



# BC Cattlemen's Association

## Environmental Stewardship Committee Report

October 2021

Chair: Judy Madden

Committee Members: Lou Cooke, Ken Ilnicki, Wayne Ray, Les Ellis, Brett Squair, and Jeff Braisher.

---

The Environmental Stewardship Committee held a meeting on September 10th where this year's resolutions were discussed at length and an update of a minister's meeting was provided to committee members.

### CleanBC

The Provincial Government is developing a "Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy" and has asked for public input on the strategy and its guiding principles. Our Committee drafted a submission which highlighted the need for dedicated funding to water storage infrastructure, invasive weed species control, targeted grazing on grasslands and a balanced landscape planning model that utilizes grasslands for carbon sequestration. This submission was emailed into the CleanBC staff in late September.

### Ranch Sustainability Award

We are happy to announce that we have received a nomination for the Ranch Sustainability Award for 2022. The Nominee has accepted their nomination and will be undergoing their ranch evaluation with an Environmental Farm Planner, which will be completed by the end of October. In the background, we are putting together a judging panel and hope to review the application by the end of the 2022 calendar year.

### UPDATE on RESOLUTIONS

<p><b>Resolution #21-01</b></p> <p>WHEREAS the BC government has eliminated the grizzly bear hunt despite the collective advice of the scientific community without regard to the consequences in rural BC, and</p> <p>WHEREAS the grizzly bear populations near many rural BC communities have expanded significantly and have become accustomed to human presence, and</p> <p>WHEREAS the safety of families and agriculture workers in these communities is often being jeopardized by the bears, and</p> <p>WHEREAS the expanded grizzly bear population is increasing the negative interactions with livestock, crops and infrastructure,</p> <p><b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> <u>that the BCCA lobby government to reinstate the grizzly bear hunt to bring the grizzly bear population under control, and</u></p> <p><b>FURTHERMORE, be it resolved</b> <u>that the BCCA lobby government to legally entitle agriculture producers to protect their families, livestock and crops from habituated grizzly bears.</u></p>	<p><b>Action Taken:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BCCA has been advocating on this topic with ministers wherever possible during meetings with Ministers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resolution #21-02</b></p> <p>WHEREAS noxious weeds suppress the growth and survival of beneficial vegetation, significantly reducing the productive potential of lands across the province with associated negative consequences such as reduced biodiversity and elevated fire hazard, and</p>	<p><b>Action Taken:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In January 2021, the ESC wrote a letter to Minister Conroy (FLNRORD) regarding invasive species continuing to spread outside their containment zone and the need for additional funding to combat invasives.</li> <li>- ESC will draft another letter to Ministry of FLNRORD to re-iterate the</li> </ul>

<p>WHEREAS agricultural land owners invest a considerable amount of time and money battling noxious weeds to increase the productivity of their land, and          WHEREAS such efforts to control noxious weeds are ineffective unless all adjacent land owners are doing the same, and          WHEREAS the provincial government is setting a very poor example with respect to the control of noxious weeds on crown lands,  <b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> that <u>the BCCA lobby the government to aggressively control noxious weeds on lands they manage, followed by regulation changes obligating all land owners to take actions against noxious weeds on their lands, including vacant land, reserve land, transportation corridors, utility rights of way and Commonage areas.</u>  <b>FURTHERMORE, be it resolved</b> that <u>the BCCA lobby the government to implement additional public grants to assist land owners with the regulation changes.</u></p>	<p>need for allocated funds for invasive species eradication. We will also ask for streamlined permitting for landowners to spray on their ranges.</p>
<p><b>Resolution #21-03</b>          WHEREAS climate change continues to be a major concern for our federal and provincial governments;          WHEREAS the production of carbon plays a major role in climate change  <b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> that <u>the BCCA approach the provincial government to have them formally recognize the carbon sequestering taking place on ranches across BC, thereby recognizing that BC ranchers are a positive factor in our fight against Climate Change.</u></p>	<p><b>Action Taken:</b>          - ESC will write a letter to government highlighting the importance of grasslands regarding carbon sequestration          - Carbon sequestration on grasslands was highlighted in the CleanBC submission</p>
<p><b>Resolution #21-06 (ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE/WATER SUB-COMMITTEE)</b>          WHEREAS mechanically excavated dugouts which capture overland runoff form an important part of livestock watering in our region, particularly during the grazing season.          WHEREAS the majority of these dugouts are only recharged by snow melt or rain that flows from intermittent drainages on the surface.          WHEREAS dugouts that use all season streams for recharge already require a licence under the Water Sustainability Act.          WHEREAS it is difficult to disprove minor “groundwater seepage”, in or out of the dugout unless there is a liner.  <b>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED</b> that <u>groundwater seepage not be seen as a requirement for licencing a dugout.</u></p>	<p><b>Action Taken:</b>          - This resolution will be managed by the Water Sub-Committee</p>

**Resolution #21-07**

**WHEREAS** information from the Provincial Government about eliminating all contracted control of invasive plants on Crown land, was reported to the Peace River Regional District Invasive Plant Committee on April 13, 2021, and

**WHEREAS** the control of invasive plants is crucial to the health of desirable forage species,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the BCCA aggressively oppose any reduction of funding that will result in lesser control of invasive plants on Crown land, specifically on Crown range tenure.

**Action Taken:**

- This resolution will be addressed in the same letter that will be submitted regarding resolution 21-02

---

In addition to ESC specific tasks, there has been coordination/communication with the Land Stewardship committee, where-ever there are overlapping mandates. Latest example would be the message to government RE omission of Range under FRPA. As “Range” encompasses all vegetation other than marketable timber, there are negative environmental impacts. Forage for wildlife, erosion control, weed control, carbon sequestration to name a few.

**PROGRAMS****Species At Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL)**

The SARPAL program has been having a successful year with BCCA having signed a 2-year agreement for 2021-2023. We currently have 5 projects under way for this year, and the program continues to be Coordinated by Bob France.

**Livestock Protection Program****LPP statistics as of September 22, 2021:**

**(April 1- September 22)**

Wolves Mitigated: 8

Coyotes Mitigated: 36

Cattle Killed: 91

Cattle Injured: 24

**Farmland- Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP)**

Carley is touching base with Lee Hesketh on FRISP for an update

I am sad to report Peter Spencer, long time environmental advocate, and former BCCA coordinator with the Environmental Farm Plan, passed away in a tragic house fire in October. Peter was one of our “go-to” folks when we needed someone to audit nominated ranches for the Ranch Sustainability Award. He will be missed.