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Gord Follett

Newfoundland Sportsman Mag

P.O Box 13754, Station A

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St John's N.L

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Dear Gord,

Lately through different news papers, magazines and the general public there has been a lot of talk about hunters using Drones, Helicopters or Bush Planes to spot and stalk animals from the air, in particularly Drones. Now I realize people enjoy their high-tech toy's however we have to draw a line in the sand somewhere when it comes to hunting land mammals from the air. There still seems to be an increasingly distorted view of wilderness that is enough to bring tears to a glass eye. If a person wants to harvest a moose in Newfoundland or an Eland in Africa if fair chase is not incorporated from the beginning of the harvest, it's a disgrace to hunters and a negative for the whole hunting culture world wide. Yes, there is some controls put in place for air travel in and out of remote wilderness areas, that really should be increased if anything. An example would be no hunting a day or two after you fly into a remote hunting camp. This puts the hunter and animal being harvested at some form of level playing field where the animal has a chance to escape or move out of the area.

World wide there is huge problem with poaching and the indiscriminate slaughter of our precious wildlife resources. Drones in the hands of the wrong people are as dangerous as any form of new technology if used as a means to spot and stalk land mammals. Any body looking for this kind of an edge in the woods should really reconsider how bad this practice is, because as we all know, through media and our peers the world does have its share of criminals and kook's who got no respect for nothing or nobody. They will take what ever they can shoot with no regards for the next generation.

As amusing as Drones maybe to some people for hunting and giving the rapid pace of technology in this 21st century we can not allow people to engage in this practice during harvest time at least. Wilderness areas in this province and world wide have enough challenges through encroachment, remote cabin development and indiscriminate dumping to deal with let alone this new technology, compromising the bit of wildlife we have left. I ask Shane Mahoney and many government leaders to please put legislative controls in place before Drones become as cheap and easy to use as a cigarette lighter. The truth is people hunting by air in whatever means has a huge advantage over the animal they are after which is simply wrong. One example is the Satellite telemetry used by Quebec and Newfoundland governments to track the George River Caribou herd migrations in Labrador. Every man and his dog had online access to this information that only the biologist should have had access to. Criminals and the like could go on line and estimate where the herd was at an approximate time. No fair chase here, that's for damn sure! This kind of technology definitely didn't help the plight of the George River Caribou in the long run and will not help Newfoundland's 15-million-dollar Woodland caribou research initiative neither.

Yours in Conservation

Anthony J O'Leary

Cc:

Honorable Prime Minister Trudeau

Honorable Premier Dwight Ball

Honorable Andrew Parsons

Shane Mahoney

The Compass

The Herald

Evening Telegram