



September 25, 2025

Honourable Todd Loewen
Minister of Forestry and Parks
323 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

RE: Grizzly Bear Numbers.

Dear Minister Loewen:

I write on behalf of both Cardston County and the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 Council to raise serious concerns about the growing grizzly bear presence in our region and the escalating risks to our community.

As you are aware, a couple of weeks ago, there was a bear attack on a local fisherman just south of Cardston. The individual was extremely lucky to survive with only a brief stay in the hospital. Just a couple of months before this event, our summer staff was charged by a grizzly while spraying weeds along the river in the Kimball area; She was able to get the quad turned and moving, but the bear did chase for a good distance. Within Cardston County, we have heard of several close calls on the many rivers and streams we have within the county.

According to research presented by the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association, “Since 2007, there has been a 4% per year increase in the grizzly bear population in bear management area 6 (BMA 6)” and “Southern Alberta continues to have the highest grizzly bear population density in the province.” The Biosphere report continues to point out that there are 172 grizzly bears using the area and 67 that are resident bears. This report, which can be found on their webpage, was completed in 2016, and significant growth has occurred in the last nine years.

Over this same period, our residents have experienced more frequent and concerning encounters. Livestock kills, bears breaking into grain bins, and bears wandering into hamlets and even into buildings are becoming more common. While the Waterton Biosphere has done an excellent job supporting mitigation efforts, the situation remains a pressing concern for our rural communities.

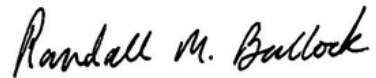
We would like to request the following from your department.

1. Develop or enhance the provincial strategy on managing grizzly bears in Southern Alberta, and especially BMA 6.
2. Increase support and funding for the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association and the local municipality to expand mitigation programs.
3. Ensure clear response protocol for conservation officers, Fish and Wildlife officers, municipal staff, and citizens, so it is well understood what actions can and cannot be taken when a grizzly bear threatens public safety.

Both Cardston County and the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 Council are open to discussions with your department, other municipalities, and environmental organizations to develop a strategy for bear safety. However, our citizens deserve to live without fear of a bear attack while working on their own properties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your input on this critical situation.

Respectfully,



Randy Bullock
Reeve, Cardston County



Rick Lemire
Reeve, MD of Pincher Creek No.9

CC: MLA Joseph Schow
CC: MLA Chelsae Petrovic
CC: Town of Cardston



Pictures of a resident of Cardston County who was fishing on the St. Mary's River

Below, Bear within a farmyard in the hamlet of Kimball

