



Ministers' Wildlife Advisory Council

Minister Josie Osborne
Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

Minister Katrine Conroy
Forests

July 28th 2022

Dear Minister Osborne and Minister Conroy,

Your Ministers' Wildlife Advisory Council (Council) has been active for almost two years. During that time, Council has been advocating for a paradigm shift in wildlife and habitat stewardship—a shift that would see shared decision-making on wildlife management—and an “ecosystems-first” approach to land use planning and management. This letter provides you with several updates and makes some additional recommendations for action and support.

Updates and Progress Reports

Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees

The Council met recently, together with members of the First Nations – B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (Forum) and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT), to discuss the establishment of regional wildlife advisory committees. This work supports Action 2 (Goal 1) of Together for Wildlife.

A summary report from that workshop is attached. We continue to work over the summer with the intent to provide you with policy recommendations by this fall. This will include guiding principles for establishing these committees, together with proposed content for a terms of reference.

Measuring the Success of Together for Wildlife and Improving Outcomes Reporting

Per Minister Conroy's request in her letter to Council dated February 2022, Council continues to provide input on the development of performance measures against which the achievements of Together for Wildlife can be gauged. This work supports Action 14 (Goal 4) of Together for Wildlife.

This was a topic for discussion at one of our multi-stakeholder “Deep Dive” sessions in February and is being advanced through our Objectives Working Group. We will have recommendations for you this fall.

Collaborative Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy

As noted in our November 2021 letter to Minister Conroy, one of our priority actions is to support the development of a Collaborative Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy. This work supports Action 8 (Goal 3) of Together for Wildlife.

Members of Council and the Forum completed a framework document to guide policy development and have been providing input to a draft policy that will be circulated to internal and external stakeholders over the coming months. Council members are preparing a document detailing Principles for Policy Development, building from the Together for Wildlife principles that guide our work overall.

Research Grants for Students

We are delighted that Together for Wildlife funding will be supporting six university graduate students with grants of \$25,000 towards their research on wildlife stewardship. This supports Action 5 (Goal 2) of Together for Wildlife.

Good News Stories on Wildlife (for information and sharing)

In our discussions with Minister Conroy, she noted the need for some examples of good news stories on wildlife to share with your colleagues and the public. We have attached a summary of a few ideas from Council members and would be happy to provide additional details on any of these.

Recommendations from November 2021

We continue to look for updates on the 17 recommendations from our November 2021 letter. In particular, we would like to see a progress update on the following.

Funding for the BioHUB Initiative and Data Transparency

In our November 2021 letter to Minister Conroy, Recommendation #10 stated:

"10. Work with your Environment and Land Use Committee colleagues to establish the funding needed to complete the BioHUB Initiative, which has the potential to transform the management and accessibility of wildlife data in B.C. (estimated at \$5.5 million). 'Open access' principles must become the norm, with independent oversight on data security."

We are respectfully requesting that you ensure that confirmation of sufficient funding for the completion of the BioHUB initiative is included in the Province's fall budget. This work is vital to Goal 2 of Together for Wildlife.

Together for Wildlife follows a principle of Transparency ("We will improve accessibility to information across all aspects of wildlife stewardship...") This is reflected in Action 7 (Goal 2), aiming to "ensure wildlife and habitat data are accessible to everyone, are reliable and integrated, and include wildlife harvest statistics, wildlife inventory and monitoring data, and research findings."

We ask that you direct staff to ensure that the routine release and availability of data is the norm and complies with the intent of the Government's [Open Information and Open Data Policy](#).

Increases to Fines and Surcharges

The opportunity to increase wildlife fines and surcharges is one way to provide additional funding to support wildlife in B.C. Recommendations #8 and #9 from our November letter were:

"8. Enact regulatory changes to double the surcharge on hunting and species licenses for resident and non-resident hunters, effective immediately and with regular cost of living updates to the surcharge (the last increase was in 2004 and inflation has substantially eroded the purchasing power of these dollars). Council supports the B.C. Wildlife Federation 2021 resolution on this matter.

9. Together with your colleague, Minister George Heyman, undertake a review, rationalization, and increase of the fines levied under the *Wildlife Act*. Council supports the Conservation Officer Service in recommending this action, and furthermore adds that these fines should be dedicated to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), which likely will require a regulation change under the *Financial Administration Act*."

We encourage your Ministries to place a high priority on advancing these changes which support Action 13 (and others) of Goal 3 of Together for Wildlife.

Rehabilitation of Resource Roads

Recommendation 17 from our November 2021 letter was:

"17. The implementation of a stumpage appraisal mechanism that enables the holder of a cutting authority to fairly and equitably recover the costs incurred of carrying out beneficial forestry roads rehabilitation work."

In the July update to the Interior Appraisal Manual, Government addressed this recommendation for the newly enacted Moose Ungulate Winter Range Orders in the Omineca Region that require road rehabilitation. We thank the Government for this step in the right direction, and encourage you to broaden the scope of mechanism so that road rehabilitation will be employed more widely throughout the Interior (and elsewhere) for the benefit of wildlife.

New Recommendations (July 2022)

These follow from the 17 recommendations in the November 2021 letter.

Recommendation 18. Increased Funding for the B.C. Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP)

Council notes that the University of Victoria Environmental Law Centre has submitted a [request](#) to the B.C. Auditor General, on behalf of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, to "undertake an audit and examination of B.C. Hydro's funding of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP); and the propriety of the FWCP's current distribution of B.C. Hydro funds for fish and wildlife compensation projects." We note that the US Bonneville Power Administration spent \$240 million (2019) on direct-funded ecological compensation projects in the Columbia River Basin, in comparison to the \$5.5 million provided by the FWCP Columbia Region.

Additional funding through the FWCP would support Action 13 (Goal 3) of Together for Wildlife, and we urge you to work with your colleagues to support a substantial increase to the funding provided through this program.

Recommendation 19. Funding for Wildlife Crossings

On average, there are 9,900 crashes involving animals each year throughout B.C.¹ This comes with enormous cost to drivers and passengers—sometimes involving severe injury or death—as well to contributing to wildlife mortality. Council members are engaging with staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss opportunities to improve wildlife conservation and connectivity together with highway safety, including additional funding for dedicated wildlife crossings and other measures such as fencing. This work supports Action 9 (Goal 3) of Together for Wildlife.

We recommend that B.C. develop a cross-ministry strategy to systematically review high-risk locations, and to make recommendations for wildlife corridors and crossing needs and opportunities that will reduce harm to people and wildlife. We encourage you to meet with Ministers Fleming and Farnworth, as well as a representative from the Transportation Investment Corporation, to mandate the development of this strategy.

Upcoming Priorities

- The First Nations Forum has developed a draft Shared Decision Making Policy, and Council is supporting the review of this draft.
- We understand that there is support in principle to undertake changes to the *Wildlife Act*, and we look forward to providing recommendations. It is our hope that the strategic lead for the review will be assigned to one of your ministries, with the other in support.
- We continue to work towards the expansion of wildlife research capacity, following up from the recent report by Dr. Brian Starzomski.²

¹ <https://www.icbc.com/road-safety/driving-tips/Pages/Checking-road-conditions.aspx>

² https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/together-for-wildlife/implementation/a_new_vision_for_wildlife_science_in_british_columbia.pdf

As always, we are here to support you in your Ministerial roles. Please let us know how we can best assist you, and please reach out.

An Invitation

Finally, we would be delighted if one or both of you could join our fall meeting—planned for September 19–22nd in Richmond—where all Council and Forum members will be gathered in-person for the first time. Staff will work with your teams to provide the details.

Sincerely,

Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) and Nancy Wilkin
Co-Chairs, Ministers' Wildlife Advisory Council

CC: Ministers' Wildlife Advisory Council
Co-Chairs, First Nations – B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum
Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team
Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
Eamon O'Donoghue, Associate Deputy Minister, Forests
David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystem
Division, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
Logan Wenham, A/Director of Fish and Wildlife, Integrated Resource Operations
Division, Ministry of Forests
Jen Psyllakis, Executive Director, Wildlife, Habitat and Species at Risk Recovery Branch,
Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
Tara Szkorupa, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation, Ministry of Land,
Water and Resource Stewardship

Attached:

RWAC Summary Report
Principles for Policy Development
Good News Wildlife Stories



**TOGETHER
FOR WILDLIFE**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Together for Wildlife
Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees
Workshop June 8, 2022

Workshop Summary Report



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Workshop Purpose and Desired Outcomes

Meeting Purpose:

- To build an understanding of current context related to Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees, and ensure alignment with other regional governance discussions
- To seek feedback on guiding principles, purpose, scope and structure for RWACs
- To provide opportunities for dialogue and networking

Desired Outcomes:

- Draft recommendations for guiding principles, purpose and scope to inform regional committees
- Draft options for the structure of regional committees
- Identify clear next steps and timelines

The workshop included about 30 people in person and 20 online. The agenda is attached in Appendix 1, and the list of participants in Appendix 2.

Opening

Following a welcome prayer from Councillor Jordan Coble (Syilx), welcoming remarks were provided by Jennifer Psyllakis (Director, Together for Wildlife, LWRS) Hunter Lampreau (First Nations Forum Co-Chair) and Steve MacIver (Wildlife Management, MoF). Participants were reminded that Action 2 (RWAC establishment) is a high priority under T4W and has the full support of the Ministers of Forests (MoF) and Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS)

Context for Discussions

PPT presentations are in Appendix 3.

Tara Szkorupa, Together for Wildlife

- ♦ Action 2 is intended to support sharing of perspectives and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, inclusion of habitat, and linkages among advisory bodies that address stewardship.
- ♦ Most regions have some form of hunting and trapping advisory committee, some that discuss habitat and include First Nations. There are many other committees that also discuss wildlife stewardship.

- ♦ Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWACs) should focus on wildlife and habitat, bring together diverse perspectives, collaboratively identify priorities through regional action plans (RAPs), advise on objectives, influence land use decisions, and identify policy barriers.
- ♦ They should be built collaboratively with Indigenous Nations and be grounded in ethical space.
- ♦ They will not be statutory decision-making entities or government-to-government tables. Options for consideration include committee scope, participants, whether members are representative or not, whether or not formal committees are established, and spatial scale.
- ♦ A potential pathway is to build trust, relationships, understanding; then create ethical space; then share information; then collaborate; along with advancing shared decision-making and improving stakeholder engagement.

Hunter Lampreau, Co-Chair First Nations Forum

- ♦ Canada's dark history includes lack of respect for different worldviews and our shared values such as wildlife are negatively impacted by this. Reconciliation is a process of relationships between people and the landscape.
- ♦ Wildlife management between the Province and Indigenous Nations has been contentious for decades but we are making progress with things such as the *Wildlife Act* amendments (Bill 14).
- ♦ Reconciliation is a shared pathway and supported by the Declaration Act and Together for Wildlife (T4W), and the advancement of shared decision making.
- ♦ T4W framework and principles represent a chance to unite under shared values.

Gwen Bridge, Ethical Space Advisor

- ♦ Why do we want better relationships and collaborations between science and Indigenous Knowledge practitioners?
- ♦ Will help resolve conflicts that perpetuate inequality, support UNDRIP, and address the environmental imperative to conserve and manage natural resources sustainably.
- ♦ Need to think about structural characteristics and architecture of differing worldviews.
- ♦ To reconcile, the first relationship that must heal is the relationship of Indigenous people to their land; should consider if our work is in service to this.
- ♦ Reconciliation means sharing a vision and using Two-Eyed Seeing.
- ♦ Ethical space frameworks consider the overlap between western written culture and Indigenous oral culture, supporting cultural safety.

- ♦ Ethical space is fundamentally about learning to understand one another.

Discussions: Setting the Foundation

Success Looks Like...

- ♦ Flexibility among RWACs appropriate to local needs
- ♦ Respect and trust, good relationships
- ♦ Providing ethical space and inclusiveness
- ♦ A meaningful role in advice and decision-making, being taken seriously and being seen to be effective
- ♦ Accountability
- ♦ Supporting shared decision making
- ♦ Explicit and shared goals
- ♦ Clear expectations of roles (to avoid frustration)
- ♦ Good process that meets diverse needs
- ♦ Appropriate funding and administrative support
- ♦ Clear lines of communication, no silos
- ♦ Stability and longevity, durable decisions
- ♦ Engagement with other regional bodies, the public, provincial advisory bodies, youth
- ♦ Focus on evidence-based decisions using Indigenous Knowledge and western science
- ♦ Outcomes that include:
 - A raised profile for wildlife
 - On-the-ground (positive) impacts for wildlife
 - Highly functional committees
 - Good measures of success

Guiding Principles for the RWACs

- ♦ Wildlife and ecosystems first – paradigm shift
- ♦ Reconciliation and Indigenous values – paradigm shift
- ♦ Build from the T4W principles

- Do not include economy as a principle
- Transparency rather than confidentiality
- Include trust and respect, transparency and accountability, reconciliation, collaboration, evidence-based decision making

In Scope for RWACs

In general, there was agreement that the following should be in scope (with variation among regional committees):

- ◆ Regional habitat and ecosystems priorities and concerns
- ◆ Species, habitat and biodiversity
 - Some favoured including species at risk, some not
- ◆ Setting wildlife and habitat objectives
- ◆ Ecosystem and habitat restoration
- ◆ Natural resource and land use planning and management (input to these processes)
- ◆ Conservation Lands
- ◆ Linkages to other regional bodies (e.g., connection to cumulative effects)
- ◆ Building local capacity (especially within Indigenous Governments)
- ◆ Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge
- ◆ Data and monitoring
- ◆ Communication (within the RWAC, within the region, across regions)
- ◆ Identification of policy barriers and opportunities (to elevate to the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council)
- ◆ Strategic priorities for funding (e.g., values, as opposed to specific projects)

Mixed Views on Scope for RWACs

There were some mixed options about what should be IN or OUT of scope for the RWACs. These items were supported by some but not all.

- ◆ Hunting regulations, allocations and regulatory change
- ◆ Aquatics, fisheries and species at risk
- ◆ Socio-economic considerations

Out of Scope for RWACs

- ♦ Decision making
- ♦ Methods for achieving objectives
- ♦ Items already addressed by other regional tables
- ♦ Creation of species plans
- ♦ Seeking funding
- ♦ Government-to-government discussions and negotiations
- ♦ Data gathering

Decisions that RWACs Could Advise on

- ♦ All items identified as “in scope”
- ♦ Wildlife and habitat stewardship plans and objectives
- ♦ Priority threats to address (e.g., road/rail mortality)
- ♦ Land use plans (through connections to Land Use Planning tables)
- ♦ T4W funding allocations



Building the Structure

Scale for Regional Committees

- ♦ Size of “region” will vary around the province
 - No “one size fits all”
 - In some areas, a broader regional committee with subcommittees could be created
- ♦ Considerations:
 - Need to be aware of capacity (many people on other regional tables)
 - Distance to travel to meetings can be a barrier
 - Value in starting small and then scaling up
 - For some species (e.g., moose) a broader area might be needed
- ♦ Base regions on provincial designations
 - Could be Ministry regions or sub-regions, Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) regions, Timber Supply Area (TSA)
- ♦ Base regions on Indigenous territories
 - Challenge of overlapping territories
 - Could be based on language groups
 - Good to move from colonial structure, more challenging for government where structures such as Indigenous Stewardship Forums do not exist
- ♦ Base regions on ecosystems
 - Could be based on eco-regions, watersheds, habitat representation
- ♦ Base regions on existing committees
 - Start with existing committees and expand – or does the RWAC replace some of these committees?

Participants

- ♦ There should be regional flexibility re membership
- ♦ Need to determine who makes the decisions around membership
- ♦ Members should:
 - Have passion for wildlife, support the shared goals
 - Have ability to commit

- Be collaborative
- Have a stake in the region
- Include youth
- ◆ First Nations members
 - Inclusive of all Nations
 - Need to determine relationships and roles between the RWAC and government-to-government tables
 - Suggestion for regional First Nations Forums
- ◆ Include all wildlife interests (e.g., hunters, trappers, guides, naturalists, environmental NGOs, etc.).
- ◆ Include industry (appropriate to region)
 - Could also be technical advisors
- ◆ Government participation
 - As with MWAC, staff should support
 - Include staff from both LWRS and MoF
- ◆ Linkages to other regional committees and provincial advisory bodies
- ◆ Should there be MWAC/Forum/PHTAT reps as members?

Representative vs. Non-representative Membership

- ◆ If membership is representative:
 - May be hard to include representation from all First Nations in a region
 - Need to balance all voices
 - Hard to determine which NGOs to include
 - If representative, member role can be to communicate with the groups they represent
- ◆ If membership is non-representative (members appointed based on their background and expertise as individuals, not as representatives of an organization):
 - Creates complications for inclusion of Indigenous knowledge holders
 - How would application process occur, who decides who to appoint?

Size of Committees

- ♦ Needs to be large enough to be inclusive, small enough to be functional
- ♦ 12 – 20 people (13 – 15 ideal)
- ♦ Could have main table with sub-groups
- ♦ First Nations participants should be adequately resourced to allow them to fully participate

Responsibilities and Expectations

- ♦ There is a need for a terms of reference, with a standard template that allows for regional flexibility; should include:
 - Membership
 - Frequency of meetings (in person and/or virtual)
 - Decision process
 - Principles
 - Well defined expectations
- ♦ Expectations:
 - Trust, Respect, Accountability
 - Focused on wildlife and habitat first (“speak for wildlife”)
 - Committed to guiding principles
 - Realistic expectations for staff support

Committee Chairs and Facilitation

- ♦ Support for co-chair model as for MWAC (one Indigenous and one non-Indigenous)
- ♦ Do not want BC government as a chair or co-chair
- ♦ Good to have independent facilitator, especially at start
- ♦ Helpful to have administrative/secretariat support (government or independent)

Advising Decision Makers

- ♦ Statutory Decision Maker (SDM) should attend meetings to hear the input
- ♦ Need for a clear reporting structure and communications to SDMs, Ministers

- ♦ Need for clarify about how Indigenous Nations are informed of decisions and advice (especially those who are not members of the RWAC)

Engaging with the Public

- ♦ Need for a communication strategy (provincial template that can be modified by region)
- ♦ Information shared should include minutes (but concern that this could remove safe space for discussions) and financial information
- ♦ Use websites (T4W and regional sites) for sharing information, or independent websites
- ♦ Members need to share information with the groups they represent
- ♦ Should be opportunity for non-member groups and individuals to speak to the RWACs, needs to be managed to avoid domination by one topic
- ♦ Need to determine who the spokesperson is



Next Steps

Key Ingredients for Success

Participants identified the following elements as key ingredients for success of the RWACs:

What are the key ingredients for success of regional committees?



Next Steps

Participants identified the following “next steps” for moving forward with RWACs:

- ♦ Timeline when these will developed and working?
- ♦ How will this be funded in order to bring into reality.
- ♦ Summarizing thoughts arising from workshop
- ♦ Actionable actions and follow-up
- ♦ How will MWAC and RWAC work together?
- ♦ When will government commit to implementing the regional groups advice?
- ♦ Review similar committees in the province to learn what has worked and what hasn't
- ♦ T4w hiring regional engagement specialists (consultants)

- ♦ Determine spatial scale of committees
- ♦ Initiate discussions at the regional level
- ♦ Do committees need to have equal or equitable representation?
- ♦ Will RWACs make decisions or just recommendations?
- ♦ How do we ensure government will listen and be accountable to the recommendations
- ♦ How will academia be represented within these tables?
- ♦ How are you going to feedback & continue engagement with this group
- ♦ If RWACs replace existing committees, what is the transition plan?
- ♦ What are the TOR?



Closing

Facilitator Theresa Fresco led a closing circle. Overall, participants appreciated the opportunity to connect, share and learn. A post-workshop survey highlighted participants' experiences (Appendix 4).

Tara Szkorupa, Together for Wildlife, confirmed that the next steps for developing the RWACs will be:

- ♦ Summarise "what we heard" from workshop (June – this report)

- ♦ Gather perspectives from First Nations, stakeholders in regions (Summer)
- ♦ Draft a policy options paper (Summer)
- ♦ Develop guiding principles - MWAC, with FN Forum/PHTAT support (Summer)
- ♦ Recommend guiding principles to Ministers (Early Fall)
- ♦ Begin tangible steps to form committees (Fall)
- ♦ We have T4W money allocated to connect with regions in June, and we also have capacity funding for Nations which will help work through some of the issues identified today
- ♦ Some regions will meet with stakeholders and Nations this summer, such as through interviews
- ♦ A policy paper will be created with options; regions could discuss and decide what might work best
- ♦ Intent is to develop guiding principles; MWAC will work on this over the summer, with support from attendees today
- ♦ These will be sent to MoF and LWRs Ministers in early fall
- ♦ In the fall will also start bringing people together to keep RWAC work rolling on

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and small gifts for speakers, participants, and organizers.





TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee (RWAC) Workshop

June 8, 2022

9:00am – 5:00pm

Venue – UBC Okanagan Nechako Gathering
Syilx Territory | Kelowna

Workshop participants:

- Subset of members from provincial wildlife advisory bodies:
 - Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council
 - First Nation – B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum
 - Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team
- Provincial Government staff (MoF and LWRS branch, regions)

Required Pre-work for all Meeting Participants:

(Please review these prior to the meeting)

- Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee Backgrounder (attached)
- Note that additional pre-work will be sent prior to the meeting.

Meeting Purpose:

- To build an understanding of current context related to Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees, and ensure alignment with other regional governance discussions
- To seek feedback on guiding principles, purpose, scope and structure for RWACs
- To provide opportunities for dialogue and networking

Desired Outcomes:

- Draft recommendations for guiding principles, purpose and scope to inform regional committees
- Draft options for the structure of regional committees
- Identify clear next steps and timelines

	Agenda Items	Speaker
7:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am – 9:45am	Opening Prayer, Welcoming remarks Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BC Together for Wildlife	Councillor Jordan Coble Jen Psyllakis

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations – BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum • Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council • Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team <p>Introductions</p>	Hunter Lampreau Chief Harry Nyce Steve MacIver
9:45am – 9:55am	Rules of Engagement / Community Agreement Housekeeping Agenda Review	Theresa Fresco
9:55am – 10:55am	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of current context – Commitment in TFW Strategy, existing committees, what we heard during past engagements, what is in and out of scope for the RWACs • Indigenous – Colonial legal history, present reality, and the opportunity of a path forward • Ethical space and where do we go from here 	Tara Szkorupa Hunter Lampreau Addison Fosbery Gwen Bridge
10:55am – 11:10am	Break	
11:10am – 12:10pm	<p><u>Setting the Foundation – Part 1</u> Breakout Session – Vision, Purpose and Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does success look like? • What guiding principles could guide the establishment of RWAC? 	
12:10pm – 1:10pm	Lunch	
1:10pm – 1:40pm	<p><u>Setting the Foundation – Part 2</u> Breakout Session – Vision, Purpose and Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be in and out of scope for regional committees? • What decisions could the regional committees advise on? 	
1:40pm – 1:50pm	Break	
1:50pm – 2:00pm	Breakout Learnings – Vision, Purpose and Scope	Breakout Facilitators
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<p><u>Building the Structure</u> Breakout Sessions – Committee Structure</p> <p><i>Sub-group #1 - Scale</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are options for the spatial scale of regional committees (e.g. Ministry regions, sub-regions, ecosystem based, First Nation territories?) 	

	<p><i>Sub-group #2 - Membership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are options for participants on regional committees? What are the pros and cons of representative (i.e. representing a particular organization or First Nation), or non-representative membership? • What are the pros and cons of having small versus large committees (e.g., for supporting discussions and collaborations, ensuring a diversity of perspectives, etc.)? <p><i>Sub-group #3 – Member Roles and Responsibilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be the roles, responsibilities and expectations of committees and participants? • Who could chair or co-chair committees (e.g., BC staff, First Nations, stakeholders, independent facilitator) and what are the pros and cons of different options? <p><i>Sub-group #4 – Communication with decision makers and the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could decision makers (Province of BC and Indigenous Governments) be advised? • How could committees engage with the public? 	
3:00pm – 3:15pm	Break	
3:15pm – 3:30pm	Breakout Report	Breakout Facilitators
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<p><u>Establishing the RWACs</u> Online Feedback Exercise</p> <p>Access Pigeonhole Live at https://pigeonhole.at/T4WILDLIFE (on your computer or smartphone) Passcode T4WILDLIFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key ingredients for success of the RWACs? (one -two words) • What are the important next steps for establishing these regional committees? (add your ideas, add your vote to others) 	
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Closing Circle	
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Next Steps	Tara Szkorupa
5:00pm	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>Adjourn</p>	

Appendix 2: Participants

In Person Participants	
Tara Szkorupa	B.C. Government
Mariana Nagy-Reis	B.C. Government
Dennis Paradine	B.C. Government
Morris Prosser	B.C. Government
Catherine Denny	B.C. Government
Anna McIndoe	B.C. Government
Maryam Mofidpoor	B.C. Government
Stephen MacIver	B.C. Government
Cheryl Rentz-Bennet	B.C. Government
Kari Stuart-Smith	MWAC
John Bergenske	MWAC
Andrea Barnett	MWAC
Cailyn Glasser	MWAC
Shaun Hollingsworth	MWAC
Adam T. Ford	MWAC
Hunter Lampreau	FN Forum
Ron Frank	FN Forum
Shaun Freeman	FN Forum
Jason Northcott	FN Forum
Addison Fosbury	FN Forum
Peyton Anderson	FN Forum
Gerry Paille	BC Wildlife Federation
Scott Ellis	Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Chris Barker	Wild Sheep Society
Alan Duffy	BC Backcountry Hunters/Anglers
Bryan Monroe	BC Trappers Association
Gwen Bridge	Guest
Jordan Coble	Guest
Judith Cullington	(Contractor)
Theresa Fresco	FN Forum (Facilitator)

Online Participants	
Doug Heard	MWAC
Jasper Lament	MWAC
Luke Doxtator	MWAC
Megan Hanacek	MWAC
Norm McLean	FN Forum
Lance Stevens	FN Forum
Jim Turner	United Bowhunters of BC
Haleigh Parker	Guest (Qwelmintie)
Paddy Hirshfield	B.C. Government
Steve Gordon	B.C. Government
Mike Stalberg	B.C. Government
Jennifer Psyllakis	B.C. Government
Dan Lirette	B.C. Government
Linda Robertson	B.C. Government
David Skerik	B.C. Government
Lisa Tedesco	B.C. Government
Kym Welstead	B.C. Government
Luisa Trux	B.C. Government
Derek Thompson	Facilitator
Sairah Tyler	Facilitator



TOGETHER
FOR WILDLIFE

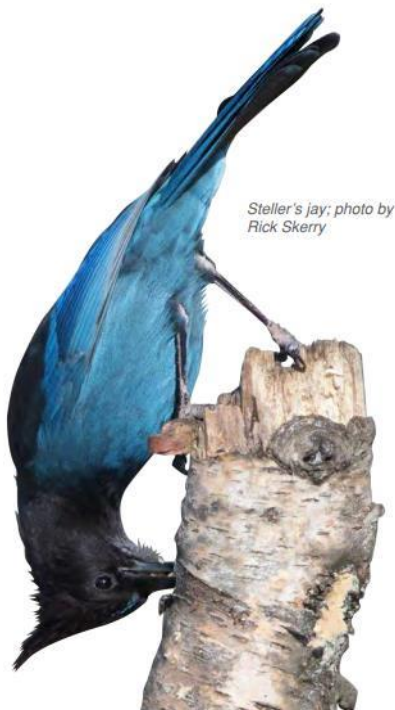


BRITISH
COLUMBIA

June 8, 2022

Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees

1



Outline

- Where did this commitment come from?
- What are potential guiding principles?
- What is the current landscape across the province?
- What are the committees? What are they not?
- A potential pathway ...

2

Commitment in T4W strategy – Action 2

- By 2022, we will **create or expand** existing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees to represent a variety of perspectives and provide opportunities for collaboration to improve wildlife stewardship*
- We will tailor committees to meet the **unique needs and priorities** of each region and ensure the committees can **influence** and be involved in processes that affect wildlife stewardship (e.g., land use planning, cumulative effects assessments, wildlife and habitat monitoring, etc.)
- Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees will provide opportunities for dialogue with provincial government programs, industry, stakeholders, local governments, and the public that **complement the government-to-government relationships** the Province is committed to pursuing with Indigenous governments
- Indigenous governments will be encouraged to join Regional Advisory Committees as the Province's government-to-government partners

**Existing regional hunting and trapping advisory committees may become sub-committees.*

3

Where did this action come from?

- Support sharing of perspectives and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Engage with a broader range of stakeholders
- Broaden the conversation (and the interest groups) to include habitat
- Ensure linkages among advisory bodies that relate to wildlife stewardship (e.g., land use planning, cumulative effects, forest landscape planning)

Image: Photo by Shan Wapport

4

Principles - Together for Wildlife

Interconnectedness	We recognize that all living and non-living things and communities are integrally dependent on each other.
Trust	We will build public trust and confidence in wildlife stewardship through our actions to deliver this strategy.
Collaboration	We will collaborate and form partnerships to deliver this strategy.
Respect	We recognize and respect that people hold deep and sometimes differing intrinsic, ecological, social, cultural, and economic values for wildlife stewardship.
Responsiveness	We will be proactive and adaptive in responding to new information, and changes to wildlife populations and their habitats. We will learn continuously by doing.
Reconciliation	We are committed to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples to support wildlife stewardship and access to healthy, wild foods.
Transparency	We will improve accessibility to information across all aspects of wildlife stewardship, including decision-making and administration of funding.
Accountability	We will define measures of success for this strategy, report our performance, and promote actions that improve implementation and the likelihood of success.
Evidence-Based Decisions	We will use evidence gathered through research, monitoring, and experience to inform decisions.
Balance	We will work together to improve balance to ensure that wildlife stewardship and the economy thrive.
Innovation	We will embrace new technology and approaches to collect, apply and share information, deliver services, and implement practices.

5

Guiding principles – Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Accountability: Members are accountable to the Minister through the Co-Chairs and commit to upholding the operating principles and provisions of these terms of reference.

Clear, consensus-based recommendations: To understand and contribute to the development of wildlife and wildlife habitat stewardship policy and guidance, using clear language and striving to address all concerns, incorporate different perspectives, and have common ownership of issues and solutions.

Confidentiality: all business of the Council is confidential until such time as it is approved for public announcement (e.g., meeting minutes / annual report).

Cooperation: A commitment to anticipate, prevent, or alternatively minimize conflict and dispute with respect to the implementation of these Terms of Reference, by establishing clear lines of communication and resolving differences in a manner that is expeditious (see Conflict Resolution Process).

Healthy Ecosystems: Improving and protecting the health of ecosystems also improves and protects the social and economic health of communities.

Integrate knowledge for durable solutions: Developing shared understandings and focus on common goals (e.g., abundant wildlife populations) and seek ways to integrate technical, scientific, local and Indigenous knowledge into wildlife and wildlife habitat stewardship, creating durable solutions for future generations.

Reconciliation: To advance reconciliation and work respectfully with First Nations participants to understand Indigenous interests, worldviews, and Aboriginal Rights and Title as it relates to wildlife and wildlife habitat stewardship.

Working effectively: To collaborate with each other in a respectful and transparent manner, building trust, for the benefit of wildlife and the ecosystems on which we all depend, and by providing advice, knowledge, transparency and input in a timely manner.

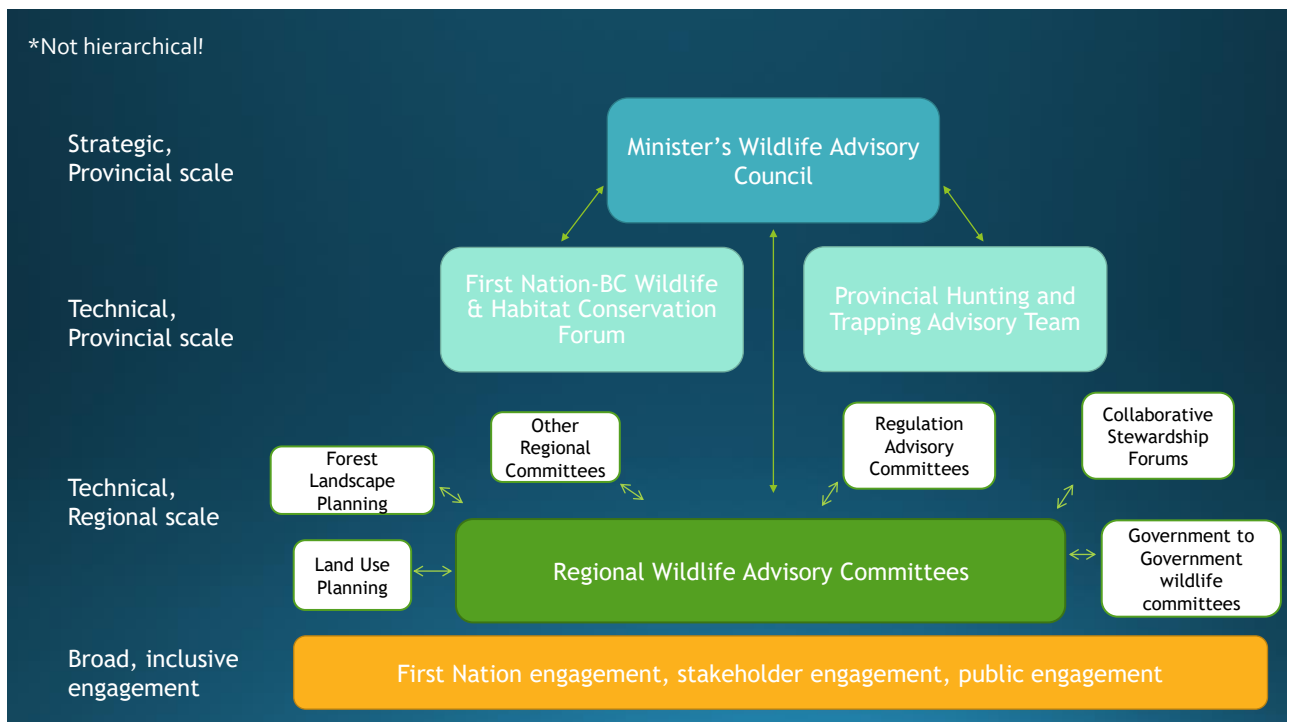
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The current landscape



- Most regions have hunting and trapping advisory committees, with “traditional” stakeholders
- Some have broadened their scope to include habitat discussions and some have First Nations participation
- There is a Hunting, Trapping and Angling Regulation-Setting and Stakeholder Engagement Policy
- There are many other regional committees that relate to wildlife and habitat stewardship

7



8

What are Regional Committees?

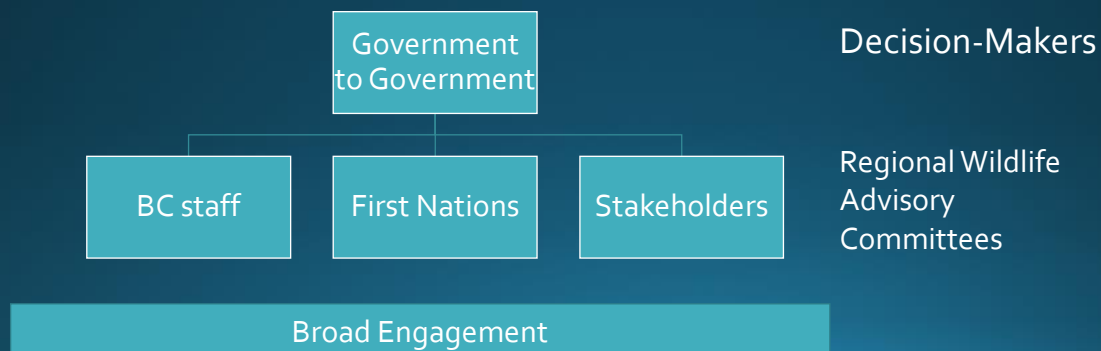
- Focus on wildlife and habitat!
- Bring together diverse perspectives
- Collaboratively identify wildlife and habitat priorities, through Regional Action Plans
- Advise on wildlife and habitat objectives
- Influence land use decisions
- Identify policy barriers/opportunities
- Built collaboratively with Indigenous Nations
- Be grounded in Ethical Space



9

What are they not?

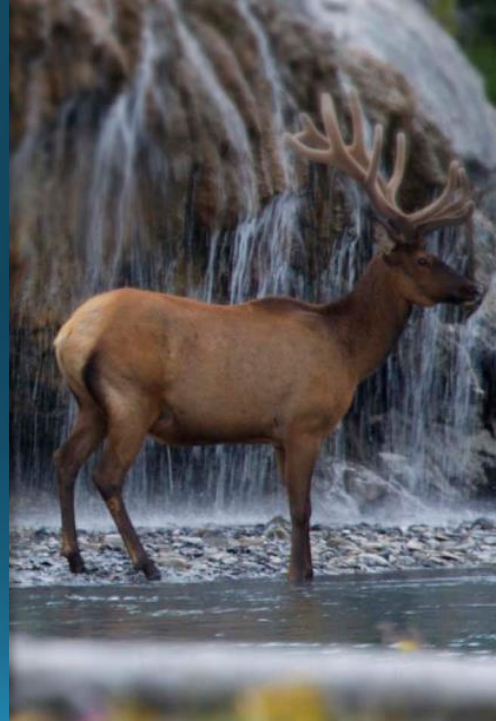
- Statutory decision-making entities
- Government to Government tables



10

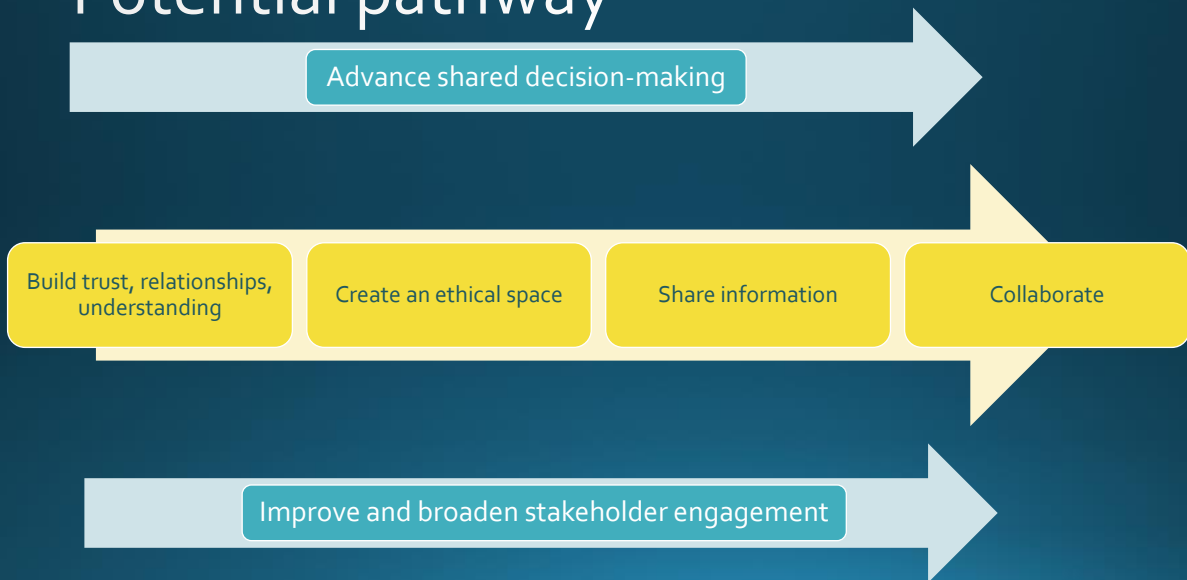
Where do we have options?

- Scope of committees (e.g., hunting and trapping regulations)
- Committee participants (e.g., which stakeholders)
- Representative or non-representative
- Formal committees versus engagement structures
- Spatial scale



11

Potential pathway



12

Thank you!



13

Next steps – to be updated during workshop!

- Summarise “what we heard” from workshop (June)
- Gather perspectives from First Nations, stakeholders in regions (Summer)
- Draft a policy options paper (Summer)
- Develop guiding principles - MWAC, with your support (Summer)
- Recommend guiding principles to Minister (Fall)

14

Together for Wildlife Governance & RWAC's.

Presentation to the RWAC workshop
by Hunter Lampreau.

All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

1

Introduction

- Member of the Secwepemc Nation, Simpcw on my father's side, Neskonalith on my Mothers.
- Bachelor of Geography & Environmental Studies Candidate.
- Qwelmintec Secwepemc - Wildlife Strategic Coordinator.

All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

2

Presentation contents:

- Canada's dark history - Indigenous 'relations' & the land management regime.
- BC's Wildlife history, what has made wildlife controversial to collaborate on?
- Reconciliation; our shared pathway
- Together for Wildlife - Proposed Governance Framework

All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

3

Canada's Dark History.

Terra Nullius & the Doctrine of Discovery; Papal bulls that enabled early exploration & land 'discovery' to be seen as legal/moral justification of ownership.

Legislated Assimilation; Laws to ease the Land Question.

1400~

1820-1927

1763

1876

Royal Proclamation; Strict protocols guiding Colonies to negotiate land cessions with Indigenous peoples.

The Indian Act; A tool of Imposition & Assimilation.

All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

4

BC's Wildlife History.

Declarations of Nations; Memorial to Sir Wilfred & the Tahltan Declaration as a response to the expanding BC Government.

The Declaration Act; A Recognition Based Path Forward

1910

2019

1982

2021

Section 35, The Constitution Act; Protection of Recognized Indigenous & Treaty Rights.

Together for Wildlife; What's first & what's next.

All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

5

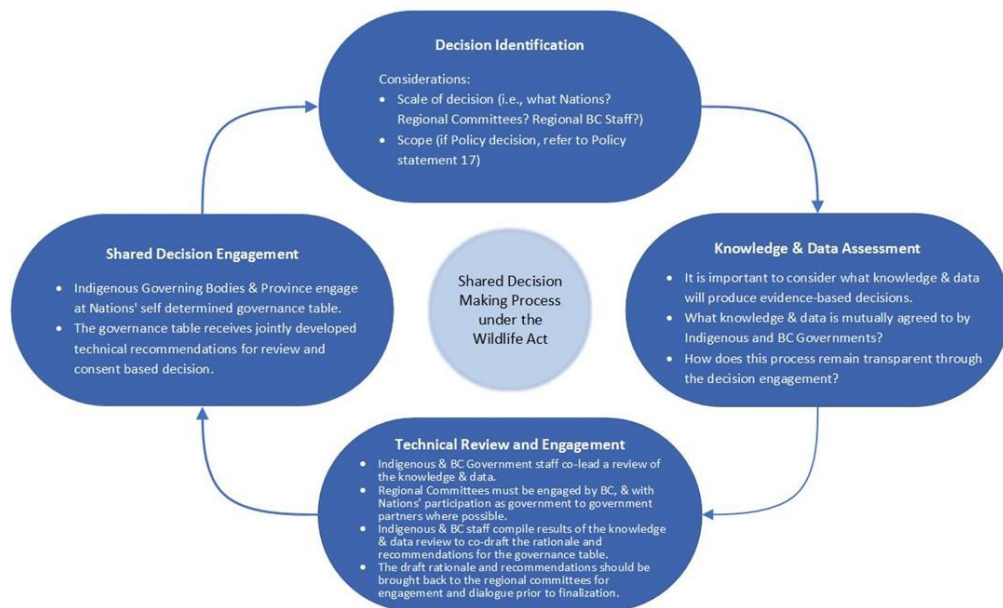
Reconciliation; Our Shared Pathway

- Declaration Act, 2019 & T4W prioritize shared decision making between Nations & BC.
- With the right principles, T4W governance work represents a chance to unite people on our common values.

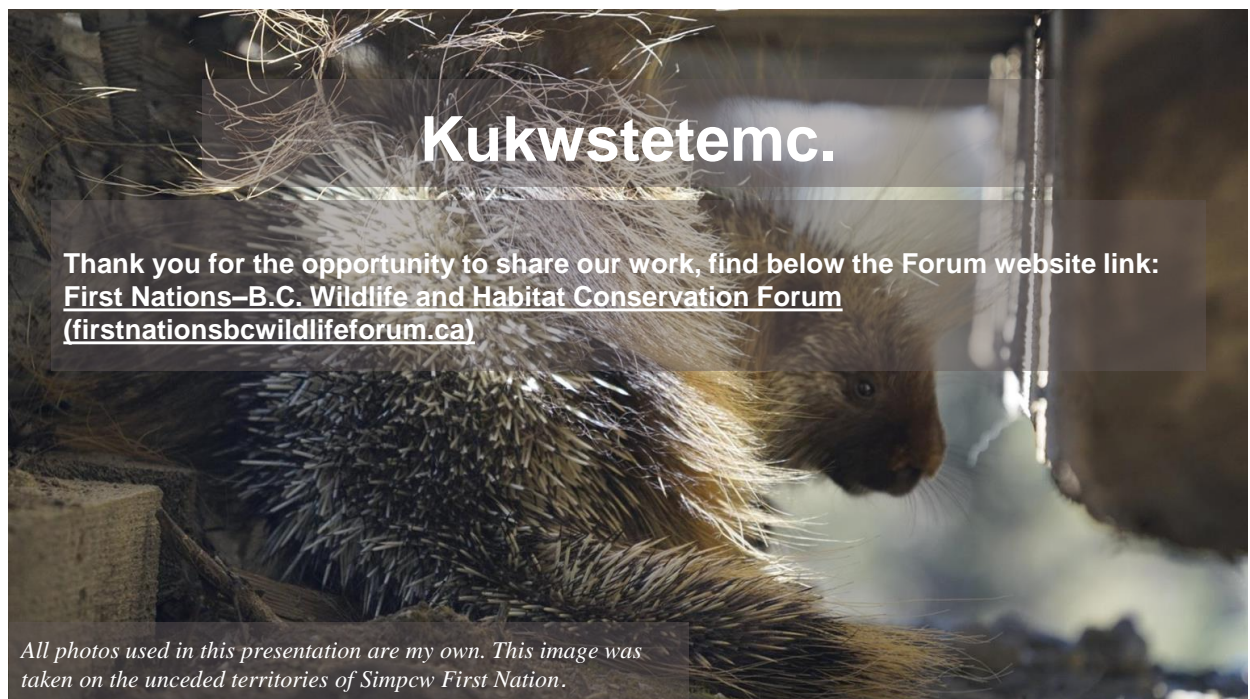
All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.

6


Reconciliation and Reciprocity in Wildlife Decisions



7



8



Ethical Space, Science and Indigenous Knowledge Reconciliation: Applications

Presentation to
Together for Wildlife

Regional Wildlife
Advisory Committee
(RWAC) Workshop
June 8 2022

By: Gwen Bridge

1

Agenda Overview - Framework for the future

1. Why do we want to better relationships or collaborations between science and indigenous knowledge practitioners?

- Resolve conflicts that perpetuate inequality,
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- Conserve and manage natural resources sustainably, IUCN, COP 26

What do we need to know?

- UNDRIP
- Reconciliation: worldviews and ways of knowing?
- Structural characteristics of these worldviews?
- Deep understanding of the challenges to working together as ecologists and indigenous knowledge holders

2. 3. What happens when we know it?

- We practice open-mindedness and creativity to provide guidance towards a more equitable and sustainable future
- We understand our role and our influence in improving ecological management

2

UNDRIP

- States to:
 - 1. acknowledge and recognize rights
 - 2. protect those rights
 - 3. pay to protect, redress, mitigate impacts to, those rights

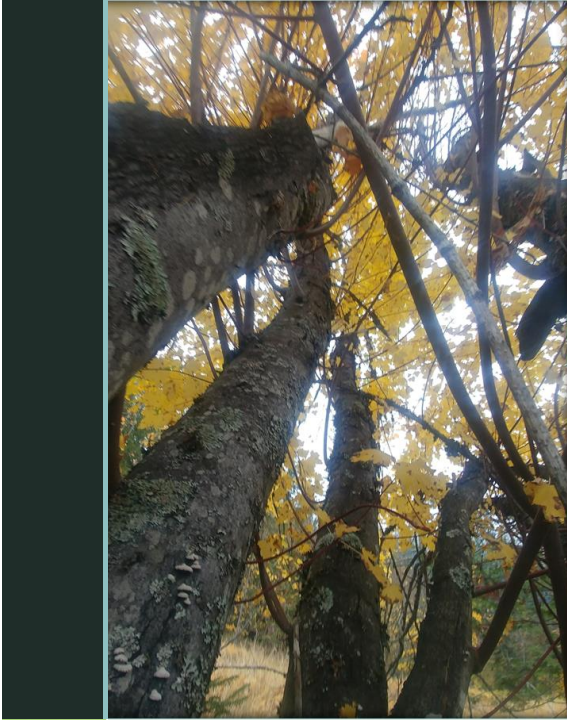
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Specific UNDRIP articles

Broad and wholistic: culture is connected to relationships to land

- Article 20 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their **political, economic and social systems or institutions**, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of **subsistence and development**, and to engage freely in all their **traditional and other economic activities**

4



- Article 27 To establish and implement, with indigenous peoples, a system whereby **indigenous people's laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems are recognized**, and indigenous rights can be adjudicated.

5

Reconciliation

- Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2015
 - 94 calls to action
 - 47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
 - To reconcile, the first relationship that must **heal is the relationship of indigenous people to their land**

6

How to reconcile?

- What does reconciliation mean?
- It means sharing a vision, one that is in focus for both entities?
- We are seeing out of only one eye if we attempt to create a vision without indigenous people (the second eye)



7

Ethical Space

- Before we can reconcile, we need to understand what that other eye is seeing. We will miss our target if we don't have that **depth perception** provided by **binocular vision**
- "it means having a **visual field** which is put together by the brain with input from both eyes."



8



Reg Crowshoe, Voices of Understanding, Alberta Energy Regulator

Ethical Space frameworks

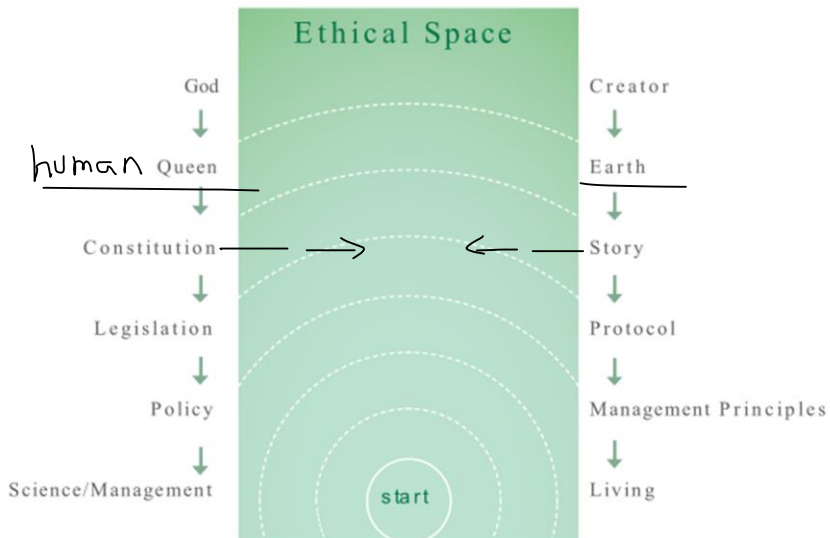
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What is in those cultures?

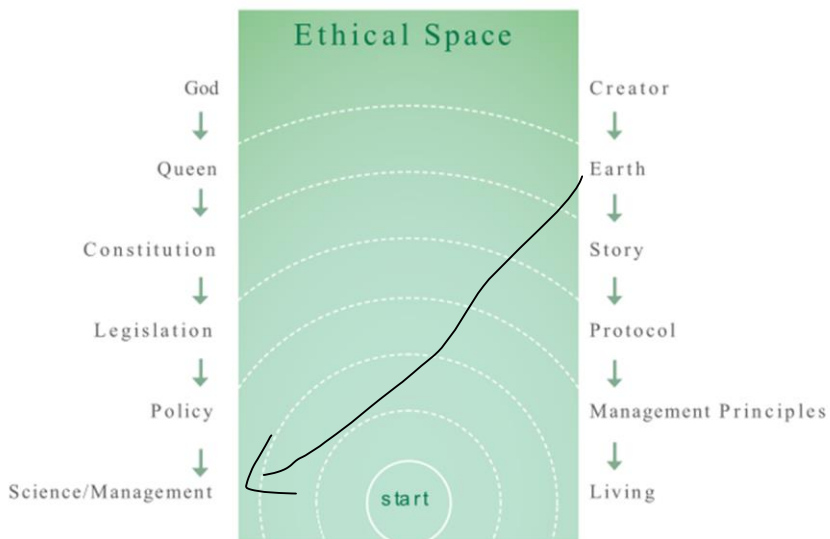
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ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



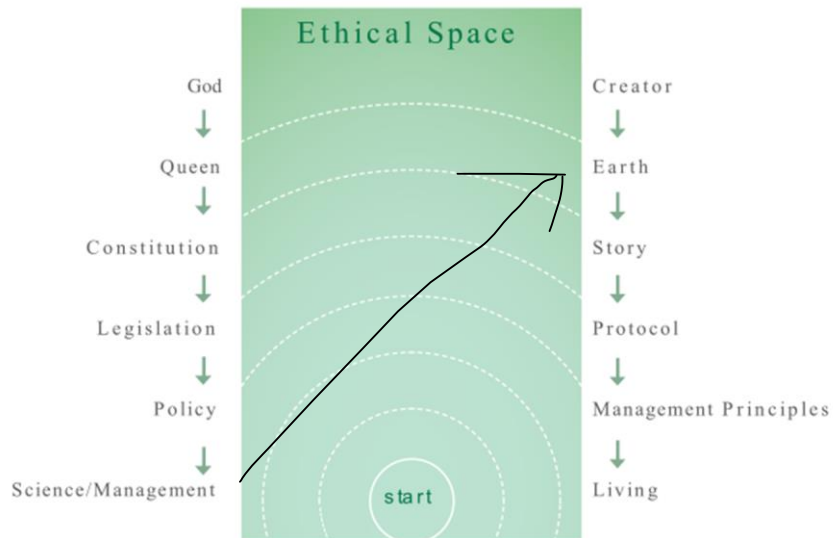
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ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



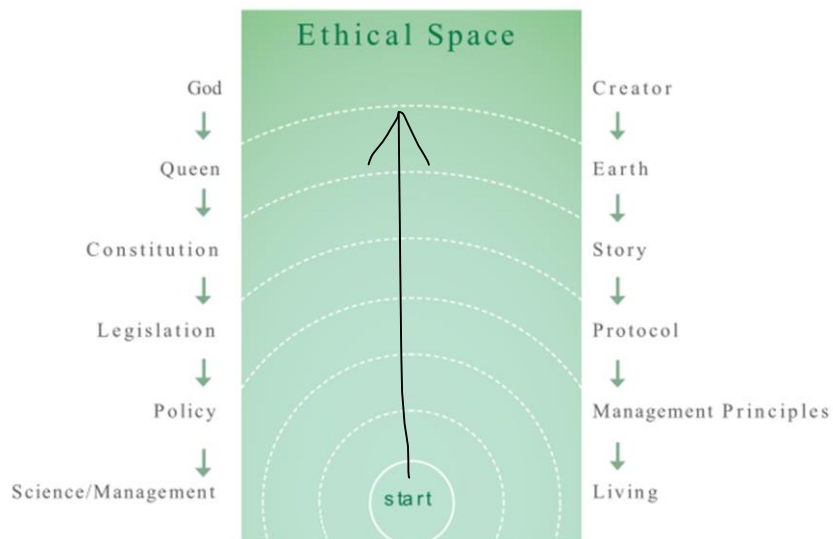
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ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



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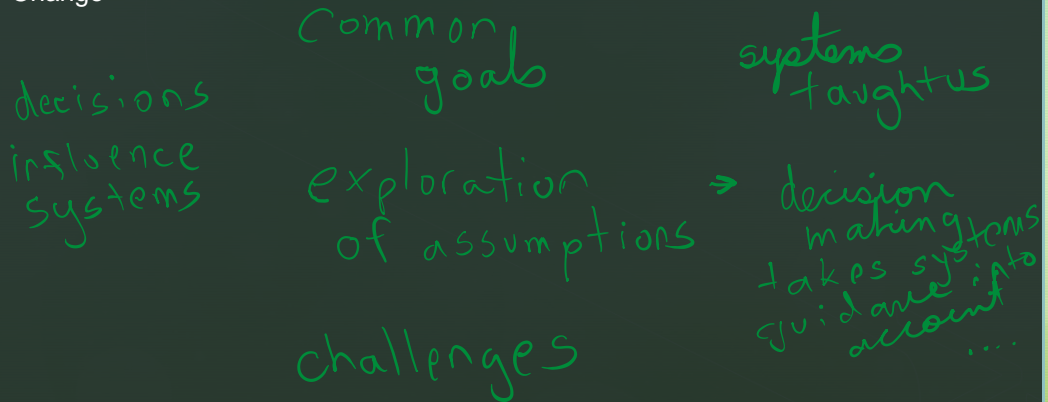
ETHICAL SPACE AND RECONCILIATION



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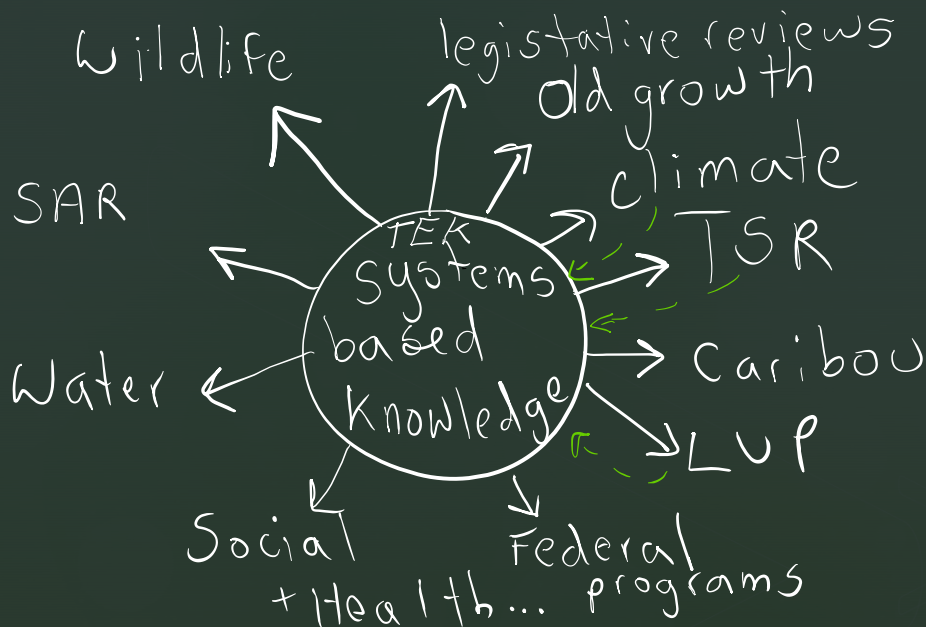
Regional and Organizational Strategy

- Typical Planning - Theory of Change
- Ethical Space
- Creation stories and protocol



15

Centering Indigenous Knowledge



16

Pragmatic approach

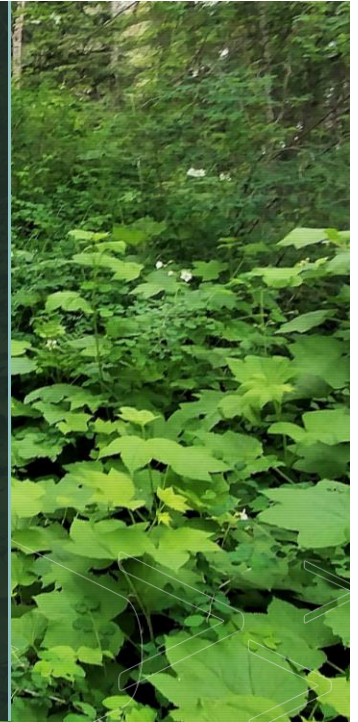
- What level are we working at? I understand the system
- Principle based approach, I understand the significance of the knowledge
- Transparency
- Capacity, challenges and supports?
- Trust and time.

Gwen Bridge

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250-826-2265

Gwenbridge.com



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Action has meaning only in relationship and without understanding relationship, action on any level will only breed conflict. The understanding of relationship is infinitely more important than the search for any plan of action.

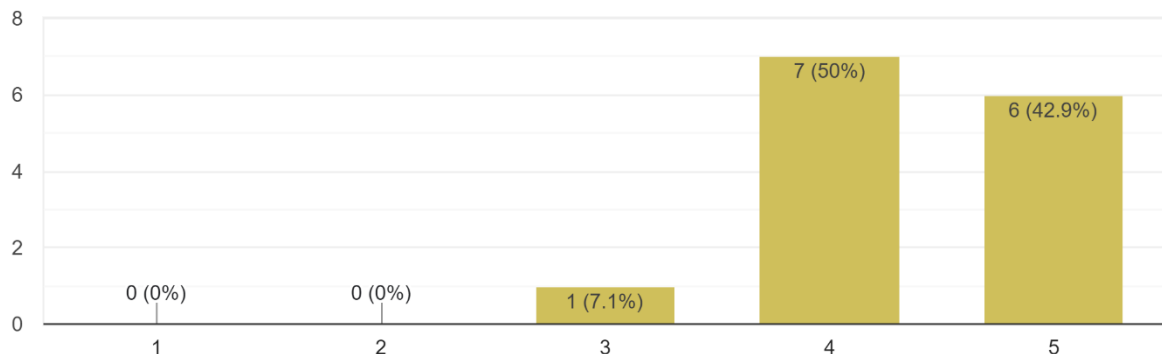
— J. KRISHNAMURTI

18

Appendix 4: Post Workshop Survey

Please rate your workshop experience overall

14 responses



(Comments are summarized for brevity)

What were the best parts of the workshop for you ()?

- ♦ The First Nations component in first part of morning, appreciated the cultural and historical information
- ♦ Gwen Bridge's presentation; learning what traditional knowledge actually means and how it is used by First Nations, and the opportunities to incorporate it with science
- ♦ Meeting everyone, meeting people in-person
- ♦ The break-out groups and hearing the diversity of perspectives.
- ♦ Listening to the enthusiastic ideas and input from the participants
- ♦ Getting to hear, and respectfully debate, a wide range of thoughtful views.
- ♦ The closing circle was wonderful. The store telling - the porcupine.
- ♦ Networking after the formal meeting

What were the worst parts of the workshop?

- ♦ Probably the technology hiccups with trying to include all the virtual participants.
- ♦ The online/half on zoom portion was very limited for the extra folks. Everyone should be in person.
- ♦ Not being there in person! It went really well all in all for technology but that is always the hard part.

- ♦ The recap of the breakout sessions showed that there is a broad range of expectations for the RWAC committees, and now I am worried about delivering.
- ♦ I think the discussion in the smaller breakout groups online were more productive and inclusive than the late afternoon large online group.
- ♦ I had no sense that we made any progress toward answering the key questions relating to the of the Advisory Committee's mandate, scope or membership.
- ♦ The food was only great not fantastic
- ♦ The dorms were very basic
- ♦ Travelling by air to attend

How could we improve?

- ♦ Allow a little extra time for transitioning between activities
- ♦ Refine the virtual platform. So challenging learning how to do a hybrid meeting really well.
- ♦ Greater proportion of time for discussion and feedback
- ♦ Summary of the working groups suggestions , or action items to keep moving forward
- ♦ For in-person, perhaps consider strongly encouraging or requiring mask wearing inside, especially in small groups?
- ♦ Clearly define obtainable objectives of the meeting and provide the leadership required during the meeting to ensure those objectives are reached.
- ♦ I think we might need to look at non-conventional ways to include the Circle Way into the online forums.
- ♦ I wish that I could have been there in person. The online sessions were handled well but it is not the same as being there.
- ♦ Vancouver would likely be easier for everyone to get there (time wise)

Other

- ♦ More face to face meetings-- it's a great way to bond with other people
- ♦ Clarity on roles and responsibilities for staff taking on notetaker or facilitator functions.
- ♦ I believe we should have defined what areas meant for this process.
- ♦ Well done a great first step
- ♦ I'm looking forward to the next steps.
- ♦ Thank you for your efforts!

MWAC Proposed Approach to Principles for Updating Policies

Principle	Description
Interconnectedness	We recognize that all living and non-living things and communities are integrally dependent on each other.
Trust	We will build public trust and confidence in wildlife stewardship through our actions to deliver this strategy.
Collaboration	We will collaborate and form partnerships to deliver this strategy.
Respect	We recognize and respect that people hold deep and sometimes differing intrinsic, ecological, social, cultural, and economic values for wildlife stewardship.
Responsiveness	We will be proactive and adaptive in responding to new information, and changes to wildlife populations and their habitats. We will learn continuously by doing.
Reconciliation	We are committed to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples to support wildlife stewardship and access to healthy, wild foods.
Transparency	We will improve accessibility to information across all aspects of wildlife stewardship, including decision-making and administration of funding.
Evidence-Based Decisions	We will use evidence gathered through research, monitoring, and experience to inform decisions.

Good News Wildlife Stories in B.C.

Topic	Details
Province is taking steps to reduce the secondary poisoning of owls	<p>Concerns about the death of raptors (namely owls) that consume rodents that have ingested rodenticides (i.e., secondary poisoning) have prompted the B.C. Government to reduce the sale and use of rodenticides while a science-review is conducted to better understand the root causes of secondary poisoning. The government will review practices in other jurisdictions as it develops recommendations for future policy.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0045-001407</p>
Okanagan biodiversity hotspot protected	<p>The Nature Trust recently bought 61 hectares of ecologically important land, known as the Park Rill Floodplain, to expand the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch conservation complex in the South Okanagan.</p> <p>The property is home to at least five federally listed at-risk species, including the Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Spadefoot toad, Great Basin Gopher Snake and Western Rattlesnake.</p> <p>https://globalnews.ca/news/8014237/south-okanagan-biodiversity-hot-spot-land-deal/</p>
Klinse-Za caribou herd has been increasing for nine years.	<p>The combination of wolf reduction and maternity penning stopped the decline in the Klinse-Za caribou herd and led to 9 years of herd growth with numbers more than doubling over that period. Those management actions were employed by Sauteau and West Moberly First Nations in conjunction with the B.C. Government, showing the potential benefits of cooperation and co-management among governments.</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/indigenous-effort-triples-caribou-herd-1.6402758</p>
Kennedy Siding caribou herd increasing	<p>After years of decline, the Kennedy Siding caribou herd has become the fastest growing herd in the province over the last 8 years in response to intensive management actions by the McLeod Lake Indian Band, researchers and the BC Government. Herd numbers increased from 49 in 2015 to 115 in 2022 as a result of wolf reduction and supplemental feeding.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/PeopleoftheRocks/videos/319964210034990/</p> <p>https://peerj.com/articles/10708/</p>

Radium Bighorns Get Reprieve	<p>Wildsight is celebrating the provincial government's commitment to a speed limit reduction on the Radium Hill in order to decrease risk to both Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and motorists travelling in the Columbia Valley. This is the result of months of effort by many, including Radium resident Nicole Trigg who drew national media attention to the issue, other residents, the Ktunaxa Nation and Shuswap Band members as well as conservation groups, local politicians (MLA Doug Clovechok, Radium Hot Springs Mayor Clara Reinhardt, RDEK Area G Director Gerry Wilke), and provincial and municipal government staff who have all championed the need for action.</p> <p>The province contracted Ktunaxa and Shuswap guardians through the late winter and spring to raise awareness and slow traffic on the hill. Now, the announcement of a speed reduction from 90 km/hour to 70 km/hour coming this fall is welcomed by concerned groups like the Windermere Rod and Gun Club and Wildsight, both which had activated their members to push for speed reduction and a wildlife overpass.</p> <p>"I want to thank the more than 1,300 of our supporters who wrote to the province on behalf of the bighorns," said John Bergenske, Wildsight's Conservation Director. "This is an important step. The Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, Rod Fleming, committed to taking action and prioritizing this issue when we met. The province has made steps. However, funding is yet to be fully committed by either the province or the federal government for the needed wildlife overpass and fencing."</p> <p>While Wildsight believes the government is listening, there is more to be done. "Until the funding is in place and wildlife overpass construction is underway, everyone will have to keep speaking up for the Bighorn Sheep."</p> <p>https://wildsight.ca/2022/06/03/good-news-for-the-radium-bighorn-sheep/</p>
Roosevelt elk restoration on west coast	<p>In the winter of 1978, an attempt was made to trap and remove elk from the upper Heber River due to safety concerns of collisions on Highway 28, between Strathcona Park and Gold River. Although volunteers from the Courtenay, Campbell River and Gold River Fish and Game Clubs were involved, some members of the local public were apparently not pleased to see the removal of some of 'their' elk, and the corral trap was subsequently burned. It was early spring by the time the trap was repaired and too late to attract elk to hay. One adult cow was captured, fitted with a radio-collar, and released. A rather auspicious start to the elk transplant program! The following winter 14 elk were captured at the site and relocated to the lower Mt Washington area. The first reintroduction project to historic but currently vacant habitat occurred in 1987 with the capture of 7 elk near Campbell River and released behind Sechelt on the mainland. Similar relocations occurred in 1988 and 89. By 1996 the Sechelt herds in turn became the source for reintroductions to the Powell River area. Reintroductions and augmentation activities continue in both the West Coast and South Coast Regions. The Vancouver Island elk population has increased from an estimated 2500 in the early 1980s to the current 6500, and the South Coast population has increased from essentially being extirpated to an estimated 2600 animals.</p>

	<p>In addition to the obvious benefits of providing increased opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing, the program is a great example of local First Nations and non-indigenous volunteers working together towards a common goal. The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation has been a major source of funding for the program.</p> <p>https://www.fesbc.ca/roosevelt-elk-habitat-project-on-vancouver-island-receives-part-of-9-3-million-in-funding/</p>
Roosevelt Elk in Pitt River region	<p>A herd of elk was spotted in March 2022 in the upper Pitt River area just north of Metro Vancouver, raising hopes for the species that was once nearly extinct on the South Coast. The elk that live in the Pitt River region are part of the Roosevelt elk subspecies, which hadn't been seen in the area for about a century before 2005, when some of them were brought up as part of a "translocation" from other areas where they were still present in significant numbers.</p> <p>"This is one of the few situations where a translocation can be quite effective for conservation," said Adam T. Ford, the Canada research chair in wildlife restoration ecology at the University of British Columbia. "In this case, the elk seemed to take well to their new environment. They're being reintroduced into their native species range, so the habitat conditions are generally suitable for them."</p> <p>Roosevelt elk, which are part of the deer family and native to North America, were nearly eradicated on the South Coast due to extensive hunting in the early 1900s, according to a 2015 B.C. government report. Roosevelt elk serve an important ecological role in coastal ecosystems of British Columbia.</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/elk-spotted-pitt-river-1.6385086</p>