



## Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council

# Summary of Wildlife Dialogues

Indigenous Dialogues December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Stakeholder Dialogues December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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# 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.

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## 1. Purpose of Dialogues

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The Wildlife Dialogues were created by the Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council (Council) as an opportunity for people to learn more about Council's activities in the past year and for Council, in collaboration with the First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (Forum) and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT), to seek input from Indigenous governments and stakeholders as it moves collaboratively towards new ways of managing wildlife in B.C.

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## 2. Format and Attendees

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

- ♦ December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 (Indigenous Dialogues)
- ♦ December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (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 28 people attended the Indigenous Dialogues, with 41 in the Stakeholder Dialogues.

The Dialogues began with presentations on the work of the Council, Forum, PHTAT, followed by Together for Wildlife staff speaking to progress to date on the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWACs). Participants were then divided into breakout groups to discuss:

- ♦ What advice do you have for establishing successful Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees?

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## 3. Introductory Presentations

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### **Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council**

Nancy Wilkin, Council Co-chair, presented on recent work done by the Council.

- ♦ Council is comprised of 18 individuals from diverse backgrounds, who share a passion for wildlife and habitat. Council has now been in place for two years, with new members replacing some who have retired.
- ♦ Council advises two Ministers: the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Minister of Forests.
- ♦ Work focuses on two paradigm shifts: shared decision making and reconciliation, and prioritizing ecosystem health.
- ♦ Council works closely with the First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (Forum) and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT).
- ♦ Recent work and recommendations have included:
  - Input to a Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy
  - Input to creation of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWACs)
  - Implementation of cultural and prescribed fire
  - Performance measures
  - Funding principles, and recommendation on the governance of wildlife funding in B.C.
  - Supporting post-secondary wildlife research, including funding for six student grants and hiring of three Mitacs post-doctorate fellows
- ♦ Staff have prepared a new searchable [project dashboard](#) that shows projects funded by Together for Wildlife (T4W).
- ♦ Priorities for the coming year include:
  - Reconciliation and co-governance of wildlife
  - Legislated protection for habitat
  - Implementation of RWACs
  - Funding (and governance of funding) for wildlife
  - Stronger science and advisory roles
  - Improved wildlife crossings and corridors

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

Nancy Wilkin also noted the feedback received from the previous year's Wildlife Dialogues, and how those discussions helped to inform the development of the policy paper on RWACs.

## 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 welcomed Morris Prosser, the B.C. Co-Chair, also on the call.

- ♦ The Forum originated in 2018, to support the co-development of the Intentions Paper for Bill 14, and co-drafting sections of the Together for Wildlife (T4W) Strategy.
- ♦ It operates as a non-representative, technical advisory body to B.C. on the implementation of T4W.
- ♦ The Forum has a self-developed and -endorsed work plan, with distinct working groups to advance the tasks.
- ♦ Recent work has included:
  - Extensive input into the co-development of Bill 14, which created updates to the *Wildlife Act* that included policy development for Indigenous Knowledge and Sheltering/protocol hunting. These policies are now out for consultation.
  - Paradigm shifts: ensuring that T4W work is respectful of reconciliation and co-management, e.g., in developing species plans; helping others to understand why reconciliation is central to the creation of RWACs; that there needs to be communications on the importance of Shared Decision Making; and making sure that Nations have the capacity to deliver.
- ♦ The Forum is working on a Shared Decision Making policy. They are drafting content specific to non-Statutory decisions, meant to support relationships between B.C. and Nations that are grounded in Ethical Space.
  - Policy and Procedure work to support this will distribute guidance and advice from the Forum's work to Regional staff to facilitate working alongside Nations.
  - This is an initial step to deliver Action 18 under Goal 5 of T4W, and contributing to Action 2.
  - It is aimed at creating respectful relationships, to mitigate animosity and racism that can occur. We need to work from places of common value and shared desired for healthy wildlife.

A copy of the Forum presentation is in Appendix C. More information about the Forum is available online at [www.firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca](http://www.firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca).

## Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team

Michael Burwash, Chair of the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT), provided an update on their work.

- ♦ PHTAT has diverse representation from stakeholder groups, the province, and scientific advisors. Their work informs hunting and trapping related regulations, policies, and procedures
- ♦ Their role is to facilitate information and dialogues for sustainable wildlife stewardship, including:
  - Supporting science-based wildlife stewardship
  - Facilitating the exchange of information

- Advancing reconciliation
- ♦ Current work includes:
  - Supporting shared priority work with the Forum and Council, specifically the T4W Strategy implementation
  - Providing hunting and trapping management advice to the Province in consideration of conservation, First Nations, social, and economic interests
  - Facilitating dialogue and collaboration to provide creative ideas and defensible solutions for wildlife policies, regulations and strategies
  - PHTAT has active subcommittees focused on Access management and LEH review
  - They are engaging with other government initiatives of stewardship interest: such as FRPA updates –Forest Landscape Planning; Land Use Planning updates; and Cumulative Effects
  - Supporting opportunities to improve education and outreach on wildlife and habitat values
- ♦ Looking ahead, work will focus on:
  - Continued support of all reconciliation efforts
  - Increased collaboration with Forum and Council to advance T4W actions
  - Ensuring linkages between the Ministries of Forests and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to advance priority wildlife habitat work
  - Increasing Indigenous collaboration and outreach on wildlife management activities
  - Supporting opportunities to advance shared stewardship actions through other Natural Resource agencies
  - Identifying and leveraging shared funding opportunities through partnerships (First Nations, stakeholders, Federal government, NGOs)
  - Supporting RWAC development and implementation, work that is critical to achieving shared objectives

A copy of the PHTAT presentation is in Appendix C. More information about PHTAT is available online at [www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca](http://www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca).

### **Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees: Progress to date**

Lisa Tedesco, A/Manager for Together for Wildlife, provided an overview of work to date on the development of RWACs.

- ♦ Council, the Forum and PHTAT met in June 2022 and again in September 2022 to review and discuss approaches to the development of RWACs
- ♦ This information has been included in a policy paper that will be submitted to the Ministers early in the new year.
- ♦ Some regions are already beginning engagement work to discuss the development of RWACs.
- ♦ Guiding principles are:
  - Interconnectedness: Wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem health

- Reconciliation and Indigenous values: Understand and act on Indigenous interests, worldviews, Rights and Title
- Trust and Respect: Relationships based on mutual trust, confidence, and respect for shared stewardship of wildlife and habitat
- Transparency: Rationale for recommendations and advice
- Evidence-based Recommendations: Mutually agreeable body of evidence through an unbiased lens. Shared understandings, Indigenous Knowledge, local perspectives, citizen science, and western science
- Ethical Space: Diversity of perspectives are represented and heard through respectful and inclusive collaborations
- ◆ Foundations of the work are:
  - Flexibility: tailored to meet the unique and diverse needs and priorities of each region but built from a similar foundation
  - Built collaboratively with Indigenous Nations; serving as an advisory body that complement government-to-government relationships
  - Provide clear lines of communication, ensure linkages, and build synergies and efficiencies among related advisory bodies, both regionally and provincially
  - Focus on promoting healthy ecosystems to achieve thriving and resilient wildlife and highly effective habitat stewardship through an Ethical Space lens
  - Provide a venue for a variety of perspectives to be represented and heard
- ◆ Elements of the policy include:
  - Scope: An advisory and implementation guidance role relating to wildlife and habitat, data and knowledge, funding, policy, linkages
  - Membership may be representative or non-representative but must be inclusive. Members should act on the best interest of wildlife and habitat stewardship, and must meet standards and expectations (e.g., accountability)
  - Scale and Structure must consider regional context, relationships, and existing engagement venues. This will be determined through regional engagement
  - Readiness: Understanding the elements that need to be in place.

A copy of the RWAC presentation is in Appendix C. The Together for Wildlife website is [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/together-for-wildlife](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/together-for-wildlife)

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## 4. Breakout Session Discussions: Advice on establishing successful Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees

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### 4.1. Advice from Indigenous Participants

*More detailed notes from these breakout discussions are included in Appendix A.*

#### **Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees will be helpful**

- ♦ Many Nations facing challenges from non-local recreationists and hunters causing problems in their territory. There is a need for a forum to talk to government and conservation groups about these concerns, and addressing the impacts of resource industries on wildlife and habitat.
- ♦ Through the *Declaration Act*, Indigenous peoples have right to strengthen relationship with land.
- ♦ Wildlife is a shared objective with stakeholders, this facilitates discussions.

#### **Commitment from Government and Nations**

- ♦ If government staff (at regional and senior levels) are not fully committed to RWACs, it will be a waste of their time. The government needs to demonstrate that it is truly ready and committed.
- ♦ Nations need to be fully supportive and see value in participation.

#### **Tangible outcomes**

- ♦ Unless RWACs have meaningful input into the landscape planning process there is not point. Need to ensure that RWACs make a difference.
- ♦ RWACs need to have input into both tangible on-the-ground actions as well as to durable long-term planning processes.
- ♦ Process needs to be meaningful; participants need to know that their input is making a tangible difference.

#### **Getting started**

- ♦ Have a clear focus and objectives.
- ♦ Start with tangible projects.
- ♦ Build trust and relationships.

#### **Be mindful of existing groups**

- ♦ Avoid overlaps with established groups, ensure RWACs are complementary to this work.
- ♦ Build on lessons learned from other tables.



### **Recognize capacity limitations**

- ♦ Respect the lack of capacity, lack of available time to participate.
- ♦ Be efficient with people's time.
- ♦ Minimise the number of meetings, ensure there are clear objectives.
- ♦ Provide capacity funding to enable Nations' participation in committees.

### **Memberships**

- ♦ Nations should determine who is represented at the tables.
- ♦ Ensure that First Nations have an equal voice at the table.
- ♦ Consider both political and technical representation from Nations.
- ♦ In 'regions' with multiple Nations, all Nations should be at the table.
- ♦ Government representatives from multiple ministries, and industry, should be there to hear the concerns.
- ♦ Stakeholder participants can learn much from the knowledge keepers.
- ♦ Keep the group size small.

### **Scale and geographic boundaries**

- ♦ The size of 'regions' will vary, flexibility is essential.
- ♦ There are many ways that boundaries could be determined; this may depend in part on the scope of topics being addressed.
- ♦ Some Indigenous territories are very large; the region size needs to be both inclusive but small enough to be functional.
- ♦ Need to consider how overlapping territories and regions will be addressed, to avoid creating additional workload.

### **Roles and scope**

- ♦ It should be clear that these RWACs operate under the government-to-government level of decision making; wildlife and habitat projects should be technical decisions (with technical rather than political reps at the table), that do not conflict with government-to-government direction.
- ♦ Identify clear roles for the RWAC. This should focus on key regional needs.
- ♦ Nations would like input into funding decisions.
- ♦ Developing objectives for species and habitats is an important role.

### **Outreach, education and communications**

- ♦ There should be education around Ethical Space and cultural safety to enable committees to work well together.

- ♦ Many Nations are not aware of the proposal for RWACs, this information should be shared, including how it will help meet Nations' objectives.
- ♦ RWACs should provide regular updates to Nations on their work.
- ♦ Face-to-face is the preferred format for meetings.
- ♦ There is need for good communications within the RWAC, and from the RWAC to others in the region.
- ♦ A communications specialist would be helpful.

#### **Data and transparency**

- ♦ Good data will help with decision making.

#### **Readiness**

- ♦ Building capacity for Nations is an essential starting point, as is strong communications and relationship-building.
- ♦ Readiness will vary among Nations.
- ♦ Some provincial policies are hindering readiness, there is a need for conversations on ways to remove these barriers.

#### **Defining success**

- ♦ Actual progress and tangible outcomes will help to reinforce the value of RWACs and encourage participation.
- ♦ RWACs need to have 'teeth' to get things done; needs to be able to influence government and industry decisions.
- ♦ Wildlife must be managed in the context of habitat.
- ♦ Cumulative impacts need to be taken into account.

## **4.2. Advice from Stakeholder Participants**

*More detailed notes from the breakout discussions are included in Appendix B.*

#### **Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees will be helpful**

- ♦ RWACs will create opportunities to bring groups together with a common goal, to solve issues at a regional level.

#### **Commitment from Government**

- ♦ If government staff (at regional and senior levels) are not fully committed to RWACs, it will be a waste of their time. The government needs to demonstrate that it is truly ready and committed.

### **Tangible outcomes**

- ♦ Unless RWACs have meaningful input into the landscape planning process there is not point. Need to ensure that RWACs make a difference.
- ♦ RWACs need to have input into both tangible on-the-ground actions as well as to durable long-term planning processes.
- ♦ Process needs to be meaningful; participants need to know that their input is making a tangible difference.

### **Getting started**

- ♦ Start small and simple, build on success.
- ♦ Provide clear focus.
- ♦ Focus on tangible on-the-ground actions that will create results and strengthen the partnerships.

### **Engage with First Nations**

- ♦ Engagement with First Nations is critical; this must be meaningful engagement that includes Nations from the outset.
- ♦ Build transparency and trust.
- ♦ Provide education for non-Indigenous participants on working with Indigenous peoples.
- ♦ Recognize capacity limitations, if needed wait for Nations is they are not ready.
- ♦ Include Indigenous Knowledge in decisions.

### **Learn from experiences elsewhere**

- ♦ Build on the work of other regional and sub-regional groups, learn from their experiences.

### **Recognize capacity limitations**

- ♦ Recognize the limits of volunteers to participate.
- ♦ Keep meeting frequencies reasonable.

### **Memberships**

- ♦ Keep committees small and functional, especially at first.
- ♦ Select members carefully, people who have local knowledge, and a commitment to wildlife and collaboration.
- ♦ Consider the use of technical advisors to support the work.
- ♦ Consider the pros and cons of representative vs non-representative membership.
- ♦ Ensure that First Nations have an equal voice at the table, and that Nations themselves determine who participates.
- ♦ Consider the role that industry could play at the table.

## **Structure and process**

- ♦ Develop clear terms of reference.
- ♦ Provide strong facilitation.
- ♦ Ensure agendas are set by the RWAC members, and are arms length from government.
- ♦ Consider the use of sub-committees or working groups to keep groups small and efficient.
- ♦ Provide administrative support and funding to ensure smooth operations.

## **Scale and geographic boundaries**

- ♦ The size of 'regions' will vary, flexibility is essential.
- ♦ There are many ways that boundaries could be determined; this may depend in part on the scope of topics being addressed.
- ♦ Some issues may be multi-region.

## **Roles and scope**

- ♦ Legislated objectives are essential.
- ♦ The committees should be more than just advisory; this needs to be well-defined.
- ♦ RWACs should have a say in how funding is allocated.
- ♦ Discussion is needed on the inclusion of species at risk, urban wildlife.
- ♦ Clarity is needed around when to raise decisions to a higher or provincial level.

## **Outreach, education and communications**

- ♦ Targeted education to communities will be needed; this will vary from rural to urban areas.
- ♦ Communication on the work of the RWAC will be important and help to determine the success of the committees and T4W initiatives.

## **Data and transparency**

- ♦ There is a need to be sensitive regarding cultural information that cannot be shared.
- ♦ Data transparency and trust are critical.

## **Readiness**

- ♦ Different regions will have different standards of readiness.
- ♦ Reconciliation and readiness of the local First Nations are essential.
- ♦ Some regions are already working on forming committees.

## **Defining success**

- ♦ Success will encourage stronger participation.
- ♦ Failure is if the Ministry ignores advice from the RWAC.

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## 5. Next Steps

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This was our second year of Wildlife Dialogues, focused on the formation of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees—Action #2 under the T4W Strategy.

Amazing participation and results! The need for these committees was very clear—being mindful of existing forums in regions, and the need to meet Indigenous capacity where it is at and to ensure their participation for success. At the same time, we heard loud and clear that this process will not be easy, and that the government needs to be committed to this in the long term. The work of these committees must be real and tangible, making a difference on the ground as well as at a policy level. Another common message was the need for education for the members of the advisory committees to work in an ethical space. Both Dialogues stressed the importance of focusing on wildlife and wildlife habitat—with questions about why not species at risk or overall biodiversity? The advice: start small (not every region, everywhere), start carefully (building trust and respect), be flexible in designing the boundaries, but start!!

In the New Year, Council will be making their recommendations to the Ministers of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Forests on Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees, so the Dialogue conversations were very timely and very important. Council will also be making a recommendation on the characteristics of a good governance model for future dedicated wildlife funding, and Council's desire to learn about a "new conservation funding mechanism" as stated in Minister Cullen's mandate letter.

We remain committed to the two paradigm shifts—reconciliation and ecosystem health—and are hopeful there will be action on both in 2023. There is work being done on the Old Growth Strategy Recommendation #2 *"Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors"* in the form of a Declaration on Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity.

On reconciliation, progress was very evident in this year's Dialogues—the desire for both the Indigenous representatives and the stakeholder representatives to work together at a regional level, to ensure better outcomes for wildlife and wildlife habitat. And the conviction from the stakeholder members that success of the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees will be measured by the participation of the Indigenous members, with full acknowledgement of both of their capacity limits.

The work and commitment by Council members and Ministry staff over the past two years is starting to show results. The economic study will soon be complete and will form the basis of a submission for increased, dedicated funding for wildlife. The interactive dashboard is an excellent step to transparency, showing how the majority of the T4W funding going to on-the-

ground results, and the commitment in Minister Cullen's mandate letter to implement the Together for Wildlife Strategy.

This Strategy is the best opportunity wildlife has had in many decades, and your Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council is dedicated to seeing it successfully implemented. The true result being healthy, sustainable wildlife populations in British Columbia!

Simoogit Hleek Chief Harry Nyce, Co-Chair and Nancy L. Wilkin, Co-Chair



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# Appendices

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## A: Indigenous Dialogues Breakout Discussions

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### Need for RWACs

- ♦ Many Nations facing challenges from non-local recreationists causing problems in their territory. There is a need for a forum to talk to government and conservation groups about these concerns. Issues for discussion would include:
  - Human-caused fires affecting watersheds and species' ranges
  - Moratorium on non-Indigenous hunting
  - Forest rehabilitation
  - Placer mining – impacts to wildlife and water
  - Pressure on resources, e.g., forest companies taking old growth and the best wood
- ♦ The BC government in their regulations is willing to bend for industry but not conservation.
- ♦ Through DRIPA, Indigenous peoples have right to strengthen relationship with land.
- ♦ Wildlife are ready, keep them as the goal.
- ♦ Wildlife is ready now, we need to find common ground to meet that readiness.
- ♦ Found that typically with wildlife, it is a shared objective. Easier to have conversations.

### Challenges

- ♦ Too many hunters in territory → less animals + more people = harder for members to find and successfully harvest necessary game.
- ♦ How do we number of ↑animals and ↓ number of people competing with our hunters in our territory?
- ♦ 2005 provincial policy to increase the number of licenced hunters to increase economic gains for BC is problematic when demand (number of hunters) exceeds supply (available animals).
- ♦ How do we get legislation and policy and regulation changed that are challenging and will get in the way of RWAC's – pathway to change?
- ♦ Other users impacting wildlife (e.g., moto-cross bikes out in fawning area and displacing fawns negatively impacts ability for wildlife to successfully reproduce)
- ♦ Because of competition with other hunters, some First Nations looking to develop their own policies to manage sharing of resources and provide permits to access resources.
- ♦ Not enough animals within territory to meet their own needs, so not likely to say yes when approached.

- ♦ Supply is well below demand and wildlife needs to be managed for its actual value, not the dollar value. It is worth much more than \$\$.
- ♦ These things need to be real. Real Commitment to walking the talk. Not just by provincial decision makers, but the industry interests. Industry cannot hide behind govt. Real sincere action. No more nice talk and carrying on the way things were.
- ♦ Work to bring in people who understand the implementation of challenges.

## Getting Started

### Have a clear focus

- ♦ Clear what are we focusing on.
- ♦ Clear objectives—issues to discussion to results.
- ♦ Get a project that everyone can get behind but is achievable, boots on the ground.

### Build relationships

- ♦ Results based relationship.
- ♦ Not always having an agenda to push.
- ♦ Wildlife – end goal is the same thing – uniting how to work past animosity already in place.
- ♦ For building trust and relationships:
  - In person meetings are important.
  - Working toward a common objective and finding small successes early.
  - Province needs to do its work on providing internal training to prepare staff for engagement and relationship building.
  - Province needs to provide staff with time to follow-up with Nations.
  - Regions have started budgeting for Nation participation in meetings, workshops, etc.
  - Keeping consistent communication is important.
  - Branding is also important.

## Linkages/overlaps with existing groups

### Concern about overlaps with existing group mandates

- ♦ Setting up a RWAC would create more work in a sense. They have tables in place that already do similar stuff.
- ♦ Must be cautious and mindful of existing groups, e.g., Indigenous Stewardship Forums. ISFs have set themselves up as centre for stewardship questions, so introducing a new “flavour” has its concerns.
- ♦ Have to show how RWACs are complementary to current ISF.
- ♦ Some groups are already having existing forums and relationships – don’t want to upset what is already there.



- ♦ Treaty 8 wildlife Environmental Group is already an RWAC.
- ♦ Create efficiencies with the other groups people are on.

### **Build on existing tables and models**

- ♦ Collaborative Stewardship Forum had a regional wildlife roundtable (don't call it advisory) that includes stakeholders, government. Likely similar to RWACs. They take information back to respective groups for them to approve or reject.
- ♦ Sometimes it would make sense to use an existing forum. Maybe more relevance with a smaller forum. Likely to be technical staff.
- ♦ There have been examples of successful collaboration, e.g.,
  - Working through STO (Takla and Nak'azdli Whut'en)
  - West Moberly and Sauteau on caribou recovery
  - St'at'imc and Tsilhqot'in are co-writing a policy on Mountain Goat
- ♦ Depending on which area, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) has been spoken about as fragmented, difficult, sometimes participants weren't hearing about meetings. However a Gitanyow Guardian speaks about ESI as very functional. There are regional differences for ESI in what worked and what didn't.
- ♦ 3 Nations have technical groups that meet regularly and advice goes to different committees, and then it comes to the regional wildlife roundtable. They have so many WGs in their territory that focus on wildlife, fish, government-to-government. They come together as 3 Nations group.

## **Capacity**

### **Respect the lack of capacity**

- ♦ Some communities don't have capacity to even have one rep at the table. May only have a few people in the Band office who are already overstretched. Their Nation doesn't want someone else speaking for them, though. And have smaller communities who haven't been at a table at all.
- ♦ Engagement fatigue is a thing.
- ♦ Everyone is so busy, regular meetings are hard.
- ♦ Build internal capacity is goal, hard to do this because they are already so busy, hard to find who could take on this branch of work.
- ♦ Capacity challenge is real, Nations say they want to be involved but they can't...one option done in past (Grizzly project) was when a Nation let another Nation represent them until they have capacity to participate.
- ♦ Need to consider which committees in a year you can participate in, depending on what comes in. It is not a lack of interest but a lack of time.
- ♦ Short staffed. So many things we need to comment on.
- ♦ Short of time.

- ♦ Concerned about having too many tables, and already have existing groups.
- ♦ Think public participation will be hard to get in north because have so few people already that are participating to these groups up there.

### **Be efficient with people's time**

- ♦ Need government-to-government conversations about funding to get First Nations to participate.
- ♦ Capacity and workloads – need to make sure they're efficient and addressing interests of Nations and species that re important to Nations (and stakeholders) to lead to working together to work on appropriate projects.
- ♦ Timelines are hardest. My table has 13 chiefs. When a death happens, everything takes longer to get decisions made.
- ♦ Hearing need for efficiencies. Setting them up to advise projects to deliver a bit more trust that their advice is project specific and for priority setting. Without obstructing the decision making capacity.
- ♦ Have very few people, need to prioritise word, do our best to ask if there is capacity, rely heavily on outside advisors.
- ♦ Ensuring that during establishment process every included party is given enough time (Nations are bombarded with requests, lack of capacity); a month or so to allow engagement with community.
- ♦ Lack of capacity to focus on many things, wildlife is an interest they want to branch into more however don't have much time.
- ♦ Ways to make if efficient, take advantage of existing working groups/initiatives to use a leverage, starting point or linkage point.
- ♦ People are busy and stretched thin with requests, more targeted questions rather than general discussions might help with efficiency.

### **Few meetings, clear objectives**

- ♦ Clear objectives for each committee and each meeting of the committee are important.
- ♦ Creating efficiencies, anywhere we can find efficiencies in the number of meetings.
- ♦ Meetings have to be quarterly, but with room for additional meetings that might only involve a subset of participants when necessary.
- ♦ Fewer meetings rather than more.
- ♦ Setting out shared interest ahead of time. Productive rather than around conflict.
- ♦ Layman's terms helps so that everyone feels included and welcome. Hereditary system like paper and colourful, making understandable.

### **Provide capacity funding for Nations**

- ♦ Funding is necessary, need to pay knowledge keepers.
- ♦ It's a money and a capacity thing, honorarium every time they attend meetings, or getting money every time they attend meeting.

- ♦ Some sort of funding is necessary especially if there isn't in house expertise then they can find someone to provide that expertise.
- ♦ Having capacity someone available and able to attend committees, maybe we are never going to be fully ready, need to start it and there will be growing pains.
- ♦ Timing of meeting and compensation for time is also important.
- ♦ Financial compensation for attending meetings.
- ♦ Indigenous advisors paid by province to participate. And background time for reading and reviewing stuff.

## Membership

### Indigenous members

- ♦ Nations should determine who their rep is.
- ♦ Each Nation from within an RWAC boundary should be represented at the table.
- ♦ A chief from all of the watershed tables because they are each different territories. Their extent of knowledge might really help the discussion.
- ♦ Every Nations should have an equal say, there needs to be an opportunity for all voices to be heard.
- ♦ One person who is champion/representative for each community.
- ♦ Suggest that a single person for each Nation (the conglomeration of communities). The lead for the Nation, single point of contact.
- ♦ In cases where Nations represent multiple Bands, representation from each Band is important because past experience indicates that all Bands are not always represented by the Nation - not all voices are heard.
- ♦ Nations that don't have a voice still need to be heard – engage with others.
- ♦ Should have two people at RWAC from each member group (and also for Nations), like a main rep and an alternate.
- ♦ Have a political rep and technical rep from Nations; can be tough for staff to get messages to leadership. Need technical local expertise for RWACs.
- ♦ Politics vs technical; if a political decision, then need a political person; and if it's a technical question then need a different person.
- ♦ Those who show up need to report back to their chief and council, use format of materials and take it back to chief and council, not just text heavy /dense – meeting summary in a format can use ready-made.
- ♦ In the NE, it's not just wildlife and UNDRIP but also the Treaty 8 breach.
- ♦ Traditional knowledge keepers are not always western educated, anyone who has a vested interest in the wildlife and habitat giving preference to those who have been out on the land.
- ♦ Need local knowledge and input.

- ♦ Options that can be put to the Nation - Nations may assign technical staff to assist BC in leading the group to obtain perspectives and report those to their government-to-government tables (i.e., co-chairing the regional table to support with BC), or designate a lead who oversees it and supports it through their participation to alleviate additional constraints.

### **Government representatives**

- ♦ RWACs should have reps from FOR, EMLI, and LWRS ministries, so government staff understand and hear what concerns are around wildlife.
- ♦ Whoever the government rep is, that is a small seat at the table due to the large size of the ministry.
- ♦ Someone at regional level (rather than Branch) would make sense; looks different for everyone depending on size of region.
- ♦ For example with the Syilx Water Working Group with the Okanagan Nations Alliance, they do have ministry reps that come to the table to hear concerns around protecting water and rights. Can they create drastic change? Maybe not; but can provide the Nations' feedback up to their senior government.
- ♦ Reps would know their directives and could engage more.

### **Other representatives**

- ♦ Need people who have good knowledge of the land, might not have education background but really understand the land need to be included, people like this would have a lot of knowledge to share.
- ♦ Bringing stakeholders and knowledge holders together, stakeholders have learned much from knowledge keepers, there is an education component for stakeholders, BC usually brings the science needs to be science and knowledge keepers but need to develop the trust to do this.
- ♦ Need to be careful that it's not just anyone, need to pull people from established groups, etc.
- ♦ Don't want a random, unsupported person to volunteer, so not sure how to prevent such a person from ending up as the RWAC rep.
- ♦ Whoever attends should be representing a group, not an individual.
- ♦ People that will feel excluded if they aren't invited, having the dashboard outward facing helps make it transparent and people will feel more included (or have something outward facing), but could ask input from public or community at times.
- ♦ We'd like to see one or more representatives from the Oil & Gas Commission attend these meetings to hear the concerns of the other groups.
- ♦ ISFs also include forestry licensees.

### **Size of membership**

- ♦ Many tables try to limit to one person per group.
- ♦ It's difficult for just one person to have all the knowledge from one group.

- ♦ Concern that RWACs could get overrun by certain groups (e.g., 1 First Nations representative from a Nation participating in a group of 12 people = skewed advice). Not just one voice should be allowed to dominate conversation.
- ♦ Need equal representation from First Nations.
- ♦ Possibility of creating a TOR that could outline a fair quorum for any decisions made by RWAC.
- ♦ Keep number of people under 12.
- ♦ In person best, nothing else.

## Scale and geographic boundaries

### Options for determining boundaries

- ♦ Need flexibility for each RWAC (geographic scope, topic specific, participation)
- ♦ RWACs could be flexible and don't necessarily have to stick to provincial regional boundaries.
- ♦ Boundary should be more ecological → nature-based and wildlife-focused.
- ♦ Start and scaling up until you hit functional size. Start with ecosystems and water, and use water and salmon as unifying interest between communities. People will start with ecoregion within watersheds and what are the caretaker areas. Traditional family governance. Good overlay.
- ♦ Scope of topics could expand and may end up including other areas e.g., downstream effects in watersheds, may need to allow flexibility in plans to allow incorporation of others where needed.
- ♦ For CSA, one issue was they couldn't get together enough attendance and eventually divided into northern and southern group. Others (e.g., NGOs) liked it and wanted to be part of bigger projects and they made good connections. Lesson: Be accountable to the land. Be engaged at all different levels. People want to move forward and be inclusive.
- ♦ Start from traditional territory perspective and let leadership decide who else should be included? Nations, working groups, etc.
- ♦ Region to me is traditional hunting areas, or Nation as a whole (11 communities).
- ♦ Define region by Area of Responsibility for entire Okanagan Nation Alliance; Westbank has Area of Responsibility for their referrals as well.
- ♦ Region would be our traditional territory (27000 km), part of Skeena regional, and Prince George, Nechako regions. There are people who are experts in a that certain area and this knowledge gets passed down generation to generation through families and have intricate dealings with the areas that are seasons. Use different areas at different times of the year. Each of these regions is different with unique aspects unique. It's a broad scope of things.
- ♦ Skeena has 28 First Nations. Traditional clans and territories. Not sure how at that scale, not sure how RWACs will be resourced. Forestry has big impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat. FSP and timber supply reviews (TSR) have input into those. Not having 3 meetings in 3 regions, and then colonial govt boundaries making decisions, but may facilitate.
- ♦ Could be eco-regions combined with traditional family, clan, or Caretaker areas, along watersheds? With Dasiqox and Tsilhqot'in land use planning we start with traditional community caretaker areas

and scale up within watersheds - the river and water and salmon unite the sub-regions and community interests. Ideally geographical scope needs to be balanced with # of people in the committee so they are inclusive but small enough to be functional.

- ♦ Regions in NE BC are different because of treaty territory which takes up the whole NE part of BC, east of continental divide. Within that, there are approximately 8 treaty Nations, 2 that are not. Because of treaty rights spread through the whole area, the treaty Nations themselves have decided which areas would impact their ability to survive off the land. When you talk about traditional territory, our rights run throughout the area and we share it with other Nations. Entire T8 Territory is size of Ontario, but we only deal with part that's in BC. But if dealing with Federal govt, then it deals with 40 treaty Nations. 840,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Unique because not all is under provincial jurisdiction. We talk to BC government about what they're doing within their province doesn't impact federal rights.

### **Smaller vs larger 'regions'**

- ♦ Regional scale would look like – pressures of habitat on land base, main thing is forestry. Link it administrative boundaries created by Province. Need more discussion about geographic scale – linked to resourcing. Do we look at district level. Indigenous Advisors and capacity – go to another committee and talk about wildlife.
- ♦ Lean towards the larger scale but might be more productive on a more local scale. Torn because of the scale of the Nations included in Taku River Tlingit First Nation. In TRT, most hunting happens in one Management Unit and that is where there is conflict because that is where there is one Guide outfitter.
- ♦ Some territories very large, e.g., the combined territories of three Nations cover one quarter of province.
- ♦ In their area, Nation sits in up to 4 regions; so there are a lot of different impacts, and they're right on the boundary of a lot of things.
- ♦ Gitksan Nation is large, and often question of what or other Nations doing? Torn also.
- ♦ For ʔaḡam, focus on 20k radius. Moyie to Skookumchuck, Kimberley to Jaffrey.

### **Overlapping territories and regions**

- ♦ In their territory, have to figure out who sits in each region because the territory overlaps multiple. Do they have multiple reps at different RWACs?
- ♦ Can be within a provincial region, but still very far from where decisions are made.
  - Really focused on creating a place where there's shared decision authority, working toward their own region (region 6 is big)
- ♦ First Nations have smaller territories in the south. If RWACs cover a large region, will have a lot of First Nations and voices get watered down over large area

## Scope and Roles

### Roles for RWACs

- ♦ Start with what is the role of the advisory committee? Is it for anything the region wants? If that's the case, then the advisory committee needs to meet first, and outline what their role is and what objectives are, before they can make other decisions.
- ♦ Key is bringing stakeholders and Indigenous representatives together to spend the time and energy to talk about.

### Species / habitat planning

- ♦ Big roles would be addressing objectives for species plans and habitat.
- ♦ Informed by Species Stewardship Plans. Projects being delivered by these committees. We want folks show up with others that also have that priority.
  - Initial objectives are stabilization and growing trends of population and if a species plan doesn't exist, maybe that is one of the first priorities.
  - There are key species with no species plan. First step would be drafting of that plan and population / habitat objectives.
  - Meaningful venue for identifying priorities. Identify species plans for priority plans.
- ♦ CFS talked about objectives and predator management in their territory.
- ♦ Species to keep critical to watch over. Focusing on areas close to our Nation. We still care but not as important as close to our Nation.

### Advisory or decision-making roles?

- ♦ Should RWAC be advisory or decision making more local and separate from government?
  - Should be advisory if technical staff are the members
- ♦ May want decision making at same table as people are bringing forward projects. Model of First Nations Fisheries Management Council. Keeps people engaged and wanting to work together.

### Role of RWACs in funding decisions

- ♦ CFS group does not have ability to make funding decisions.
- ♦ General draw to participate is security of funding. Should provide a bit of ease for BC. If Nations and BC decide on priorities. This would allow project funding that would be shared. Sets this up for success and for BC to commit in terms of funding.
- ♦ Leave some creativity as to how projects are funded. Some stakeholders can write grants so should leave those projects to where they may have access to additional funds.
- ♦ If RWACs have funds, I would want the RWAC to be more local (Territory) because it would direct the funding to that Nation's interests.

## Outreach–Education–Communications

### **Ethical Space and cultural safety**

- ♦ Needs to be some cultural safety.
- ♦ Education on ethical space and safe language will be needed.

### **Education and awareness of RWACs in Nations**

- ♦ Need to educate Nation members on proposal for RWACs (invitation for Dialogues went to Chief and Council, most members not aware of this).
- ♦ Need to know what First Nations are doing now, and need to communicate how RWACs would help them meet their objectives.
- ♦ RWAC members should provide an update to Nations every few months.
- ♦ We need a lot of education on the role of RWACs, and the scope.
- ♦ Avoid hearing about projects when already in motion.
- ♦ How to work on others' territories.
- ♦ How to enforce into each others' territories.
- ♦ Clarification of this work vs government-to-government.

### **Communications among members and to others**

- ♦ How do we get the recommendations from RWAC to the "right" decision makers?
- ♦ Preferred communications options:
  - Face to face is most important.
  - Mail-out packages also a good option.
  - Phone calls also good, but there needs to be consistency there.
- ♦ How to achieve more in person or face to face meetings
- ♦ Mail out hard copy communications
- ♦ Consistent people and funding

### **Education and awareness of RWACs in communities**

- ♦ More education and more engagement from us to the communities.
  - But needs to be done strategically, needs to be awareness, but not "cramming down throats". Cultures are an Indigenous responsibility to teach our own people.
- ♦ Education – but not spend too much time – we want on-the-ground work, take a look at appropriate training, maybe a readiness check for education in group.
- ♦ Want relationships that are results driven, not educational based.
- ♦ Communications – good thoughtful in person communications within communities.
- ♦ Communications:



- We need better communication with the Region. Also interested in Indigenous Knowledge present in the planning phase rather than at the implementation phase.
- RWACs could be a conduit for conversations and communication between Regions and Nations.
- Communications specialists are also important.
- Province needs to add communication into their workplans, existing staff should dedicate a larger amount of time to communications.
- Nations find that there are so many cogs in the system, they would prefer to talk to the actual project lead/specialist, and not through an intermediary.

### **Need for communications specialists**

- ◆ Communications specialist
- ◆ How do we bring people together?

### **Data**

- ◆ Have not been able to meet goal of having good data that will help us make good decisions
- ◆ Wildlife counts and hunting success rates are guesses at best of times
- ◆ Way gov permits are issued isn't based on wildlife counts, habitats, or nature's way of balancing wildlife
- ◆ Lots of work to be done yet.

### **Readiness**

#### **Build capacity for Nations**

- ◆ Capacity issues. Start by building in-house capacity for Nations and communities. Need to be prepared to engage in that process.
- ◆ Communication with Nations is important to figure out what other initiatives they have on the go, as there are a lot of different working groups.

#### **Community engagement and awareness**

- ◆ Need more education and communication and engagement before they can be ready.
- ◆ Need more outreach before we know about "readiness".
- ◆ Readiness –maybe a community survey.

#### **Remove barriers**

- ◆ Readiness – one of the barriers to readiness are existing provincial policies.
- ◆ The Province needs to revisit and destroy some of the policies that are ambiguous and are a barrier.
  - How does one get rid of a Policy?

- There is dialogue needed with Regions on the Policy barriers they are facing, as well as the work arounds.
- New Policy should involve all impacted.
- ♦ STO will be an issue, need to make sure that Nations can work together.

### **Readiness will vary**

- ♦ Thompson Okanagan is exploring RWACs. Nations are at different places, some can fit into their structure, and others are building familiarity with T4W.
- ♦ Smaller RWACs based on 1-2 Nations territory or based off a specific species.

## **Defining Success**

### **Tangible outcomes**

- ♦ Need actual and tangible results for RWACs to succeed and not frustrate participants.
- ♦ RWACs need to come up with recommendations and implement those recommendations (move faster to be successful).
- ♦ RWACs need to be committed to GET THINGS DONE!
- ♦ RWACs need teeth to influence other areas of provincial decisions.

### **Commitment to RWACs**

- ♦ Habitat impacts – commitment to take what we say seriously and recommendations we make seriously.
- ♦ Need Indigenous input and influence into reforestation and forestry practices.
- ♦ RWACs need to influence not just gov't decisions, but industry as well (forest companies need more accountability re. impacts to wildlife and habitat).

### **Wildlife and habitat**

- ♦ Can't manage for wildlife if habitat is not part of the conversation.
- ♦ Can't look at wildlife in isolation – need to look at habitat too.
- ♦ Consideration for wildlife habitat needs to have a higher importance in forest management and practices.

### **Consideration of cumulative impacts**

- ♦ It's not only hunters that impact wildlife.
- ♦ Cumulative impacts – how do RWACs affect/influence decisions?
- ♦ RWACs need to consider and be able to influence cumulative impacts to wildlife and habitat.
  - Example: reforestation initiative replanted a meadow → changed meadow into an overgrown forest where “even a rabbit couldn't make a living”.

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## B: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes

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### Need for RWACs

- ♦ The regional approach is imperative to reach wildlife and habitat objectives. RWAC will get work done in a collaborative manner.
  - Not sure how diverse interests will be considered in RWAC format.
- ♦ Regional issues will be solved at the regional level; the committee will rely on regional representation to solve problems.
- ♦ A regional-level structure is necessary to consider all the challenges and issues related to on-the-ground wildlife and habitat work.
- ♦ RWAC will create opportunities for citizen science projects and contribute to bridging the data gaps.
- ♦ Committees would provide a service to Nations that haven't had an opportunity through government-to-government or land use planning to discuss issues with government.
- ♦ Not about who we are, but about the interest and importance of the animal.
- ♦ Talking face to face and in dialogue with each other is the most important thing.
- ♦ Bringing communities together – bring groups together with one common goal, everyone has a different mandate but goals are common.

### Getting Started

#### Start simple

- ♦ Starting out slow and having some easy goals to meet would be helpful. This will be a long process, failures will happen—that's ok.
- ♦ Common vision or purpose. Need to all be there for the same reason.
- ♦ Start simple, small and adapt as you go. When the ask is so big, start small and then publicize successes and grow from there.
- ♦ Start small otherwise it will be too big and won't succeed.
- ♦ Are there existing groups that could be built off of or integrated?
- ♦ Who is initiating the initial conversations? The T4W area leads?
- ♦ Just do it. May not be perfect and may morph.

#### Clear focus

- ♦ Clearly explaining why people are at RWACs will be needed. Develop clear and concise messaging of what RWACs are and what the opportunity is. PHTAT and Stakeholders could help with that messaging.
- ♦ What is the purpose of the RWAC? This is the starting point.

### **Tangible actions**

- ♦ Look at the challenges that could pull a region together on a united front.
- ♦ Need to get something done on the ground, so that volunteers don't burn out ... need to see progress. Get something on the ground and get it going! Certain parts of BC seem to be more ready – Kootenays may be more ready locally. Set it up there and let it find its way and then get others in.
- ♦ Potential to start with issue or species-specific pieces (like updating the Roosevelt Elk Management Plan), might be a way of identifying something tangible and getting it done.

### **Engaging with First Nations**

#### **Essential to engage with First Nations**

- ♦ FN engagement critical, go to them in their community, meet people where they are at, listen; need good facilitated discussions, not consultations; merge western and Indigenous perspectives.
- ♦ FN need to be engaged at start; must be meaningful engagement, cannot be an excuse for managers: may inherit failures of the past.
- ♦ Engage Nations from the outset. Is it possible to survey FNs within a region and get their direction re. how many advisory committees should be made. What do FNs suggest? FN groups or groups of FN groups instead of each individual FN. Also depends on each FN and how far along they are.
- ♦ We need to unite and work together to benefit wildlife.
- ♦ We can't damage relationships.

#### **Build transparency and trust**

- ♦ Focus on transparency and trust with FN and stakeholders working together. Overcome the history of past processes that did not show results; consider and make sure there are levers to make change; set priorities, objectives, and actions to get things done.
- ♦ Problem of government staff turnover, need to build long term relationships; need open door for discussions with staff—share info, build relations; regional staff presently hard to reach; frustration that staff has no levers with present legislation.
- ♦ How do we deal with conflict within these committees? Some Nations have history and may not want to sit at same table together.

#### **Education for working with Indigenous groups**

- ♦ Gwen Bridge should be invited in to guide Ethical Space work for the development of RWACs.

- ♦ Ethical space – should be a starting point.
- ♦ ‘We Rise Together’ report presents an outline of how to work with Indigenous groups.

### **Recognize Indigenous capacity limitations**

- ♦ Need to wait for Nations if they are not ready.
- ♦ Capacity is important.
- ♦ Different FNs have different levels of readiness to participate in wildlife and habitat discussions. Some Nations are not yet ready to have this discussion across the board.
- ♦ Needs to be commitment to provide capacity funding for Nations.

### **Include Indigenous knowledge in decisions**

- ♦ Prioritize integrating TEK into decisions.
- ♦ Is there mechanism and guidelines available on how to consider/include Indigenous knowledge (IK) and values?
- ♦ FNs group can provide support on how to consider IK in wildlife and habitat management.

### **Learning from other tables**

- ♦ Cowichan Wildlife Stewardship Council work is also an example of the journey of FN and Stakeholder relations as well as the discussions that happen/need to happen.
  - Fighting over Elk was a big learning experience; learned a lot
  - Worked collaboratively with the province to develop a mapping program
  - Also designated specific places for Elders
  - Chiefs decided that they would want to work with the Guide Outfitters
- ♦ Could look at the Wildlife Stewardship Council as an example of Regional approach.
- ♦ Example of work happening in region - NE Area.
  - Have a government-driven stakeholder roundtable
  - Have a stakeholder-driven roundtable as well
  - Various participating parties, hunters, trappers, First Nations, cattlemen
  - All seem to have changed to informational sessions, rather than sharing ideas
- ♦ BCWF work on wetland restoration in the NE is also a good example.
- ♦ Links with PHTAT, Forum, MWAC:
  - Relationships are so important would like to see PHTAT, MWAC, Forum to be able to sit in a room together. Suggest that Forum/MWAC could have expectations/ conduct rules for PHTAT.
  - Need to build trust in the process.
  - Sessions should be together for Wildlife Dialogues/other sessions moving forward. Need to build relationships between the two groups.

- PHTAT and Stakeholder relations:
  - Interested in representation re: First Nations.
  - Also want to know how UNDRIP intersects and First Nations influence through that.
  - Want certainty and clarity on a path forward and what the benefit/impacts are for Hunters and Trappers.

## Capacity

- ♦ Stakeholder organizations also face capacity challenges.
  - I am also holding too many positions and have a full-time job
  - If these meetings happen too frequently, it may not going to hit the priorities; may feel too much and there are other examples where this type of model failed.
  - Industries have paid representatives to attend these meetings but for many other forums these are voluntary.
  - People are volunteering their time, need to recognize the limitations that people have on their time. Could also look into alleviating some of the associated costs.
- ♦ Don't want something that gets overused; sometimes communications can be just emails and don't require us to attend meetings.
- ♦ Frequency of meetings:
  - I have many other meetings to attend; If this is something happening monthly I get only 2 to 3 weeks to prepare my response which can be overwhelming.
  - Monthly is too frequent for me; bimonthly?
  - Need to identify where I fit in the agenda and if my presence is necessary

## Membership

### Size of committees

- ♦ Size limits need to be careful. 60 is too many in the NE, 12-18 is the magic number.
- ♦ 50% should be FN seats.
- ♦ Can't have 50+ people; but also can't be too small either.
- ♦ Not any larger than 10 people?
- ♦ 12 people?
- ♦ Less is more.
- ♦ More people will complicate the decision-making process.
- ♦ The TOR should specify the number of seats
- ♦ The number of seats per group needs to be confirmed/defined as well
- ♦ There should be a limit of max. number of representations per organization/stakeholder group.
- ♦ Starting small (7-8 people)

- ♦ Start far too large in capacity and membership might be bad. It is advisable to start small with the leading organizations in the area, and then incrementally invite other stakeholders to the table.
- ♦ Membership will increase over time, incrementally.

### **Selection of members**

- ♦ Need to pick the membership very carefully.
  - People committed to collaborate
  - Proactive people
  - Focusing on resource conservation.
  - People with a history in the location, or knowledgeable of the local history.
- ♦ The qualities that a person brings to the table is important and should be considered before who/what they represent.
- ♦ Do need to be representative of the region. Focused on individuals and organizations where wildlife is the top priority and sustaining wildlife is the long-term view.
- ♦ Invite a lot of people and see who shows up; give people a chance to vent and then get to work; find what works best for the group.
- ♦ Regarding membership of RWAC, are we going to invite everyone to wildlife discussion or ask the groups who expressed specific interest; I support the latter.
- ♦ Do we let people from outside the region to contribute to a regional committee? How do we keep that local voice? The people that make their living there and a tough balance.
- ♦ Idea that membership that could mean a vetting process for membership where they had to demonstrate this for membership. I would hate for someone to hijack.
- ♦ The committee should also think about who we do 'NOT' want on the table.
- ♦ Many different groups are interested in wildlife discussions (e.g., youth group) but not all of them need to be on the committee.
- ♦ Inclusivity ... what role can non-consumptive groups play? What will the focus be? How broad will it be? Will there space for organizations that are supportive of wildlife, but are non-consumptive? Will the objectives of wildlife management go beyond traditionally hunted species? What is the breadth and scope of the topics?
- ♦ 1990s land use planning process. Participated in tables and came away dissatisfied. Makes the selection of participants very important. Don't want the process sidetracked by other interests. Want a strong committee that is true to the intent of the committees. How to do good things for the animals should be the core and passion for every participant.
- ♦ Traditional model will end up not talking with one another. Common difference is an urban versus rural perspective of wildlife management. Both need to be represented. Allow for communication and not siloed.
- ♦ There are also frustrations with how MWAC membership were selected, needs to be more transparent.

- ♦ Make sure that broader outreach is completed. Not sure why some groups like BC Nature aren't represented.
- ♦ In the Okanagan Nation Alliance, consensus process. All viewpoints are important, but that it needs to be for the common good of the 'region'.
- ♦ If you are a provincial body, you have a provincial body and then local clubs represent at those regional tables.
- ♦ Provincial leads can identify regional representatives for companies and stakeholder groups.

### **Technical advisors**

- ♦ Membership structure should reserve a specific number of seats for Technical Advisors.
  - Examples or list of advisors per region would be good.
- ♦ The technical advisor seats would be more clear when we know how we are prioritizing actions, funding and resourcing commitments, and restoration initiatives; however, considering this would be good to set the trajectory for ongoing discussions.
- ♦ Invite them to discuss issues when needed:
  - Land Managers
  - Resource Users
  - Past experiences on conservation in the past

### **Representative vs non-representative**

- ♦ Have to define what non-representative means - does it mean that someone takes off their organizational hat? Or does it mean that if you belong to an organization that you don't get to sit on a table at all?
- ♦ Could be non-representative but with expertise around the table or a technical table to support the advisory table.
- ♦ Non-representative may be preferable due to the positionality that people and orgs can take. Can be a similar process like the selection of MWAC.
- ♦ Role of members – expected to provide their expertise *for* wildlife and not simply work to advance their organizations interests.
- ♦ Agree with the regional representative idea for RWAC membership.
- ♦ Representative would be important for some RWACs as there are some that aren't represented at the Provincial level.
- ♦ Challenge with representation and having someone speaking for a group.
- ♦ Also have to be careful to include FNs that are not represented by a Nation.

### **First Nations representation**

- ♦ First Nations positions should be appointed by the Nations.
- ♦ Must include all the interested Nations; should not be just an individual First Nation.



- ♦ Is there a limit? Would any number of FNs representatives be permitted to join if they are interested?
- ♦ How do we create ideal representation? 3 Nations to represent all coastal Nations isn't cool.
- ♦ Not all Bands want to be represented by the tribal council, so interest from the tribal council may not reflect interests from all the interested Indigenous and FNs communities in the area.

### **Industry representation**

- ♦ Industrial representation in the committee is also important for building relationships
- ♦ Such representation would also identify the factors and complexities of multistakeholder decision-making at the very early stage of discussions
- ♦ Value in having industry representations but there have to be parameters when and how this will come into play.
- ♦ Industry representation in RWAC should be revisited. At least one person from the industry should be on the committee to explain what is happening and why certain decisions cannot be made so easily.
- ♦ A tourism/recreation group are very interested to participate in this discussion. But I'm not sure whether they (Tourism/Recreation) will be represented in the committee or not
- ♦ Industry has been lacking in the dialogues. Discovery Islands Forest working group is a great example. Forestry and Commercial (MoF, MoT, with stakeholders from Tourism and Forestry) brought together.
  - Is RWAC a place to discuss forestry/industry issues?
  - These meetings/discussions are for wildlife and habitat management; not for industrial scoping.
- ♦ Must not include all industry folks
- ♦ Invite industries when their support is needed; don't need to come to every meeting
  - Industries can play the advisors role.
  - Industry and other non-essential group representation can be ad hoc basis
- ♦ Concerns that industry representation in the committee will slow down the decision-making process.
- ♦ Mass representation can bog down the process – Is there a need to include developers/ loggers in the committee?
- ♦ With industry, common for local people that are ingrained in the community, versus the company representative.

### **Structure and Process**

#### **Terms of Reference**

- ♦ TOR should identify:

- Clear expectations of RWAC
- Responsibilities
- Engagement strategies to include other groups that do not have representation in the committee
- Meeting frequencies
- ◆ The topics/issues that will be discussed/addressed through RWAC should be identified first.
- ◆ All at the table should leave politics at the door. FNs should be enabled to have a discussion on their internal politics or deal with them.
- ◆ Expanding regional PHTATs will not work, should not be talking contentious issues like regulations, as they tend to get positional.

### **Need for facilitation**

- ◆ Need a neutral facilitator skilled in cross-cultural collaboration.
- ◆ Strong facilitators would be necessary for RWAC to keep things on track.
- ◆ Facilitation and coordination, especially in the early years of RWAC but also beyond, if it falls to volunteers or even govt staff it risks the success of the project.
- ◆ Would be volunteers for this committee and employers would support as long as there are tangible results. Would be helpful if there was somebody chairing/facilitating so participants don't have to.
- ◆ Wrong group/facilitation can negatively impact the progress.
  - Referenced the example from the 2019 T4W meeting where the facilitator was a forester and did not consider many other non-forestry perspectives in the discussion.

### **Development of agendas**

- ◆ Many of the committees end up having the people tell government their advice (government determined agenda). Important that committees have control over their own agenda. Silos can exist in the room. Everyone is in the room, because otherwise we are not all working together.
- ◆ There should be flexibility in the RWAC structure where members can bring any topics and the associated objectives for wildlife and habitat management.
- ◆ Structuring conversations carefully is important, making sure Wildlife is first and that there is a clear scope for what is on and off the table in initial discussions will be critical.
- ◆ Having a meeting is not a measure of success, have to have outcomes.

### **Potential for sub-committees**

- ◆ Areas with specific issues can be married, narrow concerns down to local issues – have sub-committees within the regional committee.
- ◆ Possible to have a large committee with smaller cells working on issues that are important to them. Having working groups or sub groups that have a smaller number of people. Have big membership on the larger committee, but have smaller groups that are efficient.

- ♦ One structure that's been put forward is a core committee with working groups, with the option for committees to share working groups where there are shared priorities. Wouldn't necessarily just be species tables, but could include other topics.
  - Ecosystems, plant species might be priorities or topics to break out.
- ♦ Seems like you need lots of smaller committees feeding up into a larger regional committee. Differences between Keremeos and Penticton is drastic, so we need to capture that detail of the landscape.

### **Governance structure**

- ♦ The governance structure will be important.
- ♦ Right now we're trying to create some guidelines - like creating a grocery list, but not necessarily a recipe. Right now we're in the grocery store, but we don't have a list of what can be used to make up an RWAC.
- ♦ Have the committees operate at arms length from government.

### **Administrative support**

- ♦ Need consistent externally funded source to administer the committees.
- ♦ This group will need to remain relevant and keep going. Important that government properly fund these committees and annual in person opportunities.
- ♦ Need a toolkit to consider multiple perspectives.

## **Scale and geographic boundaries**

### **Determining RWAC boundaries**

- ♦ What is a region – colonial construct are we managing to provincial definition? One size fits all approach may not work. Designed at the local level. Form follows function.
- ♦ Scale should be around the people that are knowledgeable about the land
- ♦ RWAC needs to be driven by the stakeholders and the FN and not the government.
- ♦ Don't have a solution, but should be known that this whole thing came together with T4W and so that wildlife and habitat stay the focus. Don't get hung up on details of boundaries.
- ♦ Shared regional voice in making wildlife decisions. I am not sure what region means. Many people on the south coast use the wildlife in the parts of the province they don't live in.
- ♦ Scope will help to define scale. FN overlap areas – interesting to see how that is captured. Are we going much smaller in geographic scope – may be level of development or number of people. Regions will need flexibility in order to be successful. Once we have a better idea of what we are talking about, we'll have a better idea of what the scale should be. Objectives like increase wildlife populations, increased hunting opportunities, urban realities will all influence perspectives, priorities and objectives.

### **Boundary options**

- ♦ Break into committees based on “ecological” regions; some areas of the province have already started conservation groups that should be used as an inspiration or for guidance.
- ♦ You may not need a set in stone boundary, as long as you have a conduit to the provincial boundaries and governance. Let’s not get caught up on boundaries. It could be ecosystem based, jurisdictional but not to get hung up. But how to capture those broad ecosystems.
- ♦ New sets of boundaries will add to confusion and complications. Easier to bring people together from various areas to those units, rather than try to cram wildlife into a regional district boundary, for example.
- ♦ Align the groupings based on the shared priority – may span a large area or a small area, large group of people or small group, etc.
- ♦ Need to start somewhere, and then bring biologists in to understand what’s going on.
- ♦ Are we likely to run into topics that are going to concern more than 1 region? Does that kick it up to a provincial level?
- ♦ Government boundaries:
  - Government already designated regional boundaries in the hunting synopsis – start there and within each region there are management units. Already used by provincial biologists to make recommendations/decisions.
  - Maybe a group of management units fits with a FN territory, or group of FN territories. Watersheds may also be appropriate.
  - Would like to have a proper definition of what the management region is going to be, and then identify the species that are there, and the practices that impinge on the habitat they live in. This gives an idea of the ecosystem but still provides lines on a map to work with. We have to manage the species, the landscape and the people.
  - The path with the least resistance is to base the regions on administrative boundaries. It is a framework that people are already used to.
  - Administrative divisions subdivided by ecoregions will be ideal if there is enough funding.
  - Regional boundaries are not the main issue; the main problem is shrinking habitats and declining populations.
  - The recommendations from RWAC meetings will go to the Govt. manager to decide on; so the admin/forest district boundary makes sense but this is flexible and can be decided upon the discussion with band members
  - If we start off with hunting regions that are already there, we might want to group them together or split them up depending on the scope and scale of the species in question (e.g. region 1 and 2 would need to be involved with Roosevelt elk).
- ♦ First Nations territories:
  - The traditional territory concept is interesting. I have seen FNs use regional boundary concept when working together but they depend mostly on their own traditional territory for negotiation and local issues.

- The traditional territory concept is interesting. I have seen FNs use regional boundary concept when working together but they depend mostly on their own traditional territory for negotiation and local issues.
- ♦ Up north with lots of industry going on. NE BC is maybe easier to segregate off into a regional area. Common interests and common challenges may help divide the regions up. In NE they have the O&G activities, Treaty 8, Boreal Forest. Seems that naturally this would be good regional model.
- ♦ Multi-region discussions:
  - About breaking down silos. One way to do this is to include those from other regions participating. This is one way to compare with what other regions are doing.
  - Don't want to get stuck in our silo. While we can get stuck with our own individual issues, coming together and talking about the greater good. Having people come and speak from different regions could be very important.
  - Having guests from other regions visit and present at different region's meeting.

## Roles / Scope

### Roles

- ♦ Bringing wildlife and habitat objectives to the table will trigger meaningful discussion for government managers to make decision.
- ♦ Committees could be involved in the land use planning table.
- ♦ Avoid centralization of decisions.
- ♦ Decisions must come from the regions and not from Victoria --> could be the beginning of a new level of governance.
- ♦ As an elected official I have been approached re wildlife, always about forestry and fibre focus, wildlife viewed as a cost; what levers available for change? Need legal mandate for objectives.
- ♦ LEH decision was made. Would RWAC be a gap in that engagement? RWAC should have a voice in those decisions and a collaborative voice from the locals.

### Objective setting

- ♦ Legislated objectives are the way to go.
- ♦ If we had legislated objectives, RWACs could have priority projects to impact habitat – these projects would be place based. RWACs will bring local knowledge.
- ♦ Legislated objectives set for protection of species – would be set in regions, affirmed through RWACs. Must be evidence based. Less focus on who sets them, more on having them.
- ♦ Objectives have been built but never implemented; need objectives built by group and follow through, create political pressure.
- ♦ Must have objectives, RWAC to advise as to priority projects, place based; legislated objectives to be set through government-to-government, evidence based.

- ♦ Use water quality objectives/water sustainability could set the stage for setting objectives under the Wildlife Act.
- ♦ Ratios etc exist but no density objectives are out there, or to ensure that consumption can occur. This is very important to both stakeholders and First Nations. Regional biologists are struggling with this but won't communicate it. Decision makers need levers to achieve this.
- ♦ No sufficient objectives for hunting; forest industry push back on objectives; set objectives with stakeholders and First Nations.

### **Advisory vs decision-making role**

- ♦ There are concerns when it is ONLY an advisory committee. If advice is not taken, there might be discouragement. Empowerment is needed.
- ♦ The functions of the committee need to be well-defined. An advisory committee could be integrated into planning functions (Regional Action Plans).
- ♦ LRMPs. Don't reinvent the wheel. Populations recovery is key/paramount. Where can we be thinking ahead? Additional protected areas.
- ♦ Have a formal or semi-formal input if scope of discussion is expanded from growing harvestable species. What is the scope of the committee? If it's not know, how do I know that things I care about will work on?

### **Role of RWACs in funding decisions**

- ♦ Two aspects to funding: governance, IK and Indigenous funding, etc.
- ♦ Have to have buy in from First Nations.
- ♦ Need to demonstrate value.
- ♦ Consideration of value of wildlife – translates into funding.
- ♦ Potential for partnership, civil society, and Indigenous lens. If you have funding available, how to leverage other sources: including philanthropy, industry. Government can take leadership and then allowing partnerships and innovations to develop.
- ♦ Members bill to transform revenue to go into a private body outside of government to manage and distribute.
- ♦ Prove wildlife value to province; get First Nations buy in and partnership; having value leads to funding.
- ♦ Potential for innovation; get industry and philanthropy involved in funding; government provide money for innovation to develop with partners.
- ♦ How will the funding be allocated across regions?
  - The money can be easily derailed from Victoria
  - RWACs should be able to have a say on how that funding will be allocated
  - Each region needs to have well-defined priorities so the budget can be well-allocated

### **Inclusion of species at risk**

- ♦ Need to clarify scope – need to include ALL wildlife including species-at-risk.
- ♦ Feeling a bit on the edge of this group because species at risk is out of scope.

### **Inclusion of urban wildlife**

- ♦ Urban wildlife and people and coexistence, e.g., coyotes in Stanley Park is a big issue. Don't forget urban wildlife. Want to see people from urban areas who are interested in wildlife be part of this as well.
- ♦ Coexistence is the biggest piece. People don't know how to live with wildlife. How do you have a healthy urban ecosystem that will support urban animals. Encroachment into wild areas creating more conflict with cougars, wolves and bears. Killing animals because people don't know how to live with them.

### **Raising decisions to a higher/provincial level**

- ♦ Guidance around when to raise decisions to a higher level could be helpful.
- ♦ Thinhorn sheep would be a good example – you'd want multiple regions working on it together. At some point you have to come together and have a cohesive plan for thinhorn sheep in the province.
- ♦ CWD – crosses international boundaries, provincial boundaries. Something like that needs to have a provincial analysis because it affects the majority of regions.
- ♦ But don't want to lose communication with/within regions when things are moved up to a provincial level. Someone within the region where it originated should follow it to the provincial table so they can report back.
- ♦ Members of groups would need to be extremely flexible to move between committees, working groups, at different scales.
- ♦ What do we do when it could be a federal issue? E.g. management of moose and predators has strong linkage to caribou management.
- ♦ Joint recommendations hold more strength – benefits in groups coming together. Could be a valuable mandate of the RWACs to form joint recommendations with other committees wherever possible.
- ♦ The local level solutions can often be the simplest, most effective.
- ♦ More important to set long term objectives from a group with various perspectives. I'm not sure if these RWACs will feed up into the MWAC. But these local voices need to be heard at the provincial table. Needs to be a joint voice between Nations and everyone else.
- ♦ Where is the roadmap of how the advice will reach higher levels? What is the structure?

## **Outreach–Education–Communications**

### **Public education and engagement**

- ♦ Engagement process may look different in a rural setting vs. a rural one.

- ♦ Have to target your audience – dialogue will be different with rural communities vs. urban/ will need a multifaceted way of expressing ideas. Will also need to listen to people that you want to communicate with to understand where they're coming from, find what resonated with them.
- ♦ Educating the urban population – that's where the votes and power base is for MLAs. They also don't experience the outdoors as often. People can buy in. Tell the story about how we relate to the outdoors.
- ♦ Use emotional hook to bring people in from multiple backgrounds to create emotional connection to past, land, water, air – stronger than an intellectual appeal.
- ♦ Timely communications and information availability is important – but concern about information overload when we don't know who is going to be interested and responsive. RWAC would need someone assigned to proactively communicate its news outward.
- ♦ Good example is MWAC website – it has lots of good information but people need to find a way to it. Use different types of media to bring message forward.

### **Internal RWAC communications**

- ♦ Educating stakeholders on Indigenous values should be the role of RWAC.
- ♦ Effective communication strategy for such committees is a major driver and the need is very strong.
- ♦ Identifying strategies on how to communicate effectively with all the interested parties will decide the success of the RWAC and the overall outcome of the T4W initiatives.
- ♦ Communication is very important. Stakeholders don't keep track of the ongoing work. The annual meeting are great but probably better to have meetings more than once a year.
- ♦ Committee members need tools for proper communication and engagement.
  - Government should provide these resources and support through RWAC.
  - Some tools and resources are available but need to get the word out.
- ♦ Careful with people's confidence. Need money so people can meet but also communicate and keep all these things running.

### **Data and transparency**

- ♦ There is already some roll out on joint decision making; some Nations will not want to share information.
- ♦ Some sensitivity re data transparency; need government data transparency; build community; support region species plans.
- ♦ Data transparency and trust are critical; limited membership who can report out, committed membership; no one group is responsible for problem, wildlife and habitat have not been a government priority; don't focus on species that are doing well, focus appropriately.
- ♦ Accountability and transparency:
  - Framework must optimize priorities so things get done!
  - Government may not be in best position to lead



- Forge partnerships to prioritize and implement
- Heavy to operational recommendations
- Follow through and report (on mistakes)

## Readiness

- ♦ Different regions might have different standards of readiness.
- ♦ Need to consider if Nation(s) feels ready.
- ♦ Reconciliation with FN might be a first good requisite.
- ♦ On Readiness, everyone is ready, need the ToR, funding.
- ♦ To know if RWACs are ready, you first need to know what they are preparing for. A roadmap and clear objective of those RWACs is necessary so a "readiness" bar can be set.
  - Its hard to see when you arrive when you don't know where you're going.
- ♦ It is necessary to have clarity on what is needed from RWACs.
- ♦ If we start too early, are we going to get it wrong? Maybe not. It might be worse not to stay idle waiting for readiness.
- ♦ They're ready to go whenever the RWAC has agreed on their regional priorities. Better sooner than later.
- ♦ Regions that might be ready:
  - Fraser River Working Group is a good model of success
  - Okanagan Nations Alliance (Region 8)
  - East Kootenay Region is almost ready

## Defining success

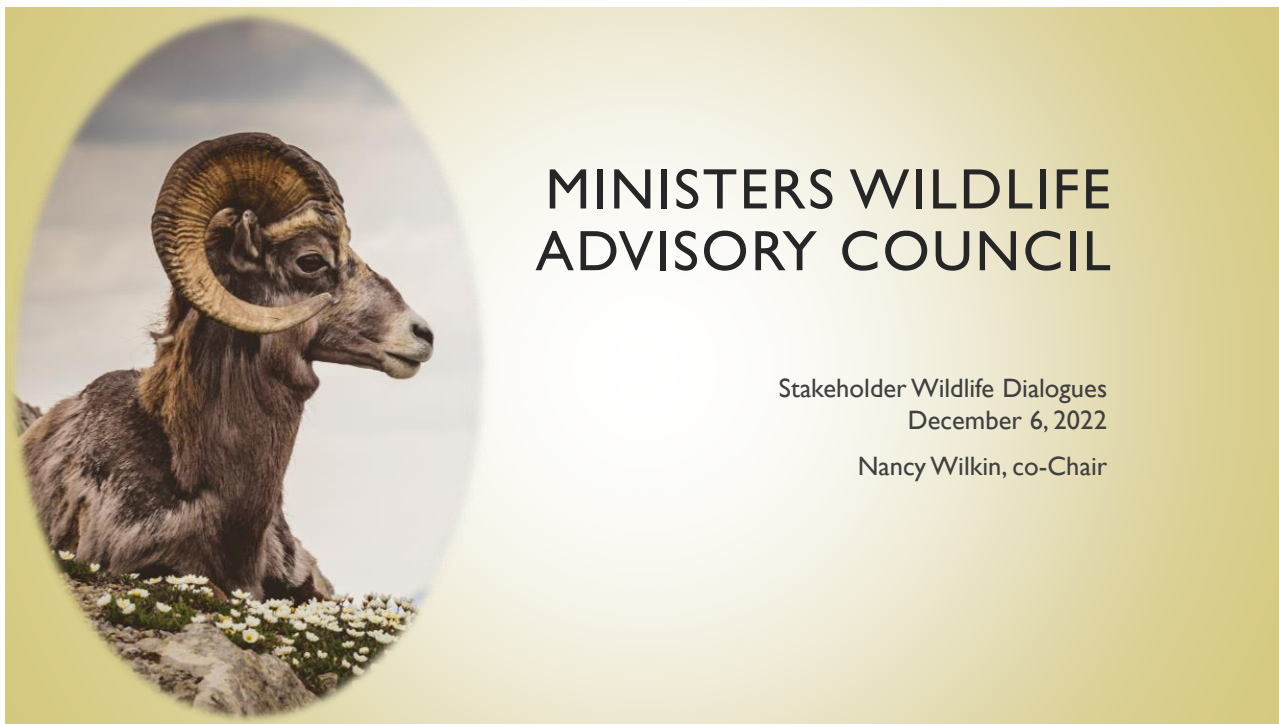
- ♦ Habitat connection and Nature Agreement funding for biodiversity. Biodiversity is huge though. If regional committees can show results, there likely wouldn't be an issue getting volunteers. Success breeds success.
- ♦ Funding or reward or tools can be measures of success. Having a reward, so participation makes it worthwhile = tools that can be applied on the ground to solve issues.

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## C: Introductory Presentations

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1

## OUR COUNCIL

- 18 members, Indigenous and non-Indigenous
- Shared passion for wildlife
- Now two years old, welcoming new members
- Role to advise two Ministers – currently Forests Minister Katrine Conroy and Land, Water and Resource Stewardship Minister Josie Osborne

2

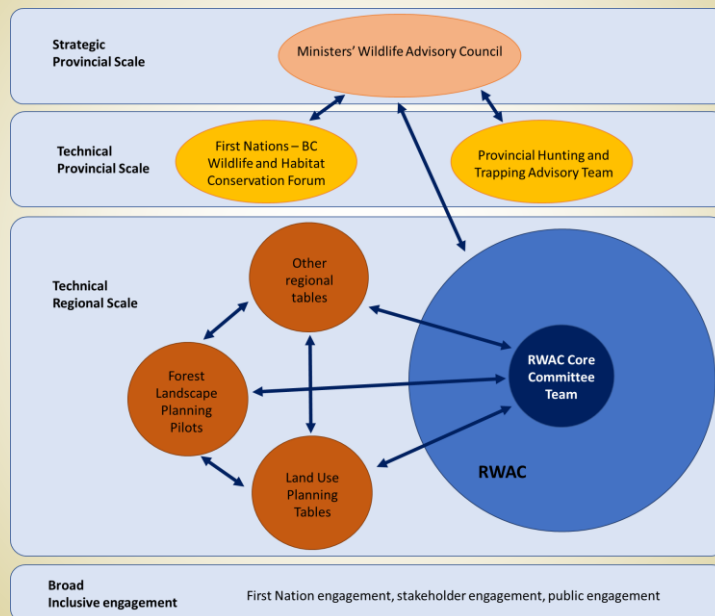
## PARADIGM SHIFTS

- Shared decision making and modelling reconciliation
- Prioritize ecosystem health



3

## WORKING WITH FORUM AND PHTAT



4



## 22 RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERS



For example:

- ✓ **Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy**, jointly with the Forum
- ✓ Establish **Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees** to support the development of local wildlife stewardship plans
- ✓ Prioritize the implementation of **cultural and prescribed fire** to proactively reduce the severity of future wildfires and improve wildlife habitats
- Develop and implement **monitoring programs and performance measures** to determine if objectives are being met for key ecosystems on all public and private lands, including Conservation Lands

5

## FUNDING

- Funding principles to guide funding decisions
- Recommendation on governance of wildlife funding



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## RESEARCH



- Investigating ways to support post-secondary research
- Funding for six student research grants
- Three Mitacs fellows

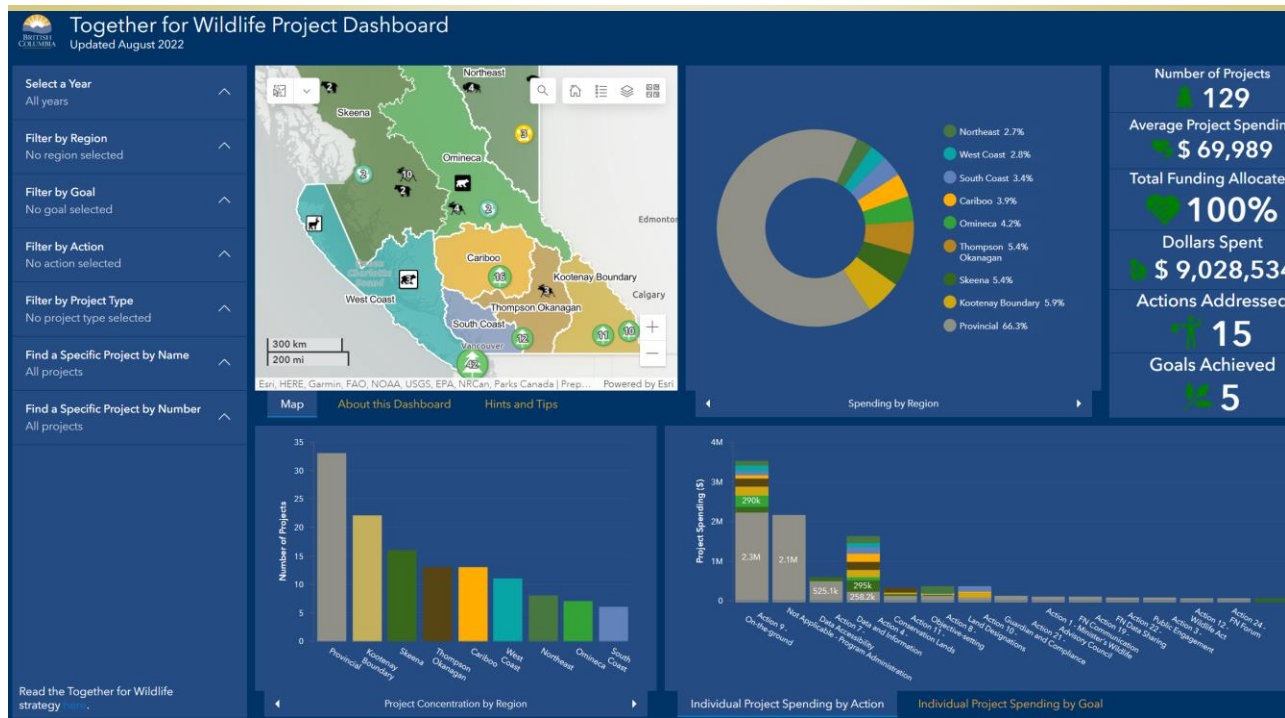
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## TRANSPARENCY

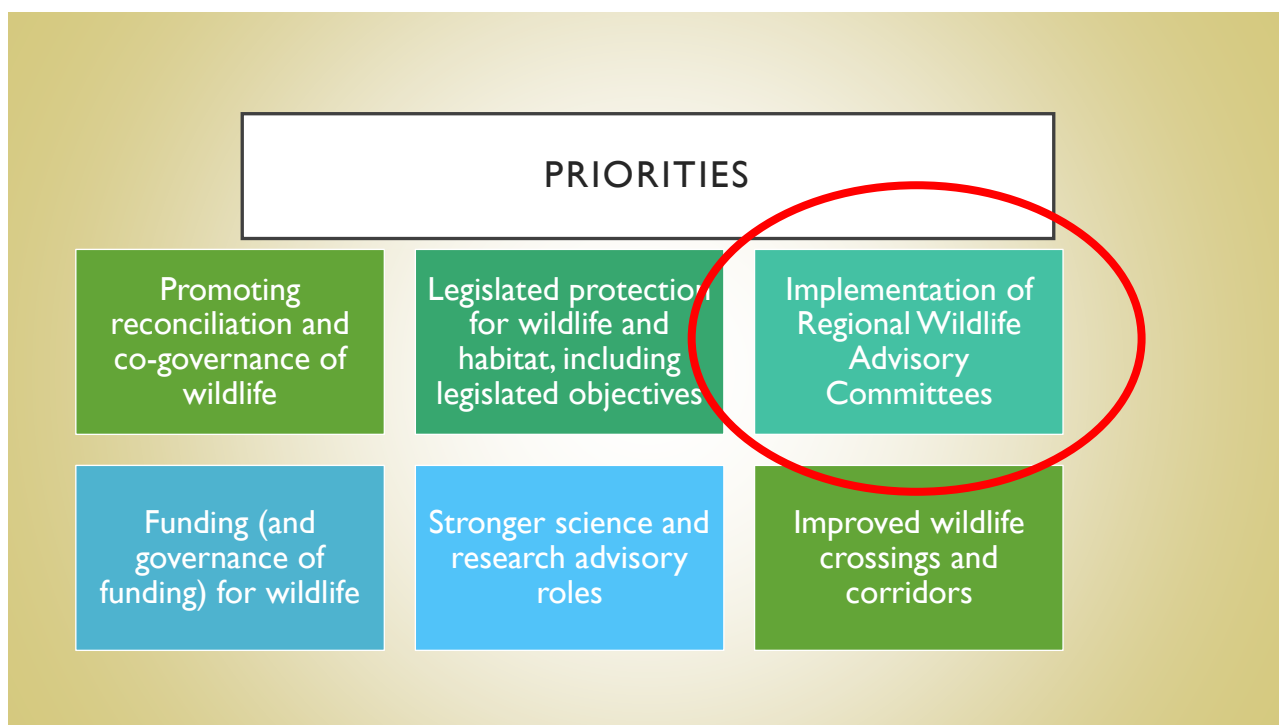
- Website [ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca](https://ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca)
- Speaking engagements
- Wildlife Dialogues
- Project dashboard



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## WILDLIFE DIALOGUES 2021: WHAT WE HEARD: RAISING THE PROFILE OF WILDLIFE

- Have locally-based management and decisions
- Collaboration is key
- Provide capacity and funding for First Nations
- Create government-to-government solutions tables
- Take action now (urgency)
- Provide the data and knowledge (western science and Indigenous knowledge)
- Advocacy and education are essential
- Amend legislation to support wildlife-first decisions



Regional Wildlife  
Advisory Committees

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## WILDLIFE DIALOGUES 2021: WHAT WE HEARD WORKING TOGETHER

- Build trust and relationships
- Communicate
- Use two-eyed seeing
- Provide good data
- Enable local decision making
- Think strategically and on-the-ground (watershed) level
- ▶ Be collaborative and respectful
- ▶ Avoid silos
- ▶ Provide funding and capacity
- ▶ Build partnerships
- ▶ Make legislative changes
- ▶ Act now! Start now with “easy” stuff
- ▶ Put wildlife first in our thinking

# First Nations - BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum.

Updates for the 2022 MWAC Wildlife Dialogues by Hunter Lampreau.

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

1

## Introduction



- Member of the Secwepemc Nation, Simpcw on my father's side, Neskonalith on my Mothers.
- Qwelmintec Secwepemc - Wildlife Policy Analyst.
- Indigenous Co-Chair, 2020-2022, 2022-2024.

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

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## Presentation contents:

- Forum Background.
- 2021-2022 Work Priorities & Updates.
- Shared Decision Making Policy Work Update.

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

3



## Forum Background.

- Originated in 2018, to support the co-development of the Intentions Paper for Bill 14, and co-drafting of Together for Wildlife.
- Operates as a non-representative, technical advisory body to BC on the implementation of T4W.
- Self developed, and endorsed work plan, with distinct working groups to advance.

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

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## 2021-22 Work Priorities & Updates.

- **Bill 14 - Policy co-development for consideration of Indigenous knowledge & sheltering/protocol Hunting.**
- **Paradigm Management - Species Planning, Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees, Communication & Capacity.**
- **Shared Decision Making Policy - Scope, function and possibility within current mandate and using current tools.**

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

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## Shared Decision Making Policy Work Update.

- **Drafting content specific to non-Statutory decisions, meant to support relationships between BC and Nations grounded in ethical space.**
- **Policy and Procedure meant to distribute guidance and advice from the Forum's work to Regional Staff.**
- **Initial step to deliver Action 18 under Goal 5 of T4W, while contributing to Action 2.**

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

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# 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**  
**([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.*

# Provincial Hunting & Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT) - Update



Presentation for the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council – Wildlife Dialogues

December 2, 2022

Michael Burwash – PHTAT chair, Associate Director Wildlife

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## PHTAT Update



### Members

Diverse representation that informs hunting & trapping related regulations, policies and procedures

- British Columbia Trappers Association
- British Columbia Wildlife Federation
- Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia
- Wildlife Stewardship Council
- 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

2

# PHTAT Update



## Our Role

Facilitate information and dialogue for sustainable wildlife stewardship

### Support Wildlife Stewardship

To facilitate science-based wildlife management and conservation in BC

### Facilitate Information Exchange

To engage all stakeholders in hunting and trapping management in BC

### Advance Reconciliation

include Indigenous knowledge in wildlife management

3

3

# PHTAT Update



## Current Work

- Supporting shared priority work with the First Nations Wildlife and Habitat Forum (FN Forum) and Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (MWAC), specifically the Together For Wildlife Strategy implementation
- Hunting and Trapping Management Advice - provides hunting and trapping management advice to the Province in consideration of conservation, First Nations, social and economic interests
- Facilitate dialogue and collaboration to provide creative ideas and defensible solutions for wildlife policies, regulations and strategies
- Active Subcommittees:
  - Access management
  - LEH review
- Engaging with other government initiatives of "Stewardship" interest:
  - FRPA updates – Forest Landscape Planning
  - Land Use Planning updates
  - Cumulative Effects
- Supporting opportunities to improve education and outreach on wildlife and habitat values

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4



# PHTAT Update



## Opportunities

- Continued support of all reconciliation efforts
- Increased collaboration with FN Forum and MWAC to advance TFW actions
- Ensure linkages between new ministry (LWRS) and MOF to advance priority wildlife habitat work
- Increase indigenous collaboration and outreach on wildlife management activities
- Supporting opportunities to advance shared stewardship actions through other Natural Resource agencies
- Identify and leverage shared funding opportunities through partnerships (First Nations, stakeholders, Federal government, NGOs)
- **Support RWAC development and Implementation – critical to achieving shared objectives**

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# Thank you

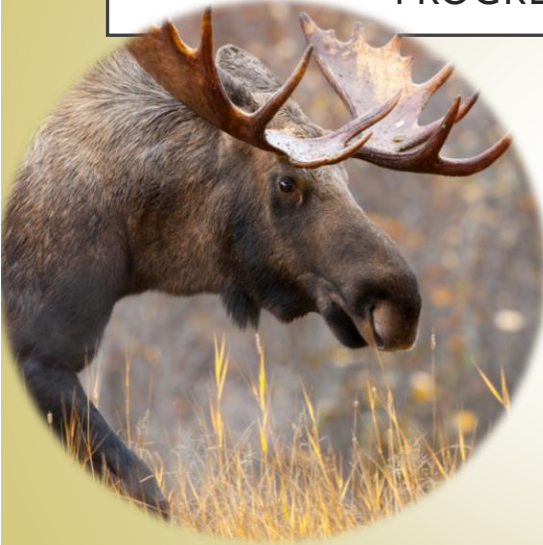


Michael Burwash, [Michael.Burwash@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Burwash@gov.bc.ca), 250-312-7305

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## REGIONAL WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEES – PROGRESS TO DATE



- Working towards Action 2 of T4W
- MWAC, Forum and PHTAT joint meetings in June and September 2022
- Policy paper ready for submission to Ministers
- Some regions beginning engagement work to discuss development of RWACs
- Next step prepare procedures to guide development and implementation

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## RWAC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Interconnectedness** - Wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem health
- **Reconciliation and Indigenous values** - Understand and act on Indigenous interests, worldviews, Rights and Title
- **Trust and Respect** - Relationships based on mutual trust, confidence, and respect for shared stewardship of wildlife and habitat
- **Transparency** - Rationale for recommendations and advice
- **Evidence-based Recommendations** - Mutually agreeable body of evidence through an unbiased lens. Shared understandings, Indigenous Knowledge, local perspectives, citizen science, and western science
- **Ethical Space** - Diversity of perspectives are represented and heard through respectful and inclusive collaborations



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## RWACs: FOUNDATIONS



- **Flexibility** – tailored to meet the unique and diverse needs and priorities of each region but built from a similar foundation
- **Built collaboratively** with Indigenous Nations; serve as an advisory body that complement government-to-government relationships
- Provide clear lines of **communication**, ensure **linkages**, and build synergies and efficiencies among related advisory bodies, both regionally and provincially
- Focus on promoting **healthy ecosystems** to achieve thriving and resilient wildlife and highly effective habitat stewardship through an Ethical Space
- Provide a venue for a **variety of perspectives** to be represented and heard

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## POLICY DIRECTION PROVIDED



- **Scope**
  - Advisory and implementation guidance role relating to
    - Wildlife and habitat , data and knowledge, funding, policy, linkages
- **Membership**
  - May be representative or non-representative but must be inclusive
  - Members act on the best interest of wildlife and habitat stewardship
  - Members must meet standards and expectations (e.g., accountability)
- **Scale and Structure**
  - Must consider regional context, relationships, and existing engagement venues
  - Will be determined through regional engagement
- **Readiness**

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## PROCEDURAL DIRECTION NEEDED

- Success
  - Approaches for regional engagement and successful RWAC development
- Scope
  - What role(s) could the RWACs play in specific priority areas?
- Membership
  - What backgrounds and experiences do RWACs need?
  - Who selects members and how should they be selected?
- Scale and Structure
  - How to best align the scale of recommendations being put out by RWACs and the scale of decisions/implementation?
- Readiness assessment



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## WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ESTABLISHING SUCCESSFUL RWACS?

### BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS



- ♦ Any advice on approaches for successful regional engagement during RWAC scoping?
- ♦ Please focus on HOW – what are the mechanisms that will facilitate RWAC development and implementation?

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## D: Participants

Indigenous Dialogues		Stakeholder Dialogues	
Feddie Louie	3 Nations (TKT)	Helen Davis	Artemis Wildlife Consultants
Kate Hewitt	CIER	Aimee Mitchell	Athene Ecological/Coastal Partners in Conservation Society
Brenda Walkem	Cook's Ferry Indian Band, Nlaka'pamux Nation	Kristin Parsons	ATVBC
Gord Haines	Doig River	Alan Duffy	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers - BC Chapter
Jasmine Pouce Coupe	Doig River First Nation	Rod Davis	BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Rosie Robbins	Esketemc First Nation	Bill Harrower	BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Katherine Wolfenden	Fort Nelson First Nation	Vanessa Isnardy	BC Conservation Foundation
Brittany Stephens	Fort Nelson First Nation	David Hendrickson	BC Conservation Foundation
Jaclyn Whitecotton	Gitxsan	Ben van Drimmelen	BC Nature
Skylar Nikkel	Ktunaxa	Donegal Wilson	BC Snowmobile Federation
Nikki Heim	Ktunaxa Nation Council	Andrea Wallace	BC SPCA
Kathleen Cathcart	k'w'ik'w'ā'xam First Nation	Holly Wise	BC Trapper's Association
Kelly Lindsay	Lake Babine Nation	Tim Killey	BC Trapper's Association
Adam Phillips	Lytton First Nation	Bryan Munro	BC Trapper's Association
Haleigh Parker	Qwel'mínte Secwépemc	Chuck Zuckerman	BC Wildlife Federation
Hunter Lampreau	Simpcw	Gerry Paille	BC Wildlife Federation
Shaun Freeman	Skeetchestn	Ashley Ekelund	British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Darwyn John	St'at'imc	Johnny Mikes	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association BC
Nina Andrascik	St'át'imc	Katherine MacRae	Commercial Bear Viewing Association
Ellen Reyes	St'át'imc Nation	Merlin Blackwell	District of Clearwater
Krista Sittler	Takla Nation	Michael S.	Driftwood Valley Outfitters
Shannon Whelan	Taku River Tlingit First Nation	Ray Maher	Ducks Unlimited
Gary Phillips	Tobacco Plains first Nation	Greg Sawchuck	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Frances Shields	Tsal'alh	Glenn Flynn	East Kootenay Wildlife Association
Amy Brewer	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Dan Webster	Eco-Web Ecological Consulting Ltd.
Jonaki Bhattacharyya	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Nicholas Scapillati	Grizzly Bear Foundation
George Desjarlais	West Moberly	Scott Ellis	Guide Outfitters Association BC
Crystal Prince	Westbank First Nation	Mike Young	Guide Outfitters Association BC
		Dan Buffett	Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
		Dave Ryder	Hunters for BC
		David Vey	Mosaic Forest Management

Indigenous Dialogues		Stakeholder Dialogues	
		Marc Hubbard	Okanagan Guides Association
		Wayne Mercer	Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
		Louise Pedersen	Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
		Alan Peatt	Southern Interior Land Trust Society
		Cole Burton	University of British Columbia
		Chris Barker	Wild Sheep Society of BC
		Kyle Stelter	Wild Sheep Society of BC
		John Henderson	Wildlife Stewardship Council
		David Fyfe	Wildlife Stewardship Council
		Tim Burkhart	Yellowstone to Yukon