

Documentation on River Otter introduction

In the “Freedom of Information paper work” (FOIP) that is being presented on this website it clearly shows that Sustainable Resources Development (SRD) and the Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division has transplanted river otters west of Rocky Mountain House on three separate occasions. In conversations our group has had with staff at the Clearwater region Fish & Wildlife headquarters they admitted acknowledgement that they knew there were river otters present and there was a concern, but they sure as hell wouldn’t admit the disastrous situation was created by their own office.

Our group only found out the real truth of the matter because we were suspicious that the only way the situation developed was through Fish & Wildlife so we requested the Freedom of Information Paperwork you see on this site. These transplants of River otters took place before 1990 in 1992 and again since 1992 and from hence forward the otters have been aloud to roam and procreate freely. Our group cannot figure out for the life of us why the supposed custodians of our watersheds and fisheries would introduce/transplant River Otters into an already obviously volatile situation.

There is no natural predator present to control the otter’s numbers and they reproduce quickly having litters of pups upwards of three and four. They are fish eating machines that have now been prospering at the hands of the individuals (SRD & Fish & Wildlife) who are employed to ensure sustainability and look after the health and welfare of our trout populations. The area they have transplanted the otters into in the Clearwater region possess confined small lakes and streams that have very susceptible populations of trout.

These streams and lakes suffer immeasurably from lack of effective enforcement, policing, poorly written legislation as well as ridiculously low minimum fines for illegal retention. These over sights result in an illegal retention level of (up to 39%-49%) which on its own drastically limits trout population carrying capacities. Illegal retention has clearly decimated the larger more mature trout on so many of the streams in this region resulting in a disastrous situation where natural recruitment is extremely low. What few mature spawners the consumptive anglers doesn’t retain through illegal retention the river otters sure as hell take care of (consume). Even without the otters present the fisheries were in serious trouble so what do Sustainable Resources Development (SRD) and the regional Fish & Wildlife division do they put river otters into the fray as if everything wasn’t bad enough. What other disastrous occurrences have transpired at the hands of a reckless SRD and Fish & Wildlife Division and how many other half truths, lies and cover ups have occurred that the public will never be able to expose.