



MINES AND PETROLEUM COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORT

This has been an interesting past year with a lot of twists and turns from the previous year!

Looking back on the year we see a lot of spin offs of energy production that have negatively affected you the membership!

Let's look at the site C project...in backroom government to government agreements your access and opportunities have been bartered away for the site C project to move forward. By the time the BCWF found out about these things it was too late. Your opportunity to access crown land in areas affected by these deals may be lost! Your opportunity to hunt moose in the Peace Moberly Tract or PMT as they call it may be lost! In some cases even your MLA did not know until after the deals were made! So setting aside all the impacts to wildlife and loss of prime habitat to build this controversial power project, you the membership lose even more in surrounding areas from these backroom deals made to First Nations. It's obvious that this Government plans on having Site C, no matter what the cost, and loss to you, the membership!

In the Mining sector, let me refresh your memory to the Mt. Polly disaster and to date we still don't know the full impact to habitat and fish and wildlife resources, or how much will be done to fully mitigate or compensate those impacts.

The Coal mines are mostly closed or moderately operating at this time, but prime Caribou habitat was totally stripped to rock for coal mining and lost totally. Even though Mines like Peace River Coal are closed, no reclamation is taking place and very real possibility of it being sold to another company, but as it sits in limbo, nothing is being done for wildlife!

As I see it, the main problem with the three examples above is not any fault of industry. We need industry; it pays for our lifestyle and builds an economy so we can enjoy the lifestyle society demands, education, healthcare, infrastructure and the energy to fuel it!

Most importantly, remember Industry ONLY does what OUR Government permits them to do and in many cases lets industry police themselves!!!

No, the real problem is a lack of regulations for safety of the environment and enforcement of those! As well as a full transparent review of each project, PRIOR to ANY permits being issued by government....remember many mines got going with what's called a small mines permit, and therefore were not subject to the current non transparent environmental review! Then once operating under a small mines permit, they simply expand!

And then there are the tradeoffs to First Nations to get these projects built! I'm not at all saying that First Nations don't deserve something for their losses, and I am envious that their Government stands up for them and negotiates for First Nations benefits, capacity and long term compensation. They are to be commended for standing up and fighting for what they want.



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Continued ...

We, the BCWF view the world that the fish and wildlife resource comes first, next that our membership has access to that resource....pretty simple and sustainable, if we had a government that would also have the will for this goal! Our battle or challenge is NOT with industry and NOT with First Nations Governments, but unfortunately with OUR government! And we are not given Capacity, or long term compensation to fuel this challenge, from our government or industry! We rely on you the membership to guide us and fuel our efforts on your behalf that ALL residents of BC benefit from!

From the petroleum sector, life is good, finally. Let me expand, in this downturn of oil and gas sales (with the last land sale at O)! The wildlife will actually have a chance to breathe and grow and settle down, no more being dislocated from home ranges, wintering grounds, calving grounds or any other seasonal habitats. With less oilfield traffic, far less wildlife needlessly killed every day on our roadways.

They really need this now, and as the last projects are wrapping up and men and heavy equipment leave the bush, and no new projects moving forward, the fish and wildlife get a much needed break!

However, in this sector, there is even more need for regulations to protect habitat and a very real need for an honest, open review of oil and gas exploration, extraction and of course ,transmission.

The OGC (oil and gas commission) does not look after wildlife, fish or habitat in a meaningful way that will ensure its future.

First and foremost...each permit must be looked at in its cumulative effect on the landbase, not as is currently done ,each permit is an isolated development and the one before it and after it the same. What a sorry way of considering the impacts and the future of wildlife!

Of the untold Billions of dollars that this sector has produced for BC, and the impacts to fish, wildlife and its habitat, Ask your Government how many dollars were put back to mitigate, offset or compensate for these losses? I do know that industry has put money in many programs for fish and wildlife, and wouldn't be surprised if that amount was near or even surpassed Governments on the ground work. In fact the BCWF has received monies from this sector to do the work membership guides and asks for! One amount was 50 grand alone!!

Respectfully Submitted By:

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