plan content given the results of the survey. We believe that providing the survey report and summary without being able to demonstrate how the Plan reflects this information will cause confusion and frustration with the public.

Given the unique nature and importance of the Grizzly Bear Plan and the process for public review that will be conducted in the coming months, the Working Group asserts that the survey should be withheld from release until the Draft Plan is available to the public.

Please feel free to contact us if you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Thomas', written over a white background.

Frank Thomas (Vice-Chair, Yukon Fish and  
Wildlife Management Board)

Tom Jung (Senior Wildlife Biologist, Environment  
Yukon, Yukon Government)

Co-Chairs, Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan Working Group