



**BACKCOUNTRY**  
**HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**July 23, 2020**

**BC Environmental Assessment Office**

**RE: Draft Information Requirements for Tenas Coal Project – Public**

The British Columbia Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BCBHA) is a rapidly growing organization of hunter-conservationists. Our organization has recently learned of the new construction proposed for the Tenas Project by Telkwa Coal Limited near Telkwa, BC.

The BCBHA is especially concerned about the impact to the acknowledged caribou habitat in the near vicinity of this proposed project. This project is also founded on a productive tributary of the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers, home to recognized cultural and recreational fisheries. The potential for disruption of high value wildlife movement and habitat connectivity, as well as the fragmentation of the directly adjacent wilderness from this proposal is significant.

The effects that this project could impose onto the surrounding fish and wildlife habitat is not confined to the proposed project border. The proposed mine area footprint is found within the Critical Habitat Area identified in 2014 by the Minister of Environmental and Climate Change Canada and is immediately adjacent to core critical habitat identified for the Telkwa Caribou Herd. The Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area is recognized as a critical component in the conservation of the caribou herd. Threats to the viability of this habitat by increased industrial activity in the near vicinity may be significant and should be addressed.

The BCBHA also recognizes the economic opportunity for the Village of Telkwa and the surrounding area and the history surrounding coal mining in the region. However, the regulation of the environmental impacts of development must adhere to a standard acceptable to British Columbians.

The management of natural habitat for all wildlife species in British Columbia is one of the core values of the BC Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. Our organization firmly believes that effective and healthy habitat is critical in order to sustain wildlife populations and provide high quality hunting, fishing and backcountry recreational opportunities for future generations.

We respectfully request that Government of British Columbia consider our request for the fish and wildlife habitat to be closely studied and be comprehensively reviewed during the environmental assessment period.

Yours in Conservation,

Tristan McMullan

Region 6 Lead, British Columbia Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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