

Wildlife Act Review

Submission Comment 284:

Contributor: Individual

Primary interests:

- Protection and conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Hunting of wildlife
- Management and control of wildlife causing problems or damage

Comment

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input into the review process. My comments on the review will be in relation to Hunting and the possible conflicts of interest between community members. I personally have an interest in hunting. I believe it's an ethical and productive measure for controlling introduced animals, as well as providing food and well being through exercise and the outdoors. It's also a large part of human history/culture as it's been practiced by practically ALL races and cultures across the globe for thousands of years.

Conflict of interest:

I believe that a conflict of interest exists between people who utilise animals as a resource (e.g farmers and hunters) and groups lobbying for stricter/broader definitions/regulations for protections to animals at the expense of the public's ability to manage said species. I believe some lobbying groups are slowly yet constantly pushing for changes that make hunting or farming practices harder to participate in, without actually delivering a benefit in the end. E.g. The definition of sentience, or removing the act of killing an animal for hunting from the exemptions of the wildlife act.

2: Sentience

I believe defining some animals as sentient will hinder, not help animal welfare or management. Sentience doesn't dictate if an animal can or can't suffer. All animals will, and already do, have reasonable protections to minimise suffering without reference to sentience. Adding sentience implies an inequality between animals, despite all being able to suffer. This term will essentially create an emotional label that'll be leveraged to increase regulations and make some activities involving animals harder to legally participate in, despite the adequate and realistic protections these animals will already have.

Overall, hunting is a large part of humanity as it has been practiced for almost all of human history, despite our modern lifestyle. Hunting should be protected for those who chose to participate in it.

Provided June 30/2021