



## Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

# Summary of Wildlife Dialogues

Indigenous Dialogues November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Stakeholder Dialogues December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021



---

# Contents

---

Contents .....	i
1. Purpose of Dialogues .....	1
2. Format and Attendees .....	1
3. Introductory Presentations .....	2
4. Breakout Session #1: Raising the Profile of Wildlife .....	4
4.1. Advice from Indigenous Participants .....	4
4.2. Advice from Stakeholder Participants .....	5
5. Breakout Session #2: Working Together to Deliver Great Wildlife Stewardship .....	7
5.1. Advice from Indigenous Participants .....	7
5.2. Advice from Stakeholder Participants .....	8
6. Next Steps .....	11
Appendices.....	12
A: Indigenous Dialogues Notes—Breakout #1 .....	12
B: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes—Breakout #1 .....	15
C: Indigenous Dialogues Notes—Breakout #2 .....	23
D: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes—Breakout #2 .....	27
E: Introductory Presentations .....	37
Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council .....	38
First Nations – BC Wildlife and Habitat Forum .....	45
Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team .....	55
F: Participants .....	58

# Thank you!

To all of the Indigenous and stakeholder participants  
who contributed their time, their thoughts and their  
ideas on ways to improve wildlife in BC.  
Your contributions are greatly valued.

---

## 1. Purpose of Dialogues

---

The Wildlife Dialogues were created by the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (Council) as an opportunity for people to learn more about Council's activities in the first year and for Council to seek input from Indigenous organizations and stakeholders as it moves collaboratively towards new ways of managing wildlife in BC.

---

## 2. Format and Attendees

---

Two Dialogues sessions were held, both in a virtual format:

- ♦ November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Indigenous Dialogues)
- ♦ December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (Stakeholder Dialogues)

Invitations were sent to all nations in British Columbia (Indigenous Dialogues) and to all of the Stakeholder Groups who participated in earlier Together for Wildlife engagement (Stakeholder Dialogues). About 20 people attended the Indigenous Dialogues, with 41 in the Stakeholder Dialogues.

The Dialogues began with a welcome from Minister Nathan Cullen (Indigenous Dialogues) or Minister Katrine Conroy (Stakeholder Dialogues) and presentations from the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, First Nations–BC Wildlife and Habitat Forum, and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team. Participants were then divided into breakout groups to discuss two questions:

- ♦ How are Indigenous/Stakeholder organizations raising the profile of wildlife to become a primary consideration in all land use in BC (including resource extraction, urban and rural development, and recreational use)? What else should we be doing?
- ♦ How can the Province, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders work together to deliver great wildlife stewardship in BC?

---

## 3. Introductory Presentations

---

### **Blessing**

Dunna'eh (Richard Mclean, Tahltan Band) opened the meetings with a blessing.

### **Ministers' Remarks**

- ♦ **Indigenous Dialogues:** The Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations thanked participants for showing up, especially in these challenging times. He acknowledged the importance and challenges of reconciliation for the government, and the resiliency that so many communities have shown in the face of multi challenges (wildfire, floods, COVID and more). He is looking forward to hearing about what is and is not working. Conversations such as this help to show how reconciliation meets wildlife management and conversations between orders of govt on how to do things better, e.g., how to incorporate Indigenous knowledge in a meaningful and practical way.
- ♦ **Stakeholder Dialogues:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), welcomed the group and described the meeting as an opportunity for the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (Council) to learn about the work in which various stakeholders are involved to improve habitat stewardship and conservation. She encouraged stakeholders to share their perspectives on how Indigenous governments and communities can collaborate to build creative solutions for complex issues.

### **Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council**

Nancy Wilkin, Council Co-chair, presented on recent work done by the Council and noted:

- ♦ There are clear problems with declining wildlife populations in British Columbia
- ♦ All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship
- ♦ Shared decision-making is the path forward for British Columbia
- ♦ The hope for this meeting is to establish new relationships

Nancy described the work of Council to support *Together for Wildlife* – a provincial strategy to improve wildlife and habitat stewardship across the province.

- ♦ Council is comprised of 18 individuals from diverse backgrounds that share a passion for wildlife and habitat
- ♦ A priority of the Council is to expand regional wildlife advisory committees and increase opportunities for engagement and involvement
- ♦ Council is supporting two paradigm shifts: putting wildlife first in all land use decisions, and modelling reconciliation by ensuring that collaborative wildlife stewardship and shared decision making advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments

- ♦ Some recent recommendations from Council with respect to wildlife stewardship planning include legislating objectives, developing funding principles, enhancing transparency and data accessibility and respecting the needs of Indigenous Nations to be a part of decision-making

A copy of the Council presentation is in Appendix E. Letters from Council to the Minister are available online at [www.ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca](http://www.ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca).

### **First Nations-BC Wildlife and Habitat Forum**

Hunter Lampreau, First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (Forum) Co-chair, described the role of the Forum and its historical development. He reviewed Canada's dark history and described reconciliation as a shared path, making the following comments:

- ♦ The dark history leads us to a confused state of jurisdiction over rights and entitlement to land
- ♦ First Nations have an interest in recognition and truth that leads to a shared pathway of reconciliation
- ♦ We need to be methodical in how we manage wildlife despite the unresolved land question and resulting inability to manage resources
- ♦ Council aims for long-standing structural changes that hold reconciliation central
- ♦ The Forum is working to implement Goal 5 of *Together for Wildlife: "Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments;"*
- ♦ Recent work undertaken by the Forum includes proposed amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, website development, the Provincial Grizzly Bear Management Plan and participant recruitment

More information about the Forum is available online at [www.firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca](http://www.firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca).

### **Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team**

As Chair of the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT), Michael Burwash provided an update on the diversely represented group that informs hunting and trapping related regulations, policies and procedures under the *Wildlife Act*. He made the following comments:

- ♦ PHTAT provides advice to government related to wildlife in British Columbia by reviewing policies, regulations and existing strategies
- ♦ PHTAT collaborates with the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum and the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council
- ♦ Recent work undertaken by PHTAT includes reconciliation efforts and supporting the *Together for Wildlife* strategy
- ♦ PHTAT supports working towards a paradigm shift in forest management and prioritizing ecosystem health and biodiversity

More information about PHTAT is available online at [www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca](http://www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca).

---

## 4. Breakout Session #1: Raising the Profile of Wildlife

---

---

*Breakout 1: How are Indigenous/Stakeholder organizations raising the profile of wildlife to become a primary consideration in all land use in BC (including resource extraction, urban and rural development, and recreational use)? What else should we be doing?*

---

### 4.1. Advice from Indigenous Participants

*More detailed notes from this breakout session are included in Appendix A.*

Indigenous participants provided numerous examples of their work to raise the profile of wildlife in BC. Examples included:

- ♦ Creation of Indigenous Protection and Conservation Areas
- ♦ Haida Gwaii Solutions table (Haida Nation and Province)
- ♦ Land Guardian programs
- ♦ Working with industry to raise the profile of fish and wildlife
- ♦ Taking a more holistic ecosystem-based approach (not just about single species)
- ♦ On-the-ground habitat restoration
- ♦ Collaboration with government, industry, forestry and others to create best management practices for ungulate values
- ♦ Prioritizing wildlife habitat in collective agreements
- ♦ Indigenous-government partnerships with Indigenous partners directly involved with inventory, planning and management

Additional steps to be taken include:

- ♦ Have **locally based management**:
  - Take control at the local level. People on the ground know what is happening to wildlife – this message not always getting to government. Needs to be “by us for us”
  - People impacted directly in the communities are the ones speaking out and improving management
  - Provide Nations with a greater say in the setting of regulations and what wildlife is taken and where
  - Communities need to be able to control people coming in from outside to hunt – this is affecting food security

- Enable Nations to focus on providing traditional sustenance foods without provincial interference
- ♦ **Capacity and funding:**
  - Provide perpetual funding for the Guardian program
  - Enable Nations to hire additional staff focused on wildlife and habitat
  - Manage the referrals process and consultation fatigue
- ♦ Create **government-to-government solutions** tables

## 4.2. Advice from Stakeholder Participants

*More detailed notes from this breakout session are included in Appendix B.*

Stakeholder groups provided many examples of the work that they are doing to raise the profile of wildlife in BC, such as:

- ♦ Creating partnerships (with First Nations, government, industry, scientists, students, user groups, other like-minded groups). There are several active coalitions around the province
- ♦ Land acquisition and management
- ♦ Education of the BC public (including urban residents), their memberships,
  - Telling positive stories and sharing good examples
  - Using social media campaigns
- ♦ Advocacy to change political views, change legislation, encourage more wildlife-centric land use decisions
- ♦ Grassroots on-the-ground work to restore habitat

Addition steps to be taken include:

- ♦ **Take action now:**
  - The human impacts on wildlife have become overwhelming and where we are at today is disappointing
  - Get going! Get wildlife populations turned around. These are political decisions and we need to keep on our political representatives to turn population numbers around
  - We need a paradigm shift that prioritizes wildlife in land-use decision-making
- ♦ **Collaboration** is key
  - We need to remove silos (within and outside of government)
  - We are working together but we need to *be* together as well, so to avoid creating silos

- There is need to work with First Nations who will have a major role in decision-making; also with government, industry, user groups
- Various stakeholders speaking as a unified, organized voice will be better heard
- Cooperation among all sectors is needed to develop a connected ecosystem-based management style that benefits wildlife and creates habitat
- ♦ **Make local decisions:**
  - Make decisions locally —this is a very diverse province
  - Have sufficient provincial support in regions, e.g., regional staff, Conservation Officers
- ♦ **Provide the data and knowledge:**
  - Need science-based, ecosystem-centered, quantitative objectives that are applied fairly to all users and have teeth to make a difference
  - Support research and data collection, and the dissemination of that information
  - Share knowledge (including Indigenous knowledge as appropriate)
- ♦ **Advocacy and education:**
  - Advocacy is required to make wildlife mainstream: Politicians need to put in more effort to bring wildlife back; frustration is felt when elected officials and decision-makers do not respond effectively
  - Put a value on wildlife and be proactive not reactive
  - Collaboratively focusing on making change to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* will make a world of difference
  - Educate to change public understanding and behaviour; particularly people in urban centers who are disconnected from wildlife in rural British Columbia
- ♦ **Amend legislation** to support wildlife-first decisions, e.g.:
  - Create legislated wildlife objectives
  - Engage Nations and stakeholders in the development of regulations arising from the legislative changes (e.g., FRPA)
- ♦ **Be better prepared for environmental emergencies** (e.g., oil spills)



---

## 5. Breakout Session #2: Working Together to Deliver Great Wildlife Stewardship

---

---

*Breakout 2: How can the Province, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders work together to deliver great wildlife stewardship in BC?*

---

### 5.1. Advice from Indigenous Participants

*More detailed notes from this breakout session are included in Appendix C.*

Much of the discussion focused around the establishment of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees to support implementation of Together for Wildlife.

Advice on working together included:

- ♦ **Build trust.** This includes trust between Nations, between Nations and government. It is critical for information sharing (especially sharing of Indigenous Knowledge)
  - Some regions have good First Nations-provincial relationships, others will require much work
  - Incorporate a system that everyone can trust around decision-making and coming together – has to be built, respected, takes everyone’s efforts
- ♦ **Communicate.** Strong communications channels are needed, especially when there is an emergency (floods, wildfire). Communications (between Nations, government, industry, stakeholders, etc.) and cross-cultural learning are essential
- ♦ **Use two-eyed seeing.** This means respecting and including Indigenous Knowledge as much as western science. (Also described as the ‘walking on two legs’ way of knowing)
- ♦ **Good data are essential.** Decisions should be data-driven
- ♦ **Keep decisions local.** Regions are all very different, there is no one-size-fits all
  - Nations want their own wildlife regulations, their own Conservation Officers on-the-ground. Keep it “built by us, for us.”
  - Think about how to define ‘regions’
  - Look at how to localize decisions (instead of decisions in the south affecting remote areas)
- ♦ **Think at high level AND on-the-ground at watershed level.** Create a nested structure with “30,000 foot” that equally values local knowledge and decisions. Bring local people into the conversations

- ♦ **Avoid silos.** There are silos within government, silos between Indigenous, government, stakeholders, industry – need to break these down
- ♦ **Be collaborative.** Regional tables need to involve all community members so that these tables are durable.
  - A Solutions Table works well
  - Broaden regional tables to include all members of the community
- ♦ **Be respectful.** Create a common understanding of how Indigenous rights and title are understood
- ♦ Provide **funding.** Funding is required to gather the necessary data
- ♦ Provide **capacity.** Nations need additional capacity, regional offices need additional capacity
- ♦ Make **changes to legislation** to support on-the-ground action for wildlife. Put legislative changes in place, and ensure they have teeth to enable enforcement
- ♦ **Start now, start with the easy stuff.** There is recognition that some of this will take time, but that wildlife can't wait while people talk. Pick the "low-hanging fruit" and get going!

## 5.2. Advice from Stakeholder Participants

*More detailed notes from the second breakout session are included in Appendix D.*

Much of the discussion focused around the establishment of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees to support implementation of Together for Wildlife.

Advice for successfully implementing regional tables included:

- ♦ **Build relationships:**
  - There is great value in bringing Indigenous groups and other stakeholders together in the field to deliver results
  - We need to build trusting, lasting relationships that will take us where we want to go
  - Relationship-building can start small by inviting someone you want to work with to a coffee shop to talk one-on-one about sharing a resource and how to make things better
- ♦ **Collaborate:**
  - Regional stakeholder groups are the way to advance initiatives
  - Create regional tables but bring everyone together 1–2 times per year to share information
  - Diverse partnerships of stakeholders (non-government organizations, academia, animal welfare groups, etc.) can share the load and seek results together
  - Be inclusive
  - Identify common goals, get moving in the same direction
  - Set priorities
  - Develop positions collaboratively

- Share learnings and successes
- For land use planning, we need to engage all regional and local stakeholders
- ♦ **Enable local decision making:**
  - Decision making needs to embrace more local structures
  - Decisions in South impact remote areas
  - Important for communities to participate in decisions

Beyond the regional tables, advice included:

- ♦ **Working collaboratively with First Nations:**
  - Need to create trust for First Nations to share information
  - Stakeholders and First Nations should work together to put wildlife and ecosystems first and industry and resources extraction later; that's the first paradigm shift that we need
- ♦ **Building other partnerships:**
  - Use the People-Land-Air-Nature (PLAN) to engage all user groups
  - Using a regional/local approach leads to broader engagement (while acknowledging that government-to-government engagement takes priority)
  - Encourage more collaboration from government, e.g., include First Nations on PHTAT
  - Work together better with industry
  - Break down government ministry silos as well as silos among Guide Outfitters, Oil and Gas Industry, mining, etc.
  - Use a collaborative approach to work with all the land users
  - Start having conversations with all user groups
- ♦ **Amend legislation:**
  - There needs to be some teeth to the efforts being made, such as a legislative mechanism where the Minister has to report or take some kind of action on what is being said
  - -opening other Acts that have impacts on wildlife (e.g., FRPA, Mine Act, etc. to support wildlife conversations)
- ♦ **Provide good data:**
  - Be science-based. Better data, available to everyone, is needed to make good decisions
  - Better data, legislative changes, improved capacity and funding for communities and First Nations is required to allow folks to participate and make good decisions
- ♦ **Act now:**
  - The timeline to see change is long overdue; government needs to take action now. Less talk, more action

- Need action now to turn current paradigm around - too long of a timeframe for advancing change
- Start with baby steps and work as fast as possible to get regional groups together to implement legislative change
- Groups interested in wildlife protection don't need to wait for government to come together to work faster
- A lot of frustration among stakeholders with current situation; government needs to get serious
- ♦ **Put wildlife first:**
  - First Nations, stakeholders and the Province need to work together to put wildlife first in the paradigm shift – wildlife needs to be the first part of thinking
  - We need to set objectives that support a paradigm shift and make sure on-the-ground work supports them
  - Putting wildlife first involves meaningful land-use planning at the regional level and through municipal governments and regional districts, and having the resources to make this happen
- ♦ **Provide support:**
  - Funding is an issue
  - We also need funding and resources to make it all happen
  - We need to make sure regional stakeholders have adequate capacity (e.g. staff and resources) to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- ♦ Consider ways to network on an issue at a provincial level, not just a regional one
- ♦ Optimism was expressed for the nascent Thompson-Nicola Conservation Initiative
- ♦ We should consider the book *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia*, as it could lead us in the right direction

---

## 6. Next Steps

---

The Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council is meeting early in the 2022 to review the Dialogue session content and incorporate any new priorities arising from the input. The comments about reconciliation, relationship-building, collaboration, and local decision making came through loud and clear—and Council will move forward with advice to the Minister on regional wildlife committees. The need for wildlife and habitat objectives was seen as critical, and our Working Group on objectives will continue their work on the policy and potentially legislation, to see objectives get established and have priority in land use planning.

All participants expressed the need to improve habitat conditions in B.C. in order for wildlife populations to recover and grow. On-the-ground stewardship is a priority of Council and funding has been and will continue to be directed to local wildlife stewardship projects, but always within our reconciliation mandate.

Council's first meeting of the new year will be to establish our priorities for Together for Wildlife actions and to advise the Minister on the best path forward to ensure the diversity and strength of B.C.'s wildlife populations remains a priority for government. We need your support to ensure that the Together for Wildlife Strategy is fully implemented and that together we will create a paradigm shift in B.C. to prioritize ecosystem health before development.

Thank you for your continued passion and support for wildlife in B.C. It's time for change and your voices in the Dialogue sessions have given Council and the Minister(s) the encouragement and strength to move forward! Our intention is to hold these dialogues annually - a personal check-in with you on Council's progress, and to hear your ideas and direction to ensure success for Wildlife in BC!

Nancy L. Wilkin, Co-Chair

Simoojit Hleek Chief Harry Nyce, Co-Chair

---

# Appendices

---

---

## A: Indigenous Dialogues Notes—Breakout #1

---

---

*Breakout 1: How are Indigenous organizations raising the profile of wildlife to become a primary consideration in all land use in BC (including resource extraction, urban and rural development, and recreational use)? What else should we be doing?*

---

### **Examples of how Nations are Raising the Profile of Wildlife**

- ♦ Northeast communities have had to raise their own awareness, and wildlife management
- ♦ Discussing future of wildlife
- ♦ Reducing the use of herbicide treatments, looking at cumulative effects on the health of plants
- ♦ Establishing areas to protect wildlife (in response to resource extraction due to road access in Northern BC)
- ♦ Developing a land guardianship for individual Nations, not as part of larger multi-Nation council. Plan to establish their own wildlife stewardship program hiring elders, youth and technical expertise
- ♦ Many are still new to the more formal wildlife structures and processes. Previous work was through forestry activities and processes, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, processing wildlife referrals
- ♦ Settlers (government, residents) taking more interest in conserving, protecting and stewarding wildlife. Groups forming. Members are getting more involved with the new groups that are forming and seeing these as opportunities. Potential for it to become overwhelming as momentum grows. There is “catching up” to do for those newer to these groups and structures.
- ♦ Staff being given mandates from chief and council to participate in these groups and take more action on wildlife and habitat stewardship, all species not just primary hunting species
- ♦ World class wildlife management regime is the Tahltan Nation’s goal. Aligning with T4W Strategy and include stakeholder feedback to account for political realm (e.g., wolf predator management)
  - Road block – political situation around predator management makes it challenging to proceed as the Nation sees fit.
- ♦ Takla Lake ETC. worked with industry, forestry, exploration companies to co-develop best management practices that consider moose and other ungulate values. Shapes how industry does logging on the land, based on western science and IK.

- Signed agreement with Canfor to raise profile of moose. Moose population on a downward trend so trying to shape forestry to allow moose to thrive
- ♦ Work w/ industry to raise profile of fish and wildlife for future generations and all British Columbians
  - E.g., stream rehabilitation: old BC rail line cut off spawning habitat for Sockeye Salmon. Removed culvert so creek free-flowing again – added an additional 22 km of spawning ground. Hired capacity to support initiatives; problem is that the more capacity you build the more you need. Legislation dating back to 1970's still status quo so challenging to navigate—stream rehabilitation is example of breaking through old policies/legs. Developing good working relationship w/ industry and government
- ♦ Secwépemc bands are prioritizing wildlife habitat in collective agreement process to raise profile with industry to be stewards rather than just profiteers.
  - Coordinating Guardians curriculum – 48 different courses looking to run. Trying to partner with local universities to increase their role in reconciliation which is integral to stewardship but this is a struggle at times. Community received some forest tenure transfer from Canfor-Interfor transfer. Aim to get away from clear-cutting practices, trying to emphasize habitat and coordinate habitat burns.
- ♦ Indigenous-government partnerships where Indigenous partners directly involved in inventory, planning and management has helped raised the profile. Government seeing Indigenous partners as the leaders in these activities. E.g. given was goshawk management on Haida Gwaii and how the profile of this species and improvements in management/stewardship have happened with partnerships
  - Success with one species is building foundation for work on more species
  - Giving the Indigenous Nations a sense of how they can change practices with their knowledge and understanding of the land and species

### **What else should we be doing?**

- ♦ Need to look at what reconciliation is
- ♦ The need to tell the truth about wildlife, there is ongoing disrespect of wildlife by everyone
- ♦ Learning to incorporate respect into management plans
- ♦ Needs a voice within government
  - Example: wild sheep hunt went forward, despite disease + disaster, province allowed hunters to hunt the sheep
- ♦ Rebuild trust. We have a distrust of government. Hunters were not communicated with regarding closures—Province dropped the ball. This is causing Nations to take control of the situation
- ♦ Enforcing hunting regulation, monitoring animal levels. Province needs to understand the urgency and the emergency level surrounding wildlife and habitat.
- ♦ In order to raise the profile of wildlife in BC Nations and communities will need to take control back
- ♦ Need the funds

- ♦ The economic value of wildlife isn't considered. Really need to exam the cost of good management and how it translates to economic benefits to communities
- ♦ Need to increase the capacity of locally based management. A lot of economic drivers are impacting wildlife—requires more power to be shifted locally.
  - Restrictions on the availability to travel to hunt species
  - Make people understand these impacts and restrictions to bring awareness
  - For us, by us mentality
- ♦ Saw the government's issues with the Caribou protection plan. Struggling to get data, since data is so hard to be shared between public/government/researchers etc. They established a very robust monitoring program, and vegetation program, but struggle with centralized government and dealing with service workers that don't know the land.
- ♦ Concerned with non-resident hunting impacts but also open hunting season in general given wildlife impacts; people taking more than what is just needed. Want more say in setting of regs, how much is taken where and when
- ♦ Information on websites is not of high value for those focused on traditional sustenance hunting. It is out of touch with issues on the ground
- ♦ Need for hiring someone focused on Habitat and Wildlife but too busy to do so
- ♦ Increase caribou conservation by hiring someone to get involved
- ♦ Referrals: Settling TLE with etc.'t will help. Land resource workers are carrying heavy loads of work – leads to consultation fatigue
  - A lot of engagement throughout the regions
- ♦ Perpetual funding for the Guardian program would help
- ♦ Protection for wildlife in the Land Use order
  - A collaboration process that working: Government to government solution table. Department's solution table with more consultation.
  - Recovery efforts
  - Outreach efforts including pamphlets and info graphics
- ♦ Need to maintain a focus on providing traditional sustenance foods especially through these challenging times such as lock down. Don't want province interfering with this
- ♦ Common theme, landscape is changing and this is affecting the wildlife
- ♦ Challenge with government committees being formed and government thinking this is a solution



---

## B: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes–Breakout #1

---

---

*Breakout 1: How are Stakeholder organizations raising the profile of wildlife to become a primary consideration in all land use in BC (including resource extraction, urban and rural development, and recreational use)? What else should we be doing?*

---

### **Examples of how Stakeholders are Raising the Profile of Wildlife**

- ♦ BCWF focus is to change the view of politicians about Wildlife and Habitat, forestry groups need to be removed from the NRS operations and legislation for wildlife and habitat has no teeth and is trumped by forestry legislation. Wildlife is directed by foresters and that is not working. We need dedicated funding and endowment to focus on on-the-ground actions, but we don't see counting moose as an on the ground projects and that T4W wasn't supposed to be designed for counting animals and meant to work on more animals on the ground. We provide recommendation for politicians and the funds for wildlife and habitat goes always down. We are talking to Fish and Wildlife Collation to raise the profile of wildlife.
- ♦ BCWF increasing connectivity between like minded groups to become stronger. Working to improve relationships with Indigenous Peoples – build on existing and building new. This will take time.
- ♦ Stakeholders are working hard to raise the profile. Yellowstone to Yukon is largest coalition in BC's history for wildlife; are setting aside differences. Provides really good opportunity to engage stakeholders, staff, Ministers.
- ♦ East Kootenay Wildlife Association has tight working relationship with mining; funding for elk and grizzly bear. Shouldn't be limited by lack of money – we can find it; but cannot get in the door with regional staff
- ♦ Wild Sheep Society is at PHTAT. Don't have a local club at many tables, so don't have a seat at the table (don't even get a reply from regional staff). Are working with other stakeholder groups and Nations.
- ♦ The Nature Trust doesn't have an advocacy role, so focus on managing lands they already have. Speaking out when rezoning and urban development adjacent to protected lands.
- ♦ Yellowstone to Yukon engaging supporters across the region to advocate connectivity between people and landscapes. Hard to get attention on these issues in Victoria and Vancouver, where political power is and drives election – an ongoing challenge. Need to tell more positive stories and share good examples (e.g., caribou partnership agreements) – center Indigenous leadership, pulling all of the levers – uplift.
- ♦ Wildlife Stewardship Council has a majority of First Nations members who advocate for collaborative work on wildlife and ecosystems. This forum is a classic example of what we can do. We might be working together here but we are not being together (i.e., on the same page). This is

an excellent first step but we need more regional committees and inclusion of indigenous communities.

- ♦ Urban centers should get their heads wrapped around wildlife conservation; rural centers are in more in tune with the situation. Wild Sheep Society of BC has tried to bridge the gap. Forming this coalition is a great start and petitioning the MLA. We are also spearheading efforts about social licensing on predator hunting. We are lobbying that decisions should not be based on social licensing but on science and knowledge.
- ♦ BC Nature has a strong interest in respecting everyone's rights, especially of Indigenous peoples, when it comes to conservation. We wish to broaden our 6,000 plus membership. We pursue stewardship of land and amplify our voice around conservation to encourage the government to do the same.
- ♦ BC Snowmobile Federation actively involved in caribou management file (recreational snowmobile users). There has been an inequity how law applied (can't snowmobile but clearcutting can continue in the same area). Have been educating riders for 10 years, losing street credibility – critical habitat needs to be protected from everyone (industry, other recreational groups)
- ♦ Ecojustice called on federal government to intervene on spotted owl when habitat being logged. For biodiversity law, more proactive approach that they are trying to take. Advocate for biodiversity law to prioritize ecosystem health for all laws. Question is what does this look like on the group, to support wildlife and habitat.
- ♦ Nature Trust heavily integrated with province since 1971. Lease a large part of property portfolio back to the province. Wildlife, conservation of habitat core to mandate, sit on working groups with the province.
- ♦ A lot of grassroots work within the communities such as taking the salt up to the sheep. How to capitalize on community effort, enable them to get involved. There are groups using wildlife or a specific species to meet a different goal (e.g. to create a park)
- ♦ FLNRORD modernization of land use planning. A key piece there. There are definitely a bunch of grass roots voice that are important
- ♦ Local smaller groups that provide a lot of work and horsepower but not necessarily the voice. Other land trusts attempting to raise profile, but somewhat scant.
- ♦ GOABC undertaking ecosystem health/forest industry practice since 2008. Social media campaigning "who cares" – conservation and consumption of wildlife. Must reduce the timber regulations.
- ♦ BC Chapter Back Country Hunters: Boots on the ground- partnerships, collaboration with other organizations on wildlife conservation. Usually are facing common issues. Consistent educate of their team and members. Prioritizing wildlife and valuing wildlife as the most important natural resource.
- ♦ BC SPCA: Wildlife coming into center are from human contact; responsibility to mitigate these human-wildlife conflicts. Educate tourist on wildlife, making sure they're not feeding wildlife. De-vilifying rodent species as they have a role in the health of wildlife. Advocating against rodenticides and herbicides

- ♦ The Nature Trust of BC: Habitat securement – identifying habitats and opportunities to conserve them; looking long term when it comes to healthy habitats and wildlife. Getting involved in land use decisions, inclusion of Indigenous and other partners due to common values.
- ♦ Struggling to get industry to change and adapt and see habitat as more than just a harvest block
- ♦ Boots on the ground efforts balanced with background work such as letter writing, listening for industrial developments where profile of wildlife can be raised
- ♦ Communications: Letters to government and elected officials; rallying members to do the say; writing opinion pieces in papers; lots of letter writing
- ♦ Working to become members in working groups and committees to further raise profiles
- ♦ Trying to meet with industry, scientists and gov staff to learn and share perspectives
- ♦ When trying to push profile of issues sometimes feel like letters and communications are going nowhere. Letter and info go up, but nothing comes back down.
- ♦ Fish, wildlife, and habitat coalition: Group of unlikely allies collaborating and working together (ENGOS, hunters, recreation); goal of raising profile of fish and wildlife in BC
  - Bringing attention to the work that needs to be done with F&W through briefing notes, information notes, meeting with MLAs, Ministers, Directors, etc. Process has been slow but fish and wildlife may not have the luxury of time
  - Coalition was formed because individual groups didn't feel they were getting enough traction on their own. Unity of voice - we can't do enough for wildlife independently, only by joining together can the profile be raised with government, media, etc. More influence created by larger groups/membership. Strong relationships built from engagement of T4W and development of strategy - 28+ organizations support coalition – 275,000 members
- ♦ Student chapters (The Wildlife Society): Conferences and webinars to link indigenous voices, student organizations and professionals. Build from the ground up using student organizations
- ♦ Cultural shift that becomes the way you communicate (UBBC). Regional advisory boards, working groups, promoting wildlife in all interactions
- ♦ BCWF: On Vancouver Island there is disconnect between FN and BC wildlife region. Regional District of Nanaimo seems to work separately from provincial statutes as they have been polluting forestry areas above the Nanaimo watershed with biosolids. Direct impact on wildlife (flora, fauna) and human recreation, no engagement with province, FN, and BCWF. Major impact on hunting and fishing. Seeking engagement with FN as their traditional land is being contaminated. Hot topic at the moment.
- ♦ BC Chapter of the Wildlife Society: COVID affected organization's ability to get people together; last scientific conference in 2019, had to be cancelled in 2020, planning next conference for March 2022; recent meeting with Wildlife Branch staff. We want to focus on T4W: see this as good news, ambitious plan; early days, need for staffing + resources, aligning stakeholders around strategies and priorities. Questions we are asking as organization: what can we do to transport this work? See this as most important initiative around wildlife I have seen in my career. We want to try to support

science, research, monitoring, providing expertise on landscape planning, old growth deferrals, etc. First thing we want to do: bring our members up to speed what this strategy is and how to support the activities and focus some of our work. Overall, I see as needed: coordinating funding efforts and implementing strategic coordination mechanisms to establish priorities.

- Conservation Affairs committee sent out survey to members: what are top issues? In the process of analyzing results.

### **What else should we be doing?**

- ♦ Remove silos from inside government, there can be lots of gain if we can work together. FRPA could potentially break the silos down.
- ♦ All the legislative amendment and many caribou conversations are happening with industry, it is hard for the industry to prioritize and keep track of them. It needs to be a systems perspective like cumulative effects, and it needs to be the opposite of silos, and not to have conversations with the same people.
- ♦ Sledding has stopped in some areas of the province to protect caribou but in the meantime BCTS has granted clear-cut and these two are at odds with each other.
- ♦ The urgency is important, and the minister has to prioritize wildlife in decision making and the minister and key decision makers should prioritize, legislative objectives could come out of T4W, which is great, but we are 20 years behind land use planning. Paradigm shift is very critical, we need to figure out how we can use all of the resources in the landscape and still have forestry on the landscape as well.
- ♦ Need to increase communications. British Columbians are disconnected from wildlife – whatever we can do to support connections to make a difference.
- ♦ More resources for Conservation Land staff on the ground to help manage conservation lands and the resources we already have
- ♦ Need to change the conversation about wildlife, habitat and fish; tell people stark information like the declines of salmon populations.
  - Use social media, identify the audience, change the culture and the policies would change. If you care about moose, you'd have a lot of moose
- ♦ Polls show British Columbians do care about wildlife
- ♦ Some good work – Old Growth Strategic Review (e.g., legislation), Indigenous Protected Areas
- ♦ Missing leadership on the top (“talk and log”) and lack of action on the ground - too much process
- ♦ Should put a pause on habitat destruction while planning and process work moves forward
- ♦ First year that have not seen elk in an area of the Elk Valley. Process paralysis has to stop - have to do something while raising the profile. Put our views of use of wildlife aside and focus on wildlife first. Lots of empty habitat
- ♦ Have to re-establish communication – impossible to get a meeting with regional staff

- ♦ Government should get out of management of wildlife as they make decisions based on politics. The government has no idea about the caring capacity of the land or about region-specific knowledge. Each region has different needs and government does not seem to know about it.
- ♦ Wild Sheep Society of BC has involved indigenous communities in policy of wild sheep habitat but having tech resources is a challenge. We want to be part of this conversation to provide input.
- ♦ Forestry is trying to focus on profits and turning the landscape into a single-species landscape which is not good. We need to get the fox out of the henhouse (i.e., government should not manage wildlife) so, we can have better growth of animals. Secondly, while climate change is real, the way our industry is operating, it's contributing a lot to the natural catastrophes of today.
- ♦ T4W and working groups gives avenue for participation
- ♦ Targeting specific projects that bring connection to public, e.g., badger project brings awareness to grassland ecosystems
- ♦ Ensuring provincial level organizations have regional chapters and representation
- ♦ Extreme disasters in region 5 – wildfires and floods, focus on trying to survive and keeping the lights on. Wildfires burnt half of guide outfitting landscape.
  - Major wolf problem – they're all over the place, huge wolf packs. Need for education for wildlife management. Need to be proactive not reactive.
  - North of Hope is just as important as west of Hope.
- ♦ Larger programs supporting delivery of specific actions or activities e.g. BCCF and WildBC program
- ♦ Support creating bylaws to create change, public education and behavior change
- ♦ Finding challenges at government-to-government tables with engaging government to support work. Not responding to requests for participation, communications
- ♦ Need to ensure that our questions are always asking what is benefiting wildlife or habitat, not who is benefiting.
- ♦ It's all about interconnectivity; our biodiversity and soil capacity are reduced, and we need to educate people. We can build these things in the school system and influence policy so that people learn about this, including the traditional uses of the land.
- ♦ Everybody suffers when there's a bad decision. The government is developing a highway so the sheep are dying from highway accidents. The development is putting a strain on wildlife, so we should ensure that development and profits don't come in the way of conservation.
- ♦ Everything is connected and we are seeing some of the effects (i.e., referring to the present provincial situation – floods, wildfire).
- ♦ A vast number of BC people know anything about the decline of wildlife, particularly in urban centers. Wildlife is a political issue, but the public doesn't know much. Until it becomes mainstream, we will struggle to make progress. The funding for wildlife is also abysmally low especially, considering what the situation is now. Need to engage regional engagement groups from the lower mainland.

- ♦ Consistency in the application of policy – feel that there are different rules for different folks. Good work done by some groups, undone by groups with more money – disregarded when certain industries come to play (e.g. clearcut logging in critical caribou habitat closed to snowmobiling). Either inconsistency in science or uneven playing field. E.g. road deactivated to protect fish, but then a miner needs the road so road stays open instead of protecting the fish. Science needs to be applied consistently. Wildlife at the core. Needs to be a balance, not a single species over another, connections between one group in government and another are needed.
- ♦ Consistency in implementing policy and embedding in the law. FRPA lists ecosystem health as objective that Chief Forester must consider. But not thresholds for specific species to recoup wildlife and habitat. Would be nice to see in legislation. Actually putting numerical values and thresholds in law so there is a clear backstop and money can't talk in those situations. A perception that things are way better in B.C. than they are.
- ♦ Consistency is absolutely paramount. Ironically BC known as a place to view wildlife but within BC wildlife and wildlife management crippled. Needs to be embedded in law, how consistency applied with a science backing. Consistency is where people get frustrated. Thought when critical habitat designations came in that things would change, however logging in habitats does not.
- ♦ Joining other large initiatives e.g., fish wildlife and habitat coalition
- ♦ FN get pulled into many initiatives relating to wildlife and habitat e.g., motorized closures and signage. Organizations aren't raising the awareness of these so FN communities are trying to do this but get kick back from users which isn't appropriate - need to not be opposing in activities
- ♦ FN see public questioning the need and validity of archaeologic assessments but can also be an opportunity for transferring knowledge and getting settlers to understand long standing connection of Nations to the land
- ♦ Other supporting initiatives such as watershed coalitions and societies
  - Has similar interests.
  - Reminder of how connected different groups can be and how working together can make bigger things happen
  - The time it takes to establish and maintain all these connections is time consuming and taxing, especially for volunteer organizations
  - Creating change on a provincial level is being achieved by groups like BCWF and CPAWS. BCWF Wetland Workforce direct impacts on habitat restoration, brings many groups together, may not be having policy change impacts
- ♦ Wildlife Society BC Chapter doing a lot of great work for supporting recruitment of personnel
- ♦ Biggest fight has and continues to be for industry to do a better job. Industrial development on land and into the woods could be drastically improved.
- ♦ Wildlife needs to be valued by all. Most other industries devalue wildlife - important paradigm shift that needs to occur.
- ♦ Need discussion on wildlife from the ecosystem-level

- ♦ Need to consider influences as a whole and determine acceptable ecosystem-level impacts - what is the acceptable level to the broader public?
- ♦ Focus on wildlife rehab, different laws, policy changes, public education on co-existing with wildlife, etc. in current role. Biggest priority is consideration of the impacts on wild animals - reason most animals come in to our facility attributed to some sort of human activity
- ♦ Need more oil spill response preparedness - have done some work on as a team, but limited resources to champion on own
- ♦ Advocate for food and habitat that is lost for bears
- ♦ Need a forest management plan, as we currently have a logging plan in BC - this needs to change
- ♦ Tools and resources to reduce conflict and to do it effectively lacking in the province - apply tools to foster new cohort of what co-existing with wildlife means. Start education in schools and in key residential areas to support conflict reduction.
- ♦ Need to realize what we have done is not working. Past actions have not worked in terms of sustainability - put less focus on and work on common issues of First Nations and stakeholders
- ♦ Find like-minded folks with passion and engage public, elected officials, media
- ♦ Setting strong regulations in FRPA and Bill 23 is extremely important - bring together stakeholders to discuss regulations
- ♦ Need wildlife population goals. What do we want? What is sustainable? How do we get there? Paradigm shift says power comes from partnering to have the hammer to dictate what happens in terms of future industrial implications on landscape.
- ♦ Prioritize actions that focus on human behaviour rather than trying to manage animals for issues we created
- ♦ Certain wildlife have limited human value, but have important ecological role. How do we protect habitat to self-manage rather than managing for a specific population size?
- ♦ Silos in government - agriculture can have huge impacts, but there are limited resources for Agriculture to do their work in a sustainable way, e.g., fruit trees, etc. not done through wildlife lens and could do more harm than good.
- ♦ How is industry being engaged in this process? Can help mitigate and implement changes easier by accounting for their perspectives. Need to learn what industry wants/does not want and why and start the process from there.
- ♦ Require legislated objectives to manage at watershed and ecosystem-level; to implement legislated objectives have to get buy-in.
- ♦ Province needs to reconsider what reconciliation means - huge missing piece in all of this.
- ♦ Need to consider management of landscape and establishing values and objectives rather than solely economics (stumpage) – example of wildfires and landslides and how forestry management/road management needs to be adapted to focus on habitat and landscape
- ♦ Profile is high enough – now we need decisions and actions (set objectives, statutory decision, etc.)

- ♦ From perspective of academic stakeholder: observing the energy and ideas of students and trying to get them interested in wildlife issues. Lot of interest but not enough capacity at UBC for training and involvement in important wildlife issues happening in the province. Would like to work towards opportunities for linking students to different groups in the public in different ways (could be outreach). Getting students to practice talking about their projects and talking to members of the public. Also: linking students to other groups with questions that they might not have enough time or resources to investigate, e.g., through internships. Students are interested in wildlife stuff and ask what they can work on, UBC not enough time or capacity. Working with partners, opportunity for students to dig in and shed some light on problems, learning about the organization, also just for them to engage. Need ways to facilitate this kind of training, internship, outreach with students.
- ♦ Sparwood and District Fish & Wildlife Association has projects on the way that would be cool for students to take part in and contribute to. E.g., soil sampling, fertilization on grasslands, ongoing monitoring, camera trap setups, some KPIs that we're tracking, Elkhorn west sheep horn dynamic population study; student involvement could be beneficial
  - My questions: Why is our club and others responsible for these projects and not government? Government needs to play bigger role in wildlife management, managing industry, ensuring there is suitable habitat, etc. Proud of our work but we are volunteers with full-time jobs. How to raise awareness and get government to step up? Other provinces and states to the south of us have phenomenal programs. Why are we trying to reinvent the wheel?
- ♦ Wildlife advisory committee needs to be one of key focus, is beginning of process, how to involve various stakeholders, scientists, etc.
- ♦ Broader engagement of public, government, private sector through better info on the issues, sharing of data, being honest about what we know and don't know, avoiding finger pointing and move to how each sector can do their bit. Encouraging solution making, stewardship as opposed to regulating.



---

## C: Indigenous Dialogues Notes—Breakout #2

---

---

### *Breakout 2: How can the Province, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders work together to deliver great wildlife stewardship in BC?*

---

- ♦ Needs to be more one-on-one communication with Nations
- ♦ First Nations should be the stewards of the land; Nations should have their own individual wildlife acts for their respective territories.
  - Built by the people for people mentality
- ♦ Animals are already stressed due to environmental changes—Nations need more control to reduce stress to try and implement better management plans
- ♦ Challenge of fractured relationships between everyone (province, federal, local, Nations, organizations and stakeholders), and the difficulty to start rebuilding previously broken relationships
  - Need to have conversations on what partnerships are available when it comes to stewardship in BC
- ♦ Grizzly Bear allocation project; diversifying populations
- ♦ Caribou program: public education; cross cultural learning; monitoring; creating conversation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous trappers
- ♦ Access to data. Taking it another step and making use of the data; transforming it to decision making
- ♦ Ongoing relationship building with the provincial government; ongoing objective setting
- ♦ Scaling from 30,000 feet up and getting on the same level.
- ♦ Advocates – listening in; understanding what’s happening in communities; engagement with government-to-government and industry
- ♦ Data driven decision making
- ♦ Regional approach ETC./collaboration – Province wide approach and filling the gaps
- ♦ Recovery plan – Bird protection: Forging habitat; understanding the importance of species/ sub-species on the land base including cultural importance; surveying work; protection of nesting areas and population management
- ♦ Good communication is very important and it depends on how a representative of a group communicates to and with the people they are working for and with
  - West Moberly has community meetings every 3 months where staff report on what they are doing within their programs. They need to be brief summaries

- This is the best communication tool for this community. Need to figure out which is best for others
- ◆ “Walking on two legs” way of knowing. Some provincial government staff get that Indigenous knowledge has the same value as western science but many do not.
  - Need to learn to respect the western science isn’t the only way of knowing and it isn’t necessarily the best way of knowing
  - Fisher is a good example
- ◆ Data being provided by government and western science is outdated
- ◆ Need to incorporate a system we all can trust and we all need to follow it. We need to trust the numbers and we need to trust each other. We know the land cannot sustain the animals
- ◆ Standing up the regional wildlife committees with strong guidelines and principles of how to break down barriers will be important
  - The tension between Indigenous knowledge and western science is a good place
  - Indigenous organizations already know this and live this. Others need to catch up
  - Set a common floor for how Indigenous rights and title are understood and respected
- ◆ Need to build trust with selves, with working together as Nations, trust with government. Need to work together to gather information from elders and current inventory data.
  - Need to have this data so we can make decisions like closing hunting or fishing when populations are struggling
  - Has to be a collective effort
  - Concern from some Nations with number of hunters coming from other Nations to hunt. How do we make decisions on this, must work together. (Protocol hunting)
- ◆ Mistrust comes from government science isn’t good and provincial staff are put in a position to have to sell this bad data. This is particularly so for harvest management
  - Limited budget for data collection, need to ensure the money is there
  - Outdated methods or attached to old ways of doing things e.g., composition data indicating population metrics
  - Recognition that getting population numbers is hard. Species, geography and issue dependent. Need to be more responsive and adaptable
  - Until changes are made need to rely more on local and Indigenous knowledge
- ◆ If relooking at methods also need to relook at targets (e.g. buck to doe ratios)
- ◆ Wholesale change needed to the way we are looking at things, must move to two-eyed seeing
- ◆ Development of provincial policy that respects protocol hunting and collects information to support harvest management decisions

- ♦ First Nations Summit has taken issue to Supreme Court of Canada on rights to hunt and fish and bigger cases. Province should just leave First Nations alone, respect our way of life; province should just manage other user groups
- ♦ There needs to be a change in paradigm for decision making, use nested structures, have localized decision-making that brings locals into the conversation, bring in other strategic level folks
- ♦ Local-based aspect extremely important along with a nested structure
- ♦ How Nations give consent needs to have clear expectations. Nations often have higher standards than the province that can be revoked
- ♦ Need changes to FRPA, Lands Act, etc. to support decisions
- ♦ Need teeth to enforce rather than written warnings
- ♦ Hard to manage wildlife with silos —separate branches in government exist to manage related aspects of wildlife stewardship (Mines Act, Lands Act, FRPA)
- ♦ Needs to be an investment in relationships with First Nations, stakeholders and the Province
- ♦ Province needs to engage beyond websites – decentralize focus to make relationships grow and build trust
- ♦ Non-First Nations distrusting of provincial government just as much as First Nations
- ♦ More capacity from provincial government is required to support these changes
- ♦ Are we headed in the right direction to address identified deficiencies and deliver what is needed?
  - Looking really positive, but a lot more to dive into
  - First Nation perspective – not inclusive approach. E.g., moose hunting allocation for members and First Nations: supports food security needs, no management decisions, science, records used to support, no sampling/surveys or dialogue after allocation decisions made, 5-year planning cycle makes it hard when decisions based on Western Science do not consider fish depletions to account for increased harvest of moose in response to low fish stocks, process needs to be more defined and inclusive of First Nations interests in decision making, need to break down silos up front in decision making, can continue to make positive changes in the landscape.
  - Moving in the right direction, but still early
- ♦ Start with low hanging fruit, but a lot of bigger issues to resolve. Commitments to these other larger issues remain to be seen how they work out.
- ♦ How do you become confident enough to share Indigenous Knowledge?
  - DRFN has a lot of location info about moose licks, but does not want to release this information to the province. Try to tell industry to avoid proceeding with development proposals b/c of potential impacts to mineral licks, but challenges with doing so and not sharing information. Don't want province knowing of moose licks/habitat features that could be attractive to hunters —not sure what solution is.

- Created a northern round table of all stakeholders, resident hunters, community and local area, Guide Outfitters. Good dialogue with user groups and created some level of communication and helped to build trust to discuss sensitive areas/information. Need dialogue to create trust and share information. Prior experience with locational data being shared with the province and this information being disrespected and used internally for hunting. Important to create information-sharing agreements that are usable and trustworthy.
- Important moose habitat in the Nass Wildlife Area: large area with value for calving, summering, and rutting was known to Nisga'a knowledge keepers and confirmed use through radio-collar data and was able to identify areas as off limits to resource development – especially roads. Access 26gmt.. was key and regulation changes can follow to manage harvest; small features like mineral licks more challenging to protect. -Nisga'a Lisims Government worked with forest licensees to reach a mutually agreeable solution

---

## D: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes—Breakout #2

---

---

### *Breakout 2: How can the Province, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders work together to deliver great wildlife stewardship in BC?*

---

- ♦ Need to have wildlife objectives, but committees are all volunteers, no teeth to the committees, and a lot of effort and work goes into volunteer work—if the work gets shelved, could be disappointing. To be meaningful, the minister has to provide reflection on the work of the committees. A regional approach should be autonomous; but regional tables must be inclusive and have teeth.
- ♦ Working together is hard but the regional tables should be a great way to bring people together
  - We are advocates of science-based management, people in the lower mainland are disconnected with what happens in the province, the collation has been a great avenue, but somebody needs to listen to them, and the social base needs to be replaced with science-based work.
- ♦ Danger in going along with the regional tables, they are an obstacle with transparency and contribute to siloing. Lot of electoral races and people in big cities are concerned about what happens in the province, the negative aspect of grouping could be stopping the group to see the big picture. Legislated objective is a great idea.
  - We don't need to be in a hierarchy. We are getting very good at zoom meetings and we should boost internet in all areas so people can participate in zoom and also have some budget to come together face to face as well. We already know how to work together and all of us are committed, we shouldn't organize for the sake of organizing, if a particular regional issue exists, then it can be dealt with in the hunting units.
- ♦ Is there a way that people can work on the local level and once a year there is a forum that everyone comes to talk about common problem? If there are going to be regional grouping, would be great to see the same grouping of the fish and wildlife collation.
- ♦ If we have smaller group and it goes to the bigger group for discussion it would be great, we shouldn't go to management units though, but topics like road deactivation could be a great discussion for a larger groups and have all sorts of groups involved.
- ♦ History of FLNRORD, shows that the info is filtered, and wildlife and habitat issues doesn't go back to the minister.
- ♦ The disconnect could be that we haven't identified the common values. The public values clean water, clean air and healthy ecosystem—if we can get to that will be able to get people who are the influencers involved to make things happen.
- ♦ Regional committees should: develop positions collaboratively; have system of sharing of Roosevelt elk - defined share for each group, including FN (FN report out on this); should be in each part of the Province

- When you work together and bring positions together, hard for government to usurp the positions
- Advocated for Nations to participate in process and some are, makes for a much better process when everyone is there together
- ♦ Should encourage the Province to do more on this front. E.g., why aren't First Nations on PHTAT? They should be invited, would help with misunderstandings
- ♦ Regional wildlife teams will be an important step
- ♦ Tables in some of the regions
  - In Kootenays, only dealing with harvest – need to expand to habitat, with industry/recreation at the table so wildlife are front and center in decision-making
  - Need meaningful changes in legislation, starting with FRPA (remove “without unduly”)
- ♦ Siloes within government – e.g., areas closed to recreation for caribou then BC Timber Sales issues cut; siloes between commercial and public recreation
- ♦ Need to get ourselves moving in the same direction; need some common goals, priorities to work towards, share learnings and success stories
- ♦ North American Waterfowl Management Plan created regional groups to bring people together to implement; flexibility for regional priorities. Block funding to support groups and regional teams; funding was used to leverage more funding; connection from Provincial to Regional group—good model
- ♦ No real teeth in wildlife transgressions, if people get caught the fines are very low
- ♦ Want to get metrics on value of wildlife and habitat – want to figure out the value of wildlife and habitat by doing some surveys
  - E.g., are you willing to not heli-ski in a prime area because caribou are in the area?
  - E.g., are you willing to pay more for forestry products to protect forests for caribou?
- ♦ Wildlife Stewardship Council was started by guides and FN leaders who started by sitting down and talking (in coffee shops!), and it eventually grew from there—guides started attending FN Leadership meetings, First Nations started attending stakeholder meetings
- ♦ Need meaningful land use planning that's collaborative and has regional committees. We also need to enshrine protections for wildlife and habitat in the relevant Acts.
- ♦ Should use the People-Land-Air-Nature (PLAN)- approach to engage all user groups. BCWF has the skillset and is aware of many issues on the Vancouver Island, but regional committees and municipalities don't engage us and the First Nations in decision-making.
- ♦ It's useful to understand how wildlife relationships have been built over time. For bear viewing policy, the regional approach to planning leads to broader engagement, while acknowledging that government-to-government engagement takes priority.

- ♦ ORCBC interested in land use planning and interested in learning more about land use committees and how they can have a voice. Difficult to see how ORCBC can support the Together For Wildlife strategy as it seems high level.
- ♦ Regional advisories need to be engaged to raise wildlife profile and get traction in areas where we have not been very involved.
- ♦ We acknowledge all stakeholders' support to lobby and get things done. We have the funding and regulations to make a difference.
- ♦ We are in a paradigm shift and having regional tables is great. We need to do these meetings twice a year. MWAC is great but regional tables allow us to have these conversations
- ♦ The real paradigm shift would be to prioritize wildlife over industrial policy and development. We need to be proactive and this a good first step.
- ♦ On Vancouver Island, we have municipalities which have land use policies and procedures, and they are implementing them, such as biosolids through our forest lands, without engagement. A lot of states in the US have banned that practice as it affects flora and fauna. This is where BCWF comes in with PLAN and why consultations with regional stakeholders are paramount.
- ♦ Essentially, there is a flashpoint where we need funding to implement all the good policies. Action 13 of Together for Wildlife seems buried in goal 3 but it is pivotal; areas in the US have greater funding to implement these actions. Everybody must pay there, apart from just hunting and angling licenses. We need to learn from the US funding model.
- ♦ A lot of our members are volunteers who are already very busy. We want to provide input on the regional and council levels but how do we deal with the lack of resources?
  - It takes a lot of volunteer time and it will be difficult, so we should try to engage early and as often as we can.
- ♦ Having a hard time getting in the door with regional staff or First Nations locally (E. Kootenay). For last five years it has been incredibly difficult. Issues: staffing is a revolving door. A lot of uncertainty with staff role – how to work with DRIPA, etc.
- ♦ BC Nature has weighed in with letters to government about different wildlife species and activities (e.g. logging). Indigenous involvement has been very low – almost zero. Little indigenous membership.
- ♦ SPCA has collaborated with research partnerships with both government and Indigenous Nations.
- ♦ Respect, finding common ground – PHTAT – review of populations, hunting, have approximate data from UBC – hunter harvest, road kill. Indigenous peoples brought data going back 100 years. Was rewarding to go through the process. Lacking from the province – direction, clear direction. Lack of certainty in jobs that regional staff have – what balls juggling, hard to get forward motion with government staff.
- ♦ Tremendous opportunities to work together – for sheep, what do we know, what don't we know. Could share role of coming together, how to get it. If can't get in the door, can work together

- ♦ Ecological reserves (change term, offensive), targeting indigenous involvement. Also a wildlife subcommittee
- ♦ Province values the work that the groups do. Funding some research partnerships to enable people to do the good work they do. As Indigenous, need a robust reconciliation plan in place for own organization before weighing in on relationships and decision making.
- ♦ Need to increase regional resources for government – land use planning or similar planning locally. More active engagement in forest landscape planning. Need to significantly increase province budget in fish and wildlife, spend \$ on the ground.
- ♦ Put aside personal biases from dialogue whether hunter or a conservationist.
- ♦ Focus on the science, can't be political.
- ♦ Has to be open and transparent communications – in the absence of that trust will fail.
- ♦ Linking university students to BC chapters with Indigenous organizations
- ♦ Engaging wildlife fishers' coalitions
- ♦ Science based approach/ bringing up trained individuals
- ♦ Finding ways to support training programs
- ♦ Bringing Indigenous voices to this dialogue, making sure their local voices involved too.
- ♦ Local voices from a diverse group of peoples
- ♦ Linking Indigenous knowledge and scientific methods
- ♦ Science based engagement on the ground
- ♦ Restoring habitat and wildlife
- ♦ Guardian programs
- ♦ Everybody paying for funding
- ♦ Section 11 agreement – snowmobile agreement
- ♦ First landmark decisions
- ♦ Legally bind shift
  - Learning curve w/ stakeholders trying to fit in to G to G agreements
  - Definition of stakeholders/ who are they? Where does industry fit in?
- ♦ Government-to-government
  - Making sure stakeholders have some input and are not being left behind
  - Not sure how the paradigm shift will play out
- ♦ Multi-organization agencies
- ♦ Keystone culture place
- ♦ Co-management
- ♦ Overlap in priorities



- ♦ Regional working groups/ there's a lot of knowledge on wildlife management
  - Getting a feel for each region and their priorities
- ♦ Having solid goals that reflect their distinct needs
  - Bio-hub; 2 way sharing
- ♦ Biodiversity BC (2008)
  - Work we aim to do was already done. Its outdated but still can be applied now
- ♦ Province is not considering relationships between indigenous and settlers and working on the ground is a great way to build these relationships
  - Putting everyone in a room where they don't get along and leave angry and unfulfilled
- ♦ T4W funding distribution was too heavy towards staffing and not enough for stewardship on the ground. More staff aren't improving stewardship on the ground
- ♦ There was proactive funding from T4W that was not spent but could have been if outside organizations knew it was available
- ♦ Province needs to identify carrying capacities of regions so there can be a feasibility of how many animals could be on the landscape
- ♦ Have indigenous peoples identify how many animals they harvest annually so that government can better manage for resident hunters
- ♦ Agree with need for relationship building through on the ground work but need to engage people earlier at genesis of an idea as opposed to later at just the boots phase
  - Especially important for multi-year programs or activities
  - Also need to connect beyond a single species to broader ecosystem considerations, landscape level thinking and planning
- ♦ Need to have patience and know that this work takes time, that faces will change and there needs to be allowances for this
- ♦ Public needs to understand how DRIPA affects our provincial staff in delivering their work
- ♦ What needs to come first is how we engage government at a meaningful scale
  - Need to better deliver regional committees as this will be the line to funding availability
  - Relationship building to address misunderstandings such as FN harvest being a complete unknown
- ♦ Regional level engagement and initiatives need meaningful efforts from government on reconciliation with Nations and between Nations
- ♦ Province historically has only served a very narrow group when asking for input and collaborating
  - Stakeholder engagement must broaden and these voices need equal consideration
- ♦ Government could be handing out grants to indigenous Nations and others for making activities happen on the ground

- ♦ Get involved with FLP process, OGMA reviews, to establish wildlife objectives at a meaningful scale
  - To do this need better information
  - Need to be able to coordinate better between and among organizations
  - Establish strategic priorities
  - Improve data management and availability
  - Regional committees are an important avenue for this
- ♦ Stewardship and working together ties together. Go out and work together makes people feel good and work together to contribute in a less intimidating fashion. E.g. mule deer project in southern interior
- ♦ Needs to be ethical space for the people that show up to work on wildlife and habitat. Need to think more deeply about what are the values that bring people together. “I hunt isn’t enough anymore, it needs to be deeper
- ♦ Needs to be reconsideration to how we all work with and for wildlife and habitat and must include reconciliation, this can’t be uncoupled
- ♦ Are there any regional committees that are out there that are working?
  - Fish and wildlife habitat coalition is a good example
  - Southern interior Mule deer project
  - Thompson Nicola conservation initiative
  - Taken a while to get to implementation but now that it is moving looks very promising
  - Integrated approach and broaden perspectives
  - SOSCP, Kootenay Conservation Program
- ♦ Ecojustice - an environmental law group that does charity work within existing laws to fight environmental wrongs. Looking to change provincial laws in order to strengthen and protect nature; advocate for biodiversity law; prevent cumulative effects, advocate for moving forward w/ paradigm shifts identified at front of meeting. Collaboration - still grappling with how to do this.
  - Need a scientific basis for what we are working with
  - Identify what wildlife is most at risk as a place to start the conversation and begin collaborating to advance improvements
  - Needs to be Indigenous-led but what exactly that looks like is yet to be identified
- ♦ Prioritizing is key to this work, should have prioritized 5 years ago. When is the rubber going to hit road to actually start addressing issues? Wildlife populations and habitat are a huge priority - require legislation to protect remaining habitat, boots on the ground to reclaim habitat being destroyed.
- ♦ Capacity seen as a barrier to moving forward. First Nations are limited by resources as well as not-for-profit organizations. More funding is required - \$10M may sound like a lot of money but it does not go very far.

- ♦ Need to understand current capacities and capabilities among organizations to understand how best to fill gaps. United front of diverse voices raises the impact of what we are trying to get done
  - Coming together today you already hear a lot of agreement among diverse collection of voices
- ♦ Don't think government is interested in fixing anything. Premier is going to cut back on harvest of old growth forests but not until 10 years from now, but no trees will be left in 5 years in region 5 and will be far too late. Premier is uninterested in changing forest practices, and without changes in forest practices we are not going to change a thing – need to commit to FRPA changes today, not tomorrow.
  - \$10 M put aside to support implementation of old growth protection, but this will probably be spent on administration, rather than on the ground action
  - Need to get serious about showing action or we are wasting our time
  - Frustrating to see that recent FRPA amendments did not come close to where it needs to be for action change
- ♦ How do we put things in place for local communities to be able to participate in stewardship at a local level w/o adequate capacity? Need to transition local jobs into helping the surrounding ecosystems. This work has to be done at a local level, rather than originate from Victoria.
- ♦ Some First Nations are loggers and support economic development, how does this affect changes in forestry practices?
- ♦ Conversations w/ government revolve around the number of animals on the landscape and where are management plans to support these species.
  - Seeing decline in elk, mule deer, goats. Need to define what are goals and objectives are on the landscape.
  - Government attempts to tweak hunting regulations rather than implement actions on the land that would be a step towards addressing the true problem. Fight to get support to conduct inventory flights to count elk, moose—limited data is available to make sound decisions.
  - Need to get back to the basics and spend money like other jurisdictions (e.g., AB, Montana)
- ♦ Wildlife modeling is only as good as the data inputs. Regional biologists do a great job, but government needs to change. Every species is hurting—e.g., caribou red-listed 20 years ago, but yet we continue to log caribou habitat.
  - Current forest practices with heavy machinery unsustainable. Go back to manual labour rather than machinery that remove trees at a larger scale and volume (e.g., fellerbunchers)
  - logging practices can be changed, but government is just not interested
- ♦ Wildlife is undervalued
- ♦ Is there enough public awareness of the crisis? Needed public pressure for government to finally do something about old growth mgmt.; people don't completely understand situation

- ♦ Caribou require old growth habitat. People think of the old growth trees on the coast rather than in the interior when they think of old growth but equally important (e.g., mule deer habitat in region 5). Have to change our way of doing things and consider the importance of all wildlife habitat
- ♦ Double-edge sword about getting public buy-in with limited knowledge on topic
  - Need to listen to science to inform decisions rather than public sentiment
  - People are disconnected - don't experience it or understand challenges
  - No one wants to see wildlife go extinct - morally wrong but how do we translate into concrete action?
  - Need to identify valuable wildlife habitats based on science
- ♦ All habitat is of value - should not isolate habitats. BC wildfire services leave fires to burn if of no timber value leave despite its value to wildlife. Legislation needs to change these things or nothing will be done (e.g., Wildfire Act)
- ♦ Need wildlife density objectives
  - How many species X per km<sup>2</sup> based on habitat and other factors
  - Do this for all species so that all groups know the objective and what we are working towards
  - Need objectives tied to legislation to be held accountable
- ♦ Regional representation with diverse groups is a good strategy but tied back to provincial level benchmarks and direction
- ♦ Wildlife managers need to be able to manage habitat – right now they can't, if they can't then they aren't managing wildlife
  - Only solution available to wildlife managers is to stop hunting – need cross ministry collaboration, need solutions to deal with the actual issues
  - Holistic approach across ministries needed
  - Wildlife can't come after industrial/development priority
  - Require forestry sector to meet wildlife and habitat objectives
- ♦ Need biodiversity legislation with clear objectives – everything other than wildlife and biodiversity gets prioritized; need to carve out needs of species and their habitats first
- ♦ Importance of wildlife is not represented in our Provincial budget (when compared to other provinces/states)
- ♦ Need to stress urgency
- ♦ Incorporating local knowledge and indigenous knowledge
- ♦ Look at other jurisdictions where their wildlife and habitat management is working and populations are increasing – are we looking models that are working and adapting/using them?
- ♦ Broad education to the public

- Will have to be some sacrifices to make gains. For example: job losses, predator management, reduction in annual allowable cut (AAC), etc.
- ◆ Key topics:
  - Objective setting and legislating objectives
  - Funding issue – need adequate budget and funding model to support wildlife and habitat stewardship
  - Challenges of wildlife managers – change governance models and authorities so they can properly manage wildlife
- ◆ Where does money go if we have all the money we need?
  - Money needs to go on the ground – habitat, predator management
  - Action is needed, wildlife needs to be a priority
- ◆ Challenging questions. Ultimately great interest and eagerness to get to roundtables, hearing from stakeholders that there is hunger for collaborative discussions. Challenge: Process paralysis. We can get together and talk, but what is happening to landscape and wildlife in the meanwhile? Government could show good faith: how to build solution space, how to pause habitat destruction, etc. while we're at the table. Challenge that conversations might take years and it might be too late for certain species otherwise.
- ◆ Think that things can be done better in resource space. Agree on paralysis, solutions are working differently in different regions. Need to look at data, different interests, and issues everywhere. Need for regional collaborative roundtables for starters. Always areas of greater interest, priorities. We talk around those areas instead of zoning in on what the focus should be and have discussions form there.
- ◆ Northern Wildlife Roundtable and Moose Solutions Roundtable involve variety of stakeholders, local governments, and FNs. Outcomes were pretty good. We were not 100% in agreement but came out with recommendations that have largely been ignored.
- ◆ North East finds themselves being on the outside. Regional strategic environmental processes going on, Fort St. John land use rmp update going on. Stakeholders outside of government and FNs are not engaged enough.
- ◆ We have contacted FN on our own and met without government. Long and good discussions without government involved. Learned about initiatives FNs have going on, they're working with Canfor outside of government. Agreed on all kinds of things. Talked about HCTF and mutual support on projects. FN had some proposals we weren't happy with, worked through that. Best solution seems to be meeting with FN directly. For most part, on same page. Positive thing to get something done.
- ◆ Big concern: rate at which things are happening. MWAC, T4W, etc. been around for a while, no terms of references (should include timelines) public engagement strategy yet, things need to move faster. Lot of talking without getting something done.

- ♦ Party-to-party convos can make more and faster progress because interests are closer on a regional level. Consider legislation allowing for agreements between stakeholders and recognition of such agreements, including Indigenous Nations. Gives ability to implement and move some things forward on their own.
- ♦ Important to have people that know what's happening on the land and operational knowledge in their sector. Have open, honest conversations about the issues and options. Easier when dealing with people with the right information as opposed to having something covering all possibilities known and unknown and all parties known and unknown.
- ♦ How to avoid paralysis? Important: Need for funding! Hoping to hear of funding solutions to put money back to the land. I want to see not just halt on encroachment and damage being done to the land but plans to heal what's already broken. Focus of our organization and what I hope to see from T4W.
- ♦ Timelines and objectives: how to collectively figure out what objectives are? Who do we ask? How do we weigh different interests? Challenging.
- ♦ Examples from states in the US who have well-defined objectives and people are held accountable for meeting them. Not impossible but might need some help. Objectives should be for landscapes and all species (not just caribou).
- ♦ Other topic: Blueberry River FN win in courts: impacted the way people are doing business, figuring out the implications. Could have been avoided if some of the things we're talking about today had been done 10 or 15 years ago. Takes political will to focus government resources on wildlife and habitats. Underfunded and not enough focus on actions on the ground. FN, stakeholders, local government all agree.
- ♦ An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Example: Partnership agreement for caribou. BC finally came to the table only when lawsuits were imminent. Several caribou herds were brought to extinction. Ended up being a successful recovery program. Lesson learned from this and Blueberry ruling: get in there early and center Indigenous leadership and support Indigenous and community visions. If we wait until too late: costly for government and communities.
- ♦ Cumulative effects conversation: Economic development has been sole focus in many areas. North-East BC is a resource hotbed that developed before ecosystems management and climate change came to the forefront. How do we manage cumulative effects forward but also backwards? Lots of historic legacy impact that could be restored to a higher standard. How to manage cumulative effects? Multiple ways to look at. Going to keep us busy for a long time.
- ♦ How to work together? Issues and objectives are clear. What's holding us back?
  - Money and regional/on-the-ground work. Strong differences in different areas.
  - Bring together stakeholders, government, and FNs to one table.
  - Provincial framework won't work. Too many issues, different in different regions.

---

## E: Introductory Presentations

---

# WILDLIFE DIALOGUES

November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 1, 2021

1

## Agenda

- Blessing
- Welcome from Minister Conroy
- Updates
  - Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council
  - First Nations – BC Wildlife and Habitat Forum
  - Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team
- Breakout Session 1
- Breakout Session 2
- Closing comments



2



# Together for Wildlife

Declining wildlife  
populations, loss of  
habitat .....

Engagement  
(2018 – 2019)

- Public, Indigenous Nations and stakeholders

First Nations – BC  
Wildlife and Habitat  
Conservation  
Forum (Forum)  
(2018)

Together for Wildlife  
(2020)

Minister's Wildlife  
Advisory Council  
(MWAC) (2020)

3

Our 5 Goals	Our 24 Actions
Goal 1: All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council</li> <li>2. Create or expand Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees</li> <li>3. Increase opportunities for engagement and involvement</li> </ol>
Goal 2: Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Enhance biological, social, and economic data</li> <li>5. Support wildlife research</li> <li>6. Foster citizen science</li> <li>7. Ensure data are accessible, reliable and integrated</li> </ol>
Goal 3: Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Establish accountable stewardship objectives</li> <li>9. Deliver on-the-ground stewardship</li> <li>10. Improve legislated land designations</li> <li>11. Support and expand Conservation Lands</li> <li>12. Recommend improvements to the <i>Wildlife Act</i></li> <li>13. Explore new funding models for wildlife</li> </ol>
Goal 4: Accountability and transparency build trust and confidence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Report out on performance</li> <li>15. Share financial reports</li> <li>16. Communicate decision rationales</li> <li>17. Periodically review and update our strategy</li> </ol>
Goal 5: Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Advance co-management and shared decision-making</li> <li>19. Promote the importance of Indigenous peoples and wildlife</li> <li>20. Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into decisions</li> <li>21. Support Indigenous guardian and compliance programs</li> <li>22. Share wildlife and habitat data and information</li> <li>23. Invest in capacity for Indigenous governments</li> <li>24. Support the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum</li> </ol>

4

# It's all about the paradigm shifts

- Prioritize ecosystem health
  - Manage at the landscape level
  - Policy and legislation that applies to all sectors (*forestry, mining, oil & gas, tourism, transportation, agriculture, urban development, etc.*)
- Shared decision making and modelling reconciliation



5

## Reconciliation: The path forward

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIPA) (2019)
- BC Interpretation Act (2021)



6

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council



**Role:** Advising the Minister on the implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy



## Membership:

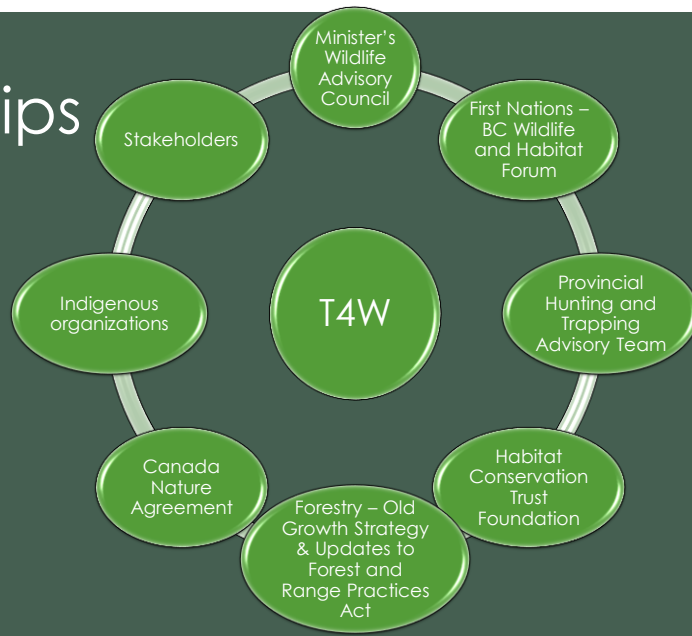
Independent  
18 individuals  
Diverse  
Passion for wildlife  
and habitat



[ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca](http://ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca)

7

## Relationships



8



## Funding

- \$10 M annual lift to budget to support Together for Wildlife
- 2020-21: 100 on-the-ground projects supported throughout the province

9

## Recent recommendations

- Wildlife Stewardship Planning/ Objective-Setting Policy
  - Jointly with Indigenous Nations
  - Legislated objectives
  - Engagement through Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees



10



## Recent recommendations cont.

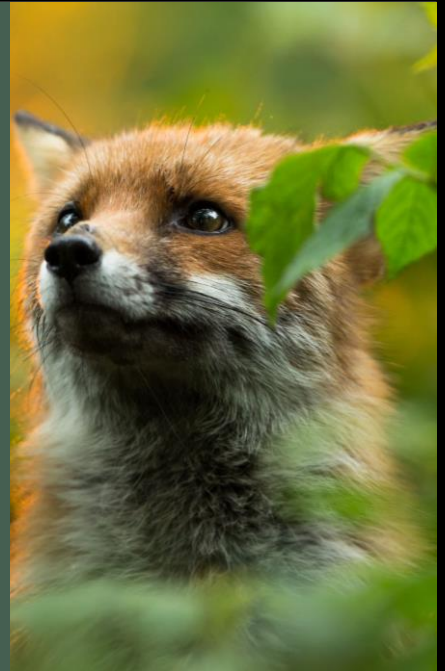
### Funding principles

- Dedicated, everyone pays, impartial funding agent, transparency, leveraging, respecting the needs of Indigenous Nations to be part of the decision making

11

## Recent recommendations cont.

- Clear, transparent, open and accessible data
- Funding to complete the BioHUB (data) initiative
- Wildlife considerations during wildfire recovery
- Road rehabilitation
- *And more... (see website)*



12



# First Nations - BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum.

Wildlife Dialogues Presentation by  
Hunter Lampreau.

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



# Introduction

- Member of the Secwepemc Nation, Simpcw on my father's side, Neskonlith 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.*

# Presentation contents:

- Canada's Dark History & Reconciliation; A Shared Path
- Overview of the First Nations - BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum (*The Forum*); where did we come from?
- Facts of The Forum.
- Operations of The Forum.
- Recent work.

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



# 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.

1400~

Legislated Assimilation;  
Laws to ease the Land Question.

1820~1927

1763

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

1876

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.*

# Reconciliation; A Shared Pathway

Declarations of Nations; Memorial to Sir Wilfred & the Tahltan Declaration.

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.

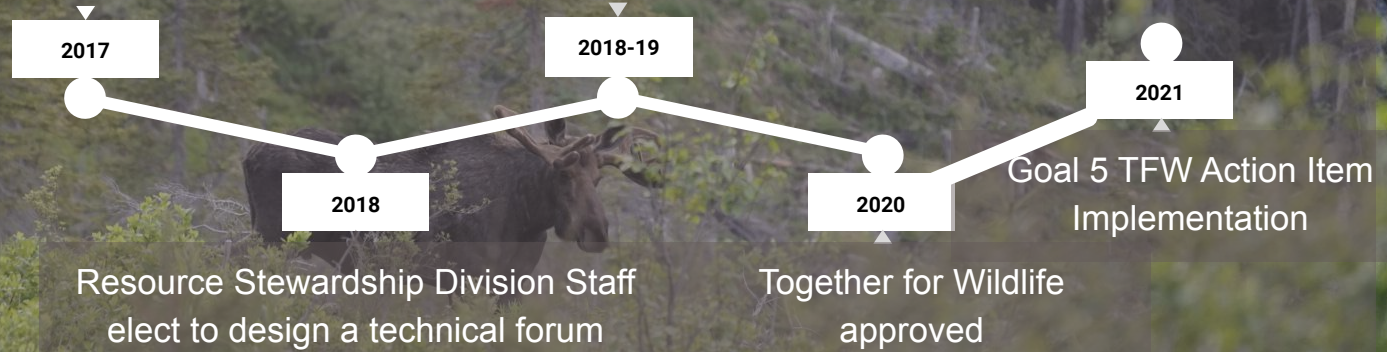
*All photos used in this presentation are my own. This image was taken on the unceded territories of Simpcw First Nation.*



# Overview of The Forum

Minister Donaldson's mandate to improve wildlife & habitat conservation & advance UNDRIP

Invitations are sent to potential forum members



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



# Forum Facts.

**Fact:** The Forum DOES NOT represent rights and title of Indigenous Peoples, as rights, title & decision making jurisdictions remain in community at a territorial level.

**Fact:** The Forum seeks to support recognition and enable Indigenous Governing Bodies in implementation of Together for Wildlife.

**Fact:** The Forum focuses on technical solutions to issues that are applicable at the Provincial scale.

**Fact:** The Forum co-developed a reconciliation focused chapter of Together for Wildlife.

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



# Operations of The Forum

- Indigenous Forum chairs elected, B.C. chairs appointed.
- The Forum's Terms of Reference finalized and approved by consensus. (*available on the website.*)
- The Forum utilizes distinct working groups; Shared Decision Making/Capacity Building, Communications & a Wildlife & Habitat Stewardship Policy Working Group, aided by a Core Secretariat
- The Forum operates on a self-developed work plan according to priorities to implement Together for Wildlife

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





# Recent Work & Priorities

- Proposed Wildlife Act Amendments, authored Cultivating Abundance & drafted IK policy.
- Website development project - more publicly available information housed here soon, including our Terms of Reference.
- Provincial Grizzly Bear Stewardship Plan - Indigenous Worldviews, Knowledge, Laws & Governance section.
- Participant Recruitment - Engaging new membership & youth/internships.
- Priorities - Goal 5 of Together for Wildlife.

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





# Kukwstetemc.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our work, find below the Forum website link:  
[First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum](http://firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca)  
[\(firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca\)](http://firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca)

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

# PHTAT

## Provincial Hunting & Trapping Advisory Team

Presentation for the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council – Wildlife Dialogues  
December 1, 2021  
Michael Burwash – PHTAT chair, Associate Director Wildlife



1

## PHTAT – team members

- British Columbia Trappers Association
- British Columbia Wildlife Federation
- Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia
- Wildlife Stewardship Council (First Nations representative on Team)
- Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia
- United Bowhunters of British Columbia
- British Columbia Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Government Members:
  - BC Conservation Officer Service
  - First Nations Liaison
  - Chair – Wildlife Manager
  - Director of Wildlife
  - Other provincial government representatives as appropriate
- Non-government scientific advisors – 2 BC university academics

Diverse representation  
that informs hunting &  
trapping related  
regulations, policies  
and procedures under  
the *Wildlife Act*



2



## PHTAT – functions

- Provincial level stakeholder advisory team first established in 2011
- Provide advice to government related to the management of wildlife in BC
- Review new and existing strategies, policies, and regulations related to wildlife use
- Review and consider provincial level hunting and trapping regulation proposals including those submitted by Team members
- Advice provided with consideration of conservation and indigenous priorities, as well as social and economic interests



3

## PHTAT - collaboration

- First Nations Forum
- Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council
- Recent accomplishments:
  - Fair hunting practices regulation changes (ebike use for hunting, infrared optics restrictions, restricting unethical hunting methods – e.g. spear for hunting big game)
  - Updated webpage <https://www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca/about-us/members-and-working-groups/>
  - Collaborative working groups on topics of shared interest (access working group)



4

## PHTAT – new efforts

- Prioritizing reconciliation efforts
- Supporting Together for Wildlife Strategy and implementation of Actions
- Working Groups: Hunting Practices, Access Management, Communications
- Improving communications: new public website, collaborative working groups, supporting transparency in decision making
- Supporting "paradigm shift" in forest management – prioritizing ecosystem health and biodiversity synonymous with wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Supporting increased resourcing to improve wildlife and wildlife habitat information gaps and "on-the-ground" active management
- Engaging other groups on managing shared values (FNs, NGOs, other Provincial govts, Federal govt, international jurisdictions)



5

## PHTAT

Thank you



6

## F: Participants

Indigenous Dialogues		Stakeholder Dialogues	
Feddie Louie	3 Nations Society	Andrew Van Vliet	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Corrine Porter	Dena Kayeh Institute	Brad Harrison	Backcountry Lodges of BC Association
Gord Haines	Doig River First Nation	Alan Duffy	BC Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Ray Harris	First Nations Summit	Trina Radford	BC Conservation Foundation
Robert Phillips	First Nations Summit	Vanessa Isnardy	BC Conservation Foundation-WildSafeBC Program
Katherine Wolfenden	Fort Nelson First Nation	Sabrina Spencer	BC Council of Forest Industries
Christine Rock	Haida Nation	Peter Ballin	BC Nature
Jonas Prevost	Haida Nation	Donegal Wilson	BC Snowmobile Federation
Kerri Garner	Ktunaxa Nation	Andrea Wallace	BC SPCA
Gina Peters	People of the River Referrals Office	Erin Ryan	BC SPCA
Hunter Lampreau	Simpcw First Nation	Tim Killey	BC Trappers
Shaun Freeman	Skeetchestn Natural Resources Corporation	Doug Kitts	BC Wildlife Federation
Celeste Harvey	St'at'imc	Gerry Paille	BC Wildlife Federation
Lance Nagwan	Tahltan Central Government	Rob Chipman	BC Wildlife Federation
Keith West	Takla Nation	Jesse Zeman	BC Wildlife Federation
Ryan LaPointe	Taku River Tlingit First Nation	Stewart Fraser	Caribou Chilcotin Guide Outfitters Association
Lorrie Hogaboam	Westbank First Nation	Kathy MacRae	Commercial Bear Viewing Association
George Desjarlais	West Moberly	Johnny	CPAWS-BC
John Henderson	Wildlife Stewardship Council	Mike Bourns	Diana Lake lodge
		Darrell Shiels	East Kootenay Wildlife Association
		Glenn Flynn	East Kootenay Wildlife Association
		Kevin Podrasky	East Kootenay Wildlife Association
		Sarah Korpan	Ecojustice
		Scott Ellis	GOABC
		Dan Buffett	Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
		Amberlee Ficociello	Hunters for BC - SCI
		Courtney	Ice Creek Lodge
		Louise Pedersen	Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

		Matt Huryn	Sparwood and District Fish & Wildlife Association
		Carl McNaughton	The Nature Trust of BC
		Jason Emery	The Nature Trust of BC
		Thomas Reid	The Nature Trust of BC
		Jim Turner	UBBC - United Bowhunters of BC
		Cole Burton	University of British Columbia
		Kyle Stelter	Wild Sheep Society of BC
		Michael Surbey	Wild Sheep Society of BC
		Bill Harrower	Wildlife Society - BC Chapter
		Rod Davis	Wildlife Society - BC Chapter
		Dave Fyfe	Wildlife Stewardship Council
		Eddie Petryshen	Wildsight
		Tim Burkhart	Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative