

November 1, 2017

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your email regarding the injured black bear in the Bragg Creek area. Seeing an injured wild animal in their natural environment can be heartbreaking, and I certainly appreciate and share your interest and concern for this bear. My staff, along with our Fish and Wildlife Officer colleagues in the Bragg Creek area, have been monitoring this bear on an ongoing basis.

Through our frequent monitoring of this yearling bear, our experts indicate the bear has been actively feeding and moving throughout its normal habitat. It is important that we provide ample space for this bear to continue feeding and preparing to hibernate for the winter. The best thing for this bear would be for it to wake up next spring in its own home range as a wild, free bear that has healed as best it can from an injury it unfortunately has suffered.

In choosing this course of action, I have sought advice from internal and external bear experts, who have provided their input and support for our decision to refrain from our rescuer impulse. The injury to this bear is one it can heal from if protected from disturbance by humans and with adequate food. While the injury may result in a lasting impairment, it is unlikely this impairment will impede its ability to forage or travel. Indeed, there are other bears in the wild with similar injuries, which have survived, thrived and produced offspring.

I also recognize the desire to allow this bear to be held in captivity and treated for the injury. The bear experts feel this action may place the bear at significant risk, inflict pain and add additional stress (in particular where the treatment for the injured leg may require the re-breaking and setting of the limb).

We will continue to monitor and evaluate this bears condition on the ground. For more information or updates, please feel free to contact the Environment and Parks Information Centre at 780-310-3773.

Thank you again for your concern for Alberta wildlife. Protecting the environment we live in is essential to growing Alberta. With the support of Albertans like you, I am confident that we can make smart decisions that are focused on the long-term well-being of Alberta's families, communities, public lands, forests, fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,



Andre Corbould, Deputy Minister