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It's most important that it be recognized that this particular stretch of the Peace River, from Ft. St. John to Hudson's Hope, continues to be a veritable Canadian Serengeti. Indeed when one drives through Bear Flats it is a regular feature to see not just one or two deer grazing out on the Boon's ranch lands but a herd of some 5 to 20! of the ungulates out in the Boon family fields.

As it happens, I was with the archaeological survey crews working on the Site C project for four summers and on one particular morning when we drove up through a ranch at the far end of Bear Flats and looked down on the extensive delta flats of the Halfway River just above where it drains into the Peace River, we got to admire some 8? 10? or was it 12! moose grazing on willow and other shrubs. Even to this day, I find this scene hard to believe, especially since it reminded me so much of our tour of the Okavango delta in Botswana some years ago which absolutely abounds in African wildlife during their winter season.

Indeed, Alexander Mackenzie decided this territory was the ideal location to establish the North West Company's first trading post next to the Rocky mountains. And why? It was here they were able to secure enough game needed for pemmican in order to keep the company's well manned fur brigades supplied in food to get them back to Canada.

Journal entry, May 16 1793 at Pine River confluence into Peace:

"...This spot would be an ideal situation for a fort or factory, as...there's every reason to believe the country abounds in beaver. As for the other animals, they are in evident abundance, as in every direction the elk and the buffalo are seen in possession of the hills...The land above the spot where we encamped, spreads into an extensive plain (Bear Flats)...The country is so crowded with animals to have the appearance in places, of a stall yard, from the state of the ground, and the quantity of dung which is scattered over it. The soil is black and light. We saw two grizzly (sp) and hideous bears..." Elk to this day (or did), as part of their seasonal round, move across from Bear Flats to the other side of the Peace and and make their way down river, across the Moberly River and cross over onto the flats which were effectively stripped naked of all foliage for the Site C camp.

Ending on this note, it is most incumbent then that the Commission review the project's biological survey of game and also pay particular attention to the number of archaeological sites uncovered along this stretch of the Peace River. It's absolutely phenomenal.