



Reference: 49099

June 29, 2026

VIA EMAIL: president@bcnature.ca

Nancy Flood, President
BC Nature
1620 Mount Seymour Road
North Vancouver, British Columbia
V7G 2R9

Dear Nancy Flood:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2026, to the Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia and the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests, regarding the proposed August private land black bear hunt in the lower mainland region. As Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), I am pleased to respond and apologize for the lengthy delay.

Online public engagement on proposed wildlife regulations is a useful tool to inform the public on proposed change and solicit feedback from individuals and organizations, such as BC Nature. Your feedback on this proposal is thoughtful and appreciated.

The black bear hunt proposal was shaped by requests from some fruit and vegetable producers to extend black bear hunting seasons into August, consistent with seasons in place in the Kootenay and Okanagan regions and to mitigate concerns surrounding crop depredations while providing further hunting opportunities. This issue impacts surrounding Fraser Valley berry farms, as well as farms and gardens in the Pemberton and Powell River areas.

The Province prefers approaches that support non-lethal bear deterrence strategies, such as elimination of attractants, scare tactics, and small-scale fencing. However, some of these tactics are not practical on large-scale agricultural operations or can have negative unintended consequences on movements or migrations of other wildlife species. The proposal acknowledges that hunters can also help mitigate concerns

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related to agriculture and wildlife, when wildlife populations are healthy and abundant, such is the case with black bears.

In light of agriculture mitigation options, stakeholder and public feedback, hunting opportunities and effectiveness, this proposal was not approved. We thank you for your input and sharing your concerns through the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randene Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "N".

Randene Neill
Minister

pc: The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia

The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests