



Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

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TROPHY HUNTING BEARS IN BC

Scott Ellis, the General Manager of the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC), says “the best way to maintain healthy wildlife populations is to allow hunting”. Hunters’ contribute the majority of the revenue and volunteer hundreds of hours to help increase wildlife populations and enhance wildlife habitat.

The hunting industry contributes approximately \$350 million annually to the province of BC and is comprised of resident hunters and guide outfitters. There are 233 guide outfitters in the province that employ over 2,000 direct people in rural communities. Bear hunting is critical to their family run businesses. Guide outfitting is a highly renewable, green, sustainable industry.

Trophy hunters are similar to fishermen that practice “catch and release”. As hunters evolve many shift toward the quality hunting experience rather than just for the concept of putting meat on the table. Part of this experience is passing up smaller legal animals in search of a trophy-class animal. True sportsmen hunt under “fair chase” conditions without “high-fences”. While many hunters describe a trophy-class animal differently, the tendency is to select larger than normal mature male species.

Concerns of consistently harvesting this component of the population were raised in the late 1800s. Conservation organizations, i.e. Boone and Crockett Club, developed record books to track animal size and quality to monitor this potential impact over time. Today, with over 100 years of data, this has proven to be a very effective method to manage wildlife with no impact on the number of trophy-class animals available. This wildlife management model allows the same opportunity for hunters to harvest a world class trophy animal today as were available in the past. These record books have become a reference for our hunting heritage.

The grizzly bear harvest in BC is very controlled; resident’s share is allocated through a lottery system (Limited Entry Hunting), with compulsory inspection, and the guide outfitter’s harvest is monitored through quotas and guide declarations. The annual harvest is only approximately 2% of the population. Based on the increasing bear populations in BC the annual allowable harvest is expected to increase.

The GOABC supports the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as a means of creating wealth, protecting public health while generating biodiversity.

For more information please visit our www.goabc.org

"Wildlife Stewardship is our Priority"

