



Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Summary of Wildlife Dialogues 2023

Indigenous Dialogues December 1st, 2023

Stakeholder Dialogues December 5th, 2023



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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.

1. Purpose of Dialogues

The Wildlife Dialogues were created by the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (Council) as an opportunity for people to learn more about Council's activities in the 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 nations and stakeholders as we move collaboratively towards new ways of managing wildlife in B.C.

The December 2023 Dialogues are the third annual Wildlife Dialogues.

2. Format and Attendees

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

- December 1st, 2023 (Indigenous Dialogues)
- December 5th, 2023 (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 35 people attended the Indigenous Dialogues, with 54 in the Stakeholder Dialogues.

The Dialogues began with presentations on the work of the Council, Forum, and PHTAT, followed by a presentation from Ministry on the *Wildlife Act* Review. Minister Cullen attended both sessions and answered participant questions. For clarity, these Dialogues are not part of the provincial government engagement around the Wildlife Act Review, but led by Council as an independent process. For more information on the government-led engagement process visit the [Wildlife Act Review website](#).

Participants were divided into breakout groups to discuss:

- What changes do you want to see in the renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?
- How can you help to ensure the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?
- Beyond the *Wildlife Act* Review, what are the highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing?

3. Introductory Presentations

Copies of the presentations are provided in Appendix D.

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin provided an update on the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (MWAC or "the Council") and made the following comments:

- The Council is appointed by the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to provide strategic advice on the implementation of the Province's Together for Wildlife Strategy. The Council was formed in 2020. It includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous people with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, and a shared goal to improve conditions for wildlife in B.C.
- MWAC supports the 24 actions and 5 goals of Together for Wildlife and promotes two paradigm shifts:
 - Modeling Reconciliation in all of our work, and
 - Putting ecosystems and wildlife first in all land use decisions.
- The advice provided by participants in the 2022 Dialogues has supported the work to establish Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWAC). Calls for membership have occurred for the East Kootenay Wildlife and Habitat Advisory Committee, and the Okanagan Boundary and Thompson Lillooet Wildlife and Habitat Roundtables. Discussions are underway in some other regions.
- Council has been working hard 'behind the scenes' on numerous initiatives that have recently been made public. This includes the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation, the Strategic Plan for Conservation Lands, the Interim Collaborative Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, and the *Wildlife Act* Review.
 - Feedback on the [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework](#) can be sent to biodiversity.ecosystemhealth@gov.bc.ca by January 15, 2024.
- Additional MWAC priorities include: establishment of RWACs, presentation to Premier's Task Force on Emergencies, the Strategic Plan for Conservation Lands, ongoing support for student research projects, and funding for on-the-ground projects.
 - Updates on Together for Wildlife projects and spending can be seen on the [project dashboard](#).
- Renewal of the *Wildlife Act* will be a focus for MWAC's work in the coming year, and is the topic for the 2023 Dialogues. Renewal of the *Wildlife Act* requires strong province-wide support including from the networks of participants at these Dialogues.
 - A joint *Wildlife Act* Working Group will be formed by representatives from MWAC, the First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum, and the Provincial Hunting and

Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT). This group will advise on developing content for the policy intentions paper that will be used to guide the legislation.

<https://www.ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca/>

First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum

Co-Chairs Hunter Lampreau and Morris Prosser provided an update on the work of the Forum.

The Forum focuses on issues that are applicable at the provincial level. It DOES NOT operate as a representative body for rights and title of Indigenous Peoples, or a consultative entity, as rights & title & decision-making jurisdictions remain in community at a territorial level. It seeks to support recognition and enable Indigenous Governing Bodies in implementation of Together for Wildlife.

The Forum aims to:

- Provide strategic, technical advice to B.C. to best engage Rights and Title Holders while maintaining an anti-racist approach.
- Support a process that builds security and trust from Indigenous and B.C. leaders to bring as many British Columbian stakeholders and collaborators into the process as possible.
- Bridge cultural gaps.
- Advise and co-design content for the *Wildlife Act* Review Intentions Paper.

Recent accomplishments include:

- Co-development of Indigenous knowledge Policy from Bill 14 *Wildlife Act* Amendments
- Contribution to *Wildlife Act* Review Reconciliation-focussed aspects.
- Endorsement of Co-developed Interim Non-Statutory Shared Decision-Making Policy and Collaborative Habitat and Stewardship Planning Policy.
- Input into Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework
- Joint meeting with PHTAT and MWAC resulting in Agreement to work together on *Wildlife Act* Review.
- Continued Growth with four additional member Nations.

The Forum will be working jointly with MWAC and PHTAT to provide advice on the *Wildlife Act* Review process. The Forum's focus will be:

- Strategic, technical advice to B.C. to best engage Rights & Title Holders/Representatives, while maintaining an anti-racist approach.
- Bridge cultural gaps between user groups to facilitate consensus, education and improved understanding of Indigenous Rights.

- Advise and co-design content for B.C. to consider for the *Wildlife Act* Review Intentions Paper

<https://www.firstnationsbcwildlifeforum.ca/>

Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team Update

Chair Michael Burwash introduced the PHTAT and its role as part of the *Wildlife Act* Review:

- PHTAT membership is composed of members from a range of hunting and trapping stakeholder organizations across B.C.
- Members include 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, as well as representatives from the B.C. Government, a First Nations liaison, and two science advisors.
- Its role is to facilitate information and dialogue to support wildlife stewardship and conservation management in B.C.
- PHTAT facilitates information exchange to engage all stakeholders in hunting and trapping management in B.C.
- PHTAT seeks to advance Reconciliation by including Indigenous knowledge in wildlife management.
- The way to achieve success for generations is through collaborative shared interest in wildlife and habitat management.
- This *Wildlife Act* Review is a rare opportunity to make significant transformative changes.

<https://www.bchuntingtrappingadvisory.ca/>

Introduction to the *Wildlife Act* Review

Pam Doerksen and Danica Crystal, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, provided an overview of the *Wildlife Act* Review. A copy of the Summary of the *Wildlife Act* Review Discussion Paper (circulated to participants) is included in Appendix A.

Overview of Wildlife Act Review

- The *Wildlife Act* has not been significantly updated since the 1980s.
- Priorities in the *Wildlife Act* review include: Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, setting objectives, ensuring effective service delivery, and improving wildlife stewardship outcomes and dedicated funding.

- The review will align the *Wildlife Act* with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Early engagement has been underway with First Nations and advisory bodies including MWAC and PHTAT; the Forum has provided a great deal of support.
- Work that has been done has fed into a Discussion Paper (currently being reviewed by rights and title holders and targeted stakeholders).
- Targeted engagement will continue throughout Winter 2024 and will inform the development of a series of policy intentions. Broader engagement on proposed changes to legislation with advisory bodies, stakeholders, other B.C. Government agencies, and the public, and consultation with rights and title holders will begin in 2025.
- Introduction of the Bill is planned for the spring of 2026.
- A high level explanation of what the *Wildlife Act* Review entails is [online](#).

Policy Themes and Discussion Paper

- The information that has been gathered over the past few years has been broken down into six policy themes: Reconciliation; Objective Setting; Hunting, Trapping, Angling & Commercial Activities; Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Conservation Lands & Stewardship; Compliance and Enforcement; Funding, Administration & Errata. There is overlap amongst these themes.
- All policy themes must be looked at through a lens of Reconciliation, and the *Wildlife Act* must align with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Indigenous laws and practices.
- Internal working groups were formed throughout B.C. to examine each policy theme.
- The Discussion Paper is based on what is so far known; it outlines the vision, goals and guiding principles of the review, and summarizes current challenges with the *Wildlife Act* and opportunities for improvements.
- The Discussion Paper is not comprehensive and not intended to give direction to Government at this time, but rather it is a building block that will help develop the policy intentions paper.

More information can be found on the [Wildlife Act Review website](#).

Discussions with Minister Cullen

Minister Nathan Cullen (Water, Land and Resource Stewardship) joined both Dialogues discussion sessions and responded to participant questions.

4. Breakout Session Discussions: Advice for the *Wildlife Act* Review

Participants at both sessions were divided into small breakout groups to discuss the following questions:

- What changes do you want to see in the renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?
- How can you help to ensure the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?
- Beyond the *Wildlife Act* Review, what are the highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing?

Advice from Indigenous Participants

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

Question 1: Desired changes in the renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*

Reconciliation (rights and title recognition, consultation)

- Include Indigenous people in development of the legislation, ensure it lives up to the challenges of reconciliation
- Address concerns from Bill 14 (which is not meeting expectations)
- Respect Rights and Title

Reconciliation (food security, hierarchy of hunting allowances)

- Protect First Nations hunting rights
 - Avoid watering down rights and interests in decision making
 - Enable nations to make decisions on their own territories
 - Recognize the complexity of overlapping territories
- Protect food security for First Nations
 - Include the concept of food sovereignty
 - Food security should include social and cultural activities

Working with non-resident hunters

- Balance the needs of First Nations hunting with recreational and non-resident hunting
 - Find ways to address the tensions between these groups
 - Reduce harvests to ensure sustainable populations, set limits on tags per individual

- Provide cultural training for non-resident hunters, understanding and acknowledging customs for each traditional territory

Indigenous knowledge

- Ensure Indigenous knowledge is part of decision-making
 - Create opportunities for Indigenous partners to bring forward their knowledge
 - Legislation that incorporates Indigenous knowledge could help manage the workload for First Nations communities
- Include Indigenous languages, this helps to rebuild culture

Capacity support

- Provide capacity to enable First Nations communities to participate in decision-making and wildlife management

Scope and Scale

- Enable legislation to address local decision-making
 - Size management regions to avoid problems with larger areas with diverse challenges
 - Consider a delegated authority to avoid centralized decisions

Compliance and enforcement

- Include First Nations Guardians as part of the compliance and enforcement of the Act
 - Ensure Guardians have authority to enforce the *Wildlife Act*
- Enhance compliance and enforcement, give GAR (Government Action Regulations) orders “teeth”

Wildlife and habitat

- Provide avenues for joint decision-making re wildlife and habitat (Indigenous and non-Indigenous contributors)
- Include culturally and regionally significant wildlife in the Act, in addition to species at risk
- Address loss and fragmentation of habitat
 - Reduce road density

Question 2: Ensuring the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*

Connect with diverse groups

- Connect with FN communities
 - Visit First Nations communities to explain the Act and proposed changes

- Include both elected and traditional leadership
- Encourage two-way dialogue
- Connect through regional committees
- Connect with groups, e.g., hunting clubs, NGOs
 - Challenge of connecting with violators (e.g., poachers)
- Connect with licensees
 - Include industry workers as well as management
 - Provide training to licencees
- Connect with the public, need buy-in from all of society
- Use social media to raise awareness

Timelines

- Allow ample time for input while developing the revised *Wildlife Act*
- Consider long-term goals

Messaging

- Provide information on the importance of the act and the benefits of the changes

Question 3: Highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing

- Support for reconciliation, wildlife abundance
- Access to funding
- Tangible, on-the-ground changes to wildlife and habitat
- Consider local/regional as well as provincewide approach
- Cultivate abundance in the context of industry management
 - Better understanding of cumulative effects
 - Minimize habitat fragmentation
 - Limit resource extraction to smaller, sustainable operations

Advice from Stakeholder Participants

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

Question 1: What changes do you want to see in the renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?

Reconciliation

- Reconciliation is critical
 - Acknowledge the needs of First Nations
 - Support Guardian programs

Links to other legislation and policy

- Link *Wildlife Act* to other B.C. legislation and policy
 - Ensure the new *Wildlife Act* and existing acts complement instead of conflict with each other
 - Create strong linkages with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework
 - Synchronize and establish linkages and hierarchies with other agencies, ministries, and legislation
- Avoid *Wildlife Act* being trumped by other B.C. legislation
 - *Wildlife Act* needs to be strong enough to stand when challenged by industry, political and economics
- Consider impacts with neighbouring jurisdictions, e.g., Alberta

Definitions

- Improve/expand on definitions of wildlife
- Include biodiversity, ecosystem health and stewardship
- Don't treat wildlife as "property"—not aligned with the rights of nature

Focus and scope

- Prioritize wildlife, equal to (or greater than) industry, health care, etc.
- Use a holistic focus on wildlife and habitat
 - Move away from consumption focus
 - Move away from single-species management
- Provide clarity in the Act and its regulations

Objectives

- Legislate wildlife and wildlife habitat objectives—provincial and regional

- Ensure objectives are enforceable
- Objectives provide accountability
- Clarify ‘abundance’
 - Not everything needs to be abundant—maintain balance

Data/analysis

- Provide capacity for data collection and analysis

Habitat protection

- Protect habitats, not just wildlife
 - Ensure habitat designations meet protected areas criteria, meet needs of wildlife
 - Restore habitat
- Other
 - Consider corridors, impacts of climate change
 - Provide funding for private land stewardship

Wildlife habitat features

- Include the protection of enduring wildlife habitat features in the *Wildlife Act*, e.g., bear dens

Species at risk

- Protect species at risk through legislation (*Wildlife Act* or elsewhere)
- Update species at risk listings in *Wildlife Act*

Limited Entry Hunt (LEH)

- Update the LEH system

Wildlife conflicts

- Address human-wildlife conflicts in the *Wildlife Act*
 - Provide education on wildlife conflicts
- Address wildlife attractants in the *Wildlife Act*
 - Prohibit feeding of (most) wildlife
 - Update language to enable enforcement

Roads and access

- Address roads and access in the *Wildlife Act*
 - Include comprehensive road management policies
 - Make industry accountable for road rehabilitation

Funding

- Increased funding/fines
 - Properly fund management of conservation lands
 - Increase penalties for offenders
- All users should contribute to funding wildlife management and enforcement, e.g., through user fee or sales tax
- Ensure dedicated funding for wildlife and conservation
- Mandate and role of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)
 - Enhance the role of HCTF

Addressing and mitigating impacts

- Transportation corridors, including roads and railways
- Urban development—impacts from urban and rural development

Compliance/enforcement

- Increase education, so less enforcement needed
- Provide consistent enforcement, hold all users (including recreationists) responsible
- Strengthen enforcement
 - Develop a role and process for the *Wildlife Act* analogous to the Chief Forester
 - Provide ‘teeth’ to enforcement

Flexibility

- Enable flexibility and responsiveness to changes in population levels

Regional approach

- Consider regional approaches; delegate authorities to regional staff

Education and understanding

- Use education as a tool
 - Address the disconnect between rural and urban residents and their understanding of wildlife

Question 2: How can you help to ensure the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. *Wildlife Act*?

Connect with diverse groups

- Connect with regional groups
- Connect with stakeholders
 - Stakeholder groups to connect with their membership
- Connect with outdoor users, beyond just hunters and anglers
- Connect with decision-makers, including politicians
- Connect with industry, farmers, landowners, developers, contractors

Public education

- Educate public about wildlife and the *Wildlife Act*
- Include wildlife education in schools
- Use diverse ways to communicate/educate
 - Include Indigenous knowledge
 - Use of social media, polling
 - Address mistrust of government

Representation for non-consumptive users

- Consider an advisory body for non-consumptive users
 - Need a voice for recreationists, environmental organizations

Consistent and clear messaging

- Provide clear and consistent messaging, including between advisory bodies

Question 3: Beyond the *Wildlife Act* renewal, what are the highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing?

- Creation of RWACs, with clear roles
- More outreach and engagement with all interest groups
- Better data and inventories
- Other, including
 - Restoration economy
 - Funding for wildlife
 - Impact of trains
 - Better protection for species at risk

5. Next Steps

The Dialogues are proving to be an essential part of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council's communication. They provide participants with updates from Council, the Forum and PHTAT, and provide an important opportunity for us to learn from you. This year we heard a growing sense of impatience for more positive action for wildlife and a genuine sense of a lack of information and engagement. There have been many on-the-ground projects directly because of the Together for Wildlife Strategy—but it seems our Dialogue participants are not being kept informed. We will advise the Minister to enhance information flow and engagement. As Council, we will commit to continue the Dialogue sessions and may consider holding a special session when more information is available on the Wildlife Act Review.

The work on the Wildlife Act Review is a very important process. It is amazing that we all have accepted to work together for B.C. wildlife, and we appreciate the contributions of everyone who has given their time. It is good to know that the primary interests of all have enhanced our collective energies for wildlife.

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

6. Appendices



A: Summary of *Wildlife Act* Review Discussion Paper

Summary of *Wildlife Act* Review Discussion Paper

Fall 2023 – Winter 2024

What is the *Wildlife Act* Review?

The B.C. government, in partnership with First Nations and key advisory bodies, has initiated a review of the *Wildlife Act* in response to Action 12 of the Together for Wildlife Strategy. This work is also in response to Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which requires the Province to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.


Goals of the *Wildlife Act* Review:

- Using a distinctions-based approach, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by aligning the *Wildlife Act* with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support the prioritization of biodiversity and ecosystems health in B.C. through improved legal tools that protect, restore and/or enhance on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, and maintain the social and economic well-being of communities for future generations.

- Increase public trust and confidence in fish, wildlife, and habitat stewardship.
- Cultivate abundance through responsible fish, wildlife, and habitat stewardship, supporting quality hunting, trapping and angling opportunities and other connections to wildlife and nature for all.

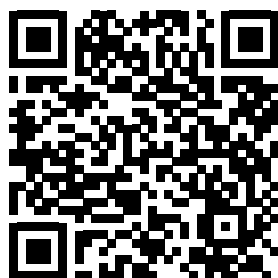
Process and Scope: The Province has drafted a discussion paper with technical experts on the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum and in consultation with advisory bodies and other B.C. government ministries. The discussion paper forms the basis for engagement discussions happening in the Fall of 2023 and the Winter of 2024. Policy intentions will be developed with input from advisory groups, followed by consultation and cooperation with First Nations rights and title holders and engagement with interest groups and the public. The results of this process will inform recommendations to improve and update the *Wildlife Act*.

Wildlife Act Review: Consultation and Cooperation Plan Timeline

PHASE 1: Scoping and Prioritization	PHASE 2: Targeted Engagement	PHASE 3: Policy Refinement and Bill Introduction
Spring/Summer 2022 Review of past engagement results and organization of policy themes	 Fall/Winter 2023-24 Engagement with rights and title holders, ministry advisory bodies, B.C. Government departments, and interest groups	Spring 2024 Internal review and confirmation of policy intentions
Fall 2022 Early engagement with First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum, Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team		Winter/Spring 2025 Consultation and engagement with rights and title holders, Ministry advisory bodies, other B.C. government departments, stakeholder groups and the public on proposed changes to legislation
Spring/Summer 2023 Exploration of potential policy changes and preliminary engagement with rights and title holders		Summer/Fall 2025 Request for Legislation submitted and legislation drafted
		Winter/Spring 2026 Introduction of bill to update the <i>Wildlife Act</i>
Spring 2022 to Spring/Summer 2023	Fall/Winter 2023-24	Spring 2024 to Winter/Spring 2026

Policy Themes: Policy themes were established to help manage the numerous challenges and opportunities identified within the current structure of the *Wildlife Act*.

Policy Theme	Opportunities in the <i>Wildlife Act</i> Review
Reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and self-government. • Enable shared decision-making and co-management processes. • Protect the practice and maintenance of Indigenous culture, traditions, and knowledge.
Objective Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish objectives that are meaningful and support inherent value and local interests and values in fish, wildlife and habitat stewardship. • Ensure wildlife populations and their habitats are considered in <i>Wildlife Act</i> and other related land use decisions. • Ensure accountability in conformance to objectives.
Hunting, Trapping, Angling & Commercial Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve mechanisms that link wildlife population objectives and habitat conditions to achieve objectives through evidence-based decision making. • Explore improvements that encourage investment, development and certainty in the commercial guiding, trapping and wildlife viewing sectors. • Update definitions to provide clarity in interpretation and to anticipate future technologies that may impact principles of fair chase.
Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Conservation Lands & Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the designation and management of conservation lands, including Wildlife Management Areas. • Expand available measures to conserve wildlife habitat features. • Provide better options for protecting species at risk.
Compliance and Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public safety in relation to hunting activities and interactions with wildlife and increase public trust in compliance and enforcement activities. • Strengthen and expand enforcement authorities to ensure protection of fish, wildlife and habitat resources. • Clarify language and structures that have created challenges in compliance and enforcement in the past, to provide greater clarity and certainty.
Funding, Administration & Errata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new funding approaches to deliver a world-class fish, wildlife and habitat stewardship program. • Address administrative, legal and clarity issues in the <i>Wildlife Act</i> to provide certainty and ensure authority to manage wildlife, including wildlife health. • Address licensing, administration of trapping, guiding, taxidermy, meat cutters, and other relevant activities licensed under the <i>Wildlife Act</i>.



Contact: If you would like to participate in this engagement process or if you are seeking more information about this initiative, please contact the *Wildlife Act* Review team at WildlifeActReview@gov.bc.ca or visit the [Wildlife Act Review](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/legislation-regulation/wildlife-act/wildlife-act-review) webpage at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/legislation-regulation/wildlife-act/wildlife-act-review

B: Indigenous Dialogues Breakout Discussions

Question 1: Desired changes in the renewed B.C. Wildlife Act

Reconciliation (rights and title recognition, consultation)

Include Indigenous people in development of the legislation

- Indigenous involvement in development of legislation is important.
- The work done to date so far is coming really close to remedying past exclusion of Indigenous peoples, to accommodating the roles of Indigenous people.
- Would like to have more consultation in relation to how treaty First Nations want to see changes in policy.
- Government has a strong focus on reconciliation – huge driver in the workload of wildlife and fisheries teams in the region. Important to work with Indigenous partners to collaboratively develop the best information to make decisions in the *Wildlife Act*.
 - These decisions can be made in the absence of Indigenous involvement, but that's not the direction from Government.
 - Implementation of new language in the Act will fall to decision-makers, need to ensure we live up to the challenges of reconciliation.
 - Changes in government have, in the past, directly changed the way we manage wildlife (e.g., grizzly bear hunt). We can only speculate on where government will take us, but legislation is something that will bind us.

Address concerns from Bill 14

- Implementation of Bill 14 – how do we word things properly
- The amendments to the Act are not meeting expectations, and there's hope that the *Wildlife Act* review will address these concerns.

Respect Rights and Title

- Stop watering down rights, title, interests in terms of actual management/decision making
- There's a lot for the executive in B.C. to consider, especially regarding the recognition of FN rights. Governance and implementation of the act is going to be a central component to get it right.
- Greater implementation of section 35, more UNDRIP integration, more integration of FN interests in Act
- Decision making abilities for communities on their territories
- The *Wildlife Act* needs to take into consideration and allow flexibility while acknowledging the complexities around overlapping territories.

- Aboriginal title is a colonial construct. Land doesn't belong to people; people belong to the land.

Reconciliation (food security, hierarchy of hunting allowances)

Protect First Nations hunting rights

- Change legislation/regulation/policy to support First Nations full enjoyment of their inherent rights, including peaceful enjoyment of harvesting rights.
- Support original intent of Treaty 8 rights for Indigenous people to pursue vocations of hunting, trapping, and fishing throughout Treaty 8 territory.
- Many FN are interested in commercial activities, but not at the expense of the quality and traditional way of life.

Protect food security for First Nations

- In some cases, there are not enough fish and game suitable available in the preferred hunting areas of FN to sustain food security + cultural/social practices.
- There is a need for food security. The *Wildlife Act* should incorporate the concept of food sovereignty by supporting FN's determination of food needs, how to attain them, and allowing FN to manage for themselves how they harvest resources.
- There is a need for food security to support cultural and social activities.

Working with non-resident hunters

Balance the needs of First Nations and recreational hunting

- How do we balance recreational hunting, subsistence hunting, and non-resident hunting?
- We need to find a way to address tensions between Indigenous peoples and settler populations to reconcile the use of scarce wildlife resources.
- Iron out the difficulties of FN working with non-resident hunters.
- Consider whether hunting should be open for settler population beyond B.C. residents.
- New problems emerging within communities in ability for hunters to get moose. Want to see reduction in overall harvest to support populations.
- Many people want local priority for harvest in remote areas.
- The Act is perceived as being too focused on B.C. trappers and hunters, with a call for a deeper focus on wildlife.
- Hunters are group hunting
 - Makes this very unfair, they should have a time limit for when they are allowed to be hunting
 - Limited on how many tags they get as an individual

Provide cultural training for non-resident hunters

- There should be cultural training for hunters to understand the rules of the land—including expectations of hunting on FN territory and acknowledging customs for each traditional territory.
- Better education for hunters as well, benefits of not shooting cow moose for example

Indigenous knowledge

Ensure Indigenous knowledge is part of decision-making

- Recent changes to support Indigenous knowledge is an example. Improvements will make decision-making easier and more transparent.
- New requirements create an opportunity for B.C. to solicit Indigenous knowledge explicitly, and creates opportunity for Indigenous partners to bring forward knowledge.
 - Creates opportunity for better resource management, and more sound and durable decisions. Also supports collaborative stewardship.
- Underlying legislation that incorporated Indigenous knowledge could be foundational piece – could create efficiencies for communities that are often inundated with requests and opportunities.
- Many decisions under the Act are made in the absence of Indigenous knowledge. Development of provincial policy associated with incorporation of Indigenous knowledge will be a key piece that has not been considered under previous legislation.
- Definitions, things to make decision-making easier and allow decision-makers to incorporate other knowledge and information into decision-making.
- Residential school system impacted connections to traditional ways of living and survival – it's a work in progress to return to traditional resource management practices.
- Nisga'a treaty has sharing principles that allow for joint resource management (e.g., wildlife, fisheries).
- Development of Nisga'a *Wildlife Act* was a struggle within own Nation. Important to maintain traditional identity. Need to work together through change, acknowledge that we are all here.

Include Indigenous languages

- Incorporation of language regionally helps rebuild culture.
 - Use of Nisga'a language more in signage makes culture more visible.

Capacity support

Provide capacity to enable First Nations communities to participate in decision-making and wildlife management

- Capacity building is difficult, particularly when the government is not properly supporting it. Creative mechanisms on the funding aspect of the act review might be a critical solution.

- Some communities are in crisis mode and need additional support from the province to manage wildlife
 - Limit permitting of industrial activities
 - Not seeing changes from the province
 - Hope to see the nature agreement funding and resources going to communities

Scope and Scale

Enable legislation to address local decision-making

- There's a concern about the Act being province-wide, as First Nations laws operate on a finer scale. There's a desire for mechanisms to make laws more applicable at the local level.
- New tools are needed for finer scale decision-making to give expression to Indigenous law.
- Management regions need to be smaller, possibly on a watershed-by-watershed basis. There are challenges with the large size and diverse challenges (e.g., Skeena region). Three Nations have proposed a new "Region 9", which would cover the collective territories and aid in resolving some issues
- There's a discussion about the creation of a delegated authority through a joint governance lens to avoid over-centralization.

Compliance and enforcement

Include First Nations Guardians as part of the compliance and enforcement of the Act

- Guardian programs one potential avenue for increasing compliance on aspects like access management
 - Should foster support among government agencies, NGOs, COs, and Guardians
- Conservation Officers should be mandated to work with communities they are serving
 - That they work directly with any guardian programs or enforcement programs, and regular communication during the hunting season
- Haven't seen any comprehensive legislation or intent to recognize guardians as a mechanism for communities to manage their areas.
- How do we within the *Wildlife Act* influence or coordinate with other programs and legislation to support guardians in all the work they do?
- Having Indigenous organizations that lack their own officers without authority is a problem.

Enhance compliance and enforcement, give GAR orders "teeth"

- Poaching is a big issue, as there are unlicensed hunters coming into territories and violating the *Wildlife Act* by poaching. Hopefully the *Wildlife Act* review can help with that
- Access restrictions such as seasonal road closures (through GAR orders) for grizzly bears are not always being upheld

- Road gates have been left open by folks who have keys (e.g. silviculture workers)
- Difficult to pursue conversations with licensees who said the GAR orders didn't have much "teeth"
- Need more compliance so that GAR orders are effective for their purpose
- GAR orders not issued under the *Wildlife Act* (they're under FRPA), but this concept connects to the objective setting theme

Wildlife and habitat

Provide avenues for joint decision-making re wildlife and habitat

- How do we create a government-to-government model for joint decision making relating to protection of habitat and allocation of wildlife opportunity? There are many actors to consider in a G2G model—FN, local resident settler populations, and hunters outside treaty areas (B.C. residents and non-residents).

Include culturally and regionally significant wildlife in the Act

- Include culturally or regionally significant species at risk, not just those defined by COSEWIC
 - Example – moose in Williams Lake are in decline and would need additional measures for people who live and work in the area the animals are located within
- Den habitat for grizzly bears is concern, as there are already climate change effects being observed, such as low snowpack
- Bears also being negatively affected by backcountry activities and timber extraction at higher elevations, which brings more road building
- Species such as caribou, elk, and moose are species of focus and they have low populations in some territories (e.g. Esketemc)

Address loss and fragmentation of habitat

- Should be maintenance of large core areas and connectivity to support species like caribou
- Old growth protection is another concern, and there should not just be small patches protected
- Issues with high road density in some territories (e.g. ONA) which increases access into sensitive areas and impacts wildlife

Question 2: Ensuring the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. Wildlife Act

Connect with diverse groups

Connect with FN communities

- Many Nations would probably like someone to visit their community and explain the changes
 - Recognize difficulty in doing that for every community
- Many FNs are likely not closely familiar with the *Wildlife Act*
- Could connect with FN leadership and offer a presentation
 - Consider there is both elected and traditional leadership in FN communities
- Delivery should be in an effective format that provides two-way conversation and a clear path for sharing feedback
 - Communities need opportunities to voice concerns
 - Engagement needs to be tailored because every community will be focused on certain elements of the Act that they feel either support or negatively impact them
- Strength in making sure shared efforts are carried through, will also strengthen relationships we have at the community level. Have observed that relationships are improving – more trust and information sharing. Ideally, whole community will be involved.
- Continued collaboration and work and engagement with Nations as well as political bodies is necessary. Ensuring Nations are onboard with changes to the *Wildlife Act*. From there, will extend into other forums that Nations are involved in to ensure there is advocacy from Nations as well.

Connect through regional committees

- Could be a good avenue for creating open channels of communication

Connect with groups

- Advocates (e.g. hunting clubs, NGOs) that value wildlife and stewardship will want to seek out information about the *Wildlife Act* changes. They'll want to comply where the Act affects their own actions.
- Difficult part is question of addressing those who violate (e.g. poaching)

Connect with licensees

- Important to connect with licensees due to system of self-regulation
- Need to ensure industry workers are aware of *Wildlife Act* changes. They should be reaching out to the B.C. government if any clarification is needed.
- Could consider providing training to licensees

Connect with the public

- Contribute to communicate the value of this effort to obtain the 'buy in' from the public.

- The full society component matters. Improving the general public's buy-in to care about wildlife is important.

Use social media

- Would be a good way to bring awareness to *Wildlife Act* changes, and possibly the quickest and easiest
- Creating awareness could motivate folks to learn more about the Act

Timelines

Allow ample time for input while developing the revised Wildlife Act

- Wary of timelines—a lot more input into the *Wildlife Act* review is required as we move forward.

Consider long-term goals

- The *Wildlife Act* should incorporate long term goals to support the co-management permitting, compliance + enforcement, cultural awareness, and education around hunting trapping and fishing.

Messaging

Provide information on the importance of the Act and the benefits of the changes

- More people know about the act and the importance it plays on the management of the land by FN
 - Understanding what the act means for land management
- About showing people the benefits to them that will come out of the changes to the Act.
- When changes are made that the FNs /ministers' advisory representative approve the communications that the province public announcements to ensure that the FNs are not 'blamed' for the changes, that the province accepts their part in mismanaging
 - Part of reconciliation and FN way of stepping forward for the future
 - A better way to manage for everyone on the land base

Question 3: Highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing

Support for reconciliation

- Having a clear, and shared understanding between Nations and the province of the problems that Nations are facing.
- Issues such as reduction in moose population affecting sustenance and cultural needs from First Nations.

- Focus on reconciliation and wildlife abundance.

Access to funding

- Providing capacity through funding or provincial support for wildlife population monitoring.
- Streamlining accessibility for funding. Currently, it is cumbersome to find those funding pots, apply, and access the resources.

On-the-ground changes

- On the ground changes that citizens can see with regards to wildlife and habitat improvement.

Regional / local approach

- Issues in the Province are diverse, depending on locations, so triaging at a provincial level might lack enough scale. The MWAC should have an area-based agenda-setting function.
- Deployed by region or species specific.

Cultivating abundance in the context of industry management:

- We need to better understand the cumulative impacts on wildlife (e.g., forestry, habitat degradation, roads).
- There is a need for retrenchment of industry and a move back to management models that are sustainable based on ecological integrity.
- T4W talks about fostering abundance, but we don't have abundance we have scarcity.
- Wildlife populations in some territories do not meet subsistence and cultural needs because there are too many other types of activities going on—logging, mining, etc....
- We can't have both ecological recovery/sustainable wildlife populations and natural resource operations as they are currently operating. Limit extraction to smaller, more long-term sustainable operations.
- Need to address and minimize forest fragmentation—there are not large intact landscapes available to foster wildlife recovery.
- Look at recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review, specifically the 'Three-Zone Forest Management Framework' (protected, converted, consistent) to keep remaining forests intact. Maintain what forests we have left and focus on restoration and rehabilitation of what is impacted.
- Linking wildlife habitat conservation (*Wildlife Act*) and forestry is very important. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework can perhaps be an umbrella to merge different statutes and sectors.

- There is a need for changes in the allocation and management of resources—particularly forest and mining resources—to create a conservation management approach prioritizing wildlife habitat protection and population recovery.

Concern specific to the Carrier Sekani:

- How might we change timber allocation to restore moose/wildlife habitat and bring back a culture of abundance?
- Conservation lands
- Consistency between federal and provincial SARA
 - Confusion around how all these different acts work in B.C. - lots of confusion
- Does MWAC deal with DFO
 - Should we be managing fish and wildlife separately – Grizzly bear and fish relationship
 - Modern land use planning – lots of nations and communities have their own and should be merged with the new B.C. gov and municipalities plans
- How can dedicated funding be used for wildlife management?

C: Stakeholder Dialogues Notes

Question 1: What changes do you want to see in the renewed B.C. Wildlife Act?

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is critical

- Reconciliation with Indigenous communities is critical throughout all policy themes
- Better integration of Indigenous knowledge into the work we are doing
- Acknowledge the needs of First Nations who live on the land.
- Review and consider how to support most Guardian programs.
- *Wildlife Act* should also facilitate enforcement by Indigenous Guardians

Links to other legislation and policy

Link Wildlife Act to other B.C. legislation and policy

- Ensure the new *Wildlife Act* and existing acts complement instead of conflict with each other
- Integrating with other acts – how do we influence mining/forestry/tourism/recreation that have a direct impact on the ecosystem and wildlife
- Ensure there are strong linkages between the *Wildlife Act* and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework.
- The *Wildlife Act* and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework need to fit together in a way that ensures optimal protection for wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- To be effective, the *Wildlife Act* needs to be synchronized and establish linkages and hierarchies with other agencies, ministries, and legislation.
- How do we tie Crown Corporations into the *Wildlife Act* and ensure they comply with wildlife and wildlife habitat legislation?
- Assess if the *Wildlife Act* can adopt legislation that overpowers agriculture legislation/regulation, such as to manage and mitigate the spread of diseases from domestic livestock to wildlife.
 - Concern about the spread of disease from domestic livestock to wildlife—specifically disease transfer in sheep. It is incredibly difficult to get any sway with the Ministry of Agriculture for placing restrictions on domestic sheep in/near wild sheep habitat.
 - Find mechanisms in the *Wildlife Act* to restrict the presence of domestic sheep in wild sheep habitat. Override the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act.

- Consider integrating a ‘wildlife medical health officer’ in the new office of biodiversity health similar to the provincial health officer for humans.
- Under the *Wildlife Act*, legislate criteria for the preservation of natural barriers (such as alpine tree lines) and require licensees (i.e., industry) to restore natural barriers if they are destroyed.
- In the Forest & Range Practices Act, if licensees damage a natural barrier, they are required to repair it. This could be applied to wildlife habitat under the *Wildlife Act*.
 - For example, if an operation clearcuts through the tree line alpine and removes the natural barrier to the alpine, they would have to restore the habitat just as they would if through FRPA.
- Coordinate FRPA and *Wildlife Act* to avoid gaps and overlaps.
 - Set meaningful objectives shared between both acts (harmonization).

Avoid Wildlife Act being trumped by other B.C. legislation

- There are so many moving parts—modernized land use planning, forest landscape plans, the biodiversity and ecosystem health framework, SARA, *Wildlife Act*...How will all these things fit together? Will the *Wildlife Act* be a core piece or not—this is an opportunity to dictate the hierarchy of the *Wildlife Act* amongst other statutes.
- Concern that the *Wildlife Act* will always be trumped by FRPA and that the *Wildlife Act* will be siloed. An example of this is the Recreation Features Inventory, which has become siloed and is rarely used. How do we ensure the *Wildlife Act* can have power over other statutes?
- Would be great for *Wildlife Act* to be support by whole government approach so other legislation does not trump.
- Need to get the policy symmetry right, particularly in terms of FRPA and Access and how they tie into the Act; along with looking at additional funding through licensing etc.
- *Wildlife Act* needs to be strong enough to stand when challenged by industry, political and economic. Act has to be supported by true boots on the ground. Too many decisions are political. An act that has true legs.

Consider impacts with neighbouring jurisdictions

- Consider strategies at border zones with Alberta to manage irresponsible environmental use.

Definitions

Improve definitions of wildlife

- Seems strange that species are only “wildlife” if Cabinet lists them in a regulation. Not a holistic approach
- Need for outreach on what species are considered wildlife, and which aren’t, e.g., bats.
- The *Wildlife Act* should focus on all terrestrial wildlife species, including invertebrates.

Include biodiversity and stewardship

- Biodiversity and ecosystem health are unquantifiable. Needs accountability, need specificity and address specific issues. Need to specifically define it won't be impactful (wildlife feeding is an example of this)
 - Have the wording about preserving the ecosystem embedded in the act
- Looking for word "biodiversity", needs to be written in the *Wildlife Act*. Looking for ways to protect other species.
- This paradigm shift requires us to clearly define and agree on what is meant by 'stewardship'

Don't treat wildlife as "property"

- One key change is to no longer treat wildlife as "property of the Crown". This is not a holistic approach or aligned with idea of the rights of nature
- Question of whether once wildlife is not "property", can it still be governed by the Province? Or would it become federal jurisdiction?

Focus and scope

Prioritize wildlife

- Adopt a broader approach to wildlife management.
- Abundance or health of wildlife, nothing about growing more wildlife or healthy ecosystems
- Want to change provincial focus on logging and other industries, and see wildlife as having equal value to industry
 - Challenging to achieve that through the *Wildlife Act* Review without controlling other Ministries
 - Want options to pursue early on when it becomes clear industry is affecting wildlife
- Opportunity to define priorities around other values so wildlife is held to as high a value and priority as resource extraction issues.
 - Noted that the removal of the unduly clause from FRPA has been a huge step forward.
 - Also, will require changes or additions in regs to guide decision makers.
 - Can we create accountability within the *Wildlife Act* for resource operators e.g., requirements for impact assessments.
- How do we make sure the *Wildlife Act* gets held in the highest regard or priority as other elements (e.g., health care)

Use a holistic focus on wildlife and habitat

- Need for a holistic view of ecosystems in the Act rather than single species treatment
- Don't go all in on one species or one problem and not a holistic approach. I hope the new *Wildlife Act* won't all be about bats caribou mining – how do we look at everything and the impacts that it has. If we do something for one species how do we make sure there are not adverse impacts on others

- Holistic view about the whole province, not one area. Those concepts may be part of the revisions.
- Removal of single species management or ecosystem
- Move away from a consumption-only focus of wildlife.
- Shift the focus of the *Wildlife Act* from a trapping/angling/hunting-focus to a wildlife and wildlife habitat focus.
- There seem to be two trains of thought: some wish to keep the *Wildlife Act* 'as is' (a focus on traditionally "consumptive" activities) and others wish to expand it to include wildlife habitat and objectives.
 - If including habitat, would the *Wildlife Act* incorporate current powers under FRPA to designate larger scale wildlife habitat areas? Right now, under the *Wildlife Act* you can designate wildlife management areas, but wildlife habitat area designation is limited to FRPA.
 - Could wildlife habitat areas under FRPA be expanded to not just include specific species, but wildlife habitat/habitat features?

Provide clarity in the Act

- Want to see a healthier BC. We look at things when they become a problem; nice to look at them before it becomes a bigger problem. Get rid of some grey areas in the *Wildlife Act*.
- End of the day there is only one planet and we all live on it. A huge tough situation. *Wildlife Act* – regulations are confusing and complicated.

Objectives

Legislate wildlife and wildlife habitat objectives.

- Address habitat objectives alongside wildlife specific protection
- Set provincial and regional objectives for wildlife populations and wildlife habitat.
- Ecosystems first, interested in seeing legal objectives so that it's not left to discretion of statutory decision-makers in the regions – needs to be binding.
- Incorporating wildlife objectives directly into the Act, with enforceable measures when objectives aren't met that can impact other legislation.
- There should be objectives established for wildlife populations
- The Act may not need to state specific numbers, but there could be a requirement that objectives are set, and that managers take actions to manage according to those objectives
- Without specific objectives, more difficult to hold B.C. government accountable

Clarify 'abundance'

- Re: Introduction of non-native or invasive species. Just because they thrive doesn't mean they belong. Example – mule deer are expanding

- Heard the word abundance – not everything needs to be abundant – there are some things that we don’t want to be abundant. How do we keep that balance – through management, active management
- With the abundance – like to see abundance in a healthy ecosystem – what was there and what should be there – half dozen invasive species just on my farm – they cause a lot of harm and are harmful for our ecosystems – has to come down to a healthy ecosystem.

Data/analysis

Provide capacity for data collection and analysis

- Develop mechanisms and roles in the *Wildlife Act* for analytical capability of wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Encourage capacity in government to analyze wildlife and wildlife habitat data, set objectives from this data, and ensure objectives are being met throughout sectors.

Habitat protection

Protect habitats, not just wildlife.

- Would like to see the Act Review consider improved habitat protections for wildlife
- Habitat designations should be reviewed to ensure they meet needs of wildlife for which they’re intended
- Should ensure habitat designations meet OECM or protected areas criteria
- Should support biodiversity conservation and provide permanent protection
- Should prohibit resource extraction in protected habitat
- Implement immediate protection of remaining habitats for the Mule Deer range after catastrophic events.
- Reevaluate allotted cut blocks after catastrophic events to maintain the protection of critical habitats.
- Consider other activities as well to protect and restore habitat.

Other

- How does climate change come into management, to consider where wildlife will go not just where they are now.
- Need better protections for beavers, they are needed for watershed protection during drought.
- Consider some form of designation of corridors, as opposed to chunks of land, for wildlife movement and ecological corridors.
- Promoting private land stewardship is an important component, would require funding mechanisms (e.g., valley bottom habitats that are primarily private land in Kootenays).

Wildlife habitat features

Include the protection of wildlife habitat features in the Wildlife Act

- Implement WHSAs Wildlife Features and other wildlife habitat protection tools properly.
- *Wildlife Act* has potentially broad application, whereas wildlife habitat areas rely on preexisting inventory. Can we expand wildlife habitat areas to encompass broader protections?
- Protect ‘enduring habitat features,’ making sure these features have the capacity to provide habitat into the future. This is the only credible way to protect wildlife populations. If a habitat is usable to an animal at one point, assume it is usable in the foreseeable future.
 - An example is the recent nest tree protections ([link](#)) under the federal government’s Migratory Bird Regulations, where if roost cavities of pileated woodpeckers are found in a tree, the tree can’t be felled until it is proven that the nest site has been unoccupied for three years.
- Species may have habitat that is not delineated or mapped (e.g., potential denning trees for black bears). Assess if the *Wildlife Act* can incorporate protection for broader habitat features so if a landscape has these features, it could be protected.
- Make sure that it adds / includes protection of bear dens
- Lobbying for change to *Wildlife Act* to get bear dens protected, listed in the *Wildlife Act* – areas where they den in large trees on the Coast.
- Look into the Government Actions Regulation Order for the Kootenay Boundary region to identify wildlife habitat features ([link](#)) and see if this can be applied more broadly.

Species at risk

Protect SAR through legislation

- Decision to incorporate non-SAR or to have a separate B.C. Act specifically for SAR
- Determine how to protect species at risk—either through the *Wildlife Act* or elsewhere.
- One of the promises of the government was to bring in SAR legislation. That hasn’t worked out. We need to make a firm decision whether to include species at risk in the *Wildlife Act* or else include it in other legislation/its own legislation.
- B.C. Species at Risk act is needed.
- Species at Risk – glad to see line item for providing better options, if there won’t be an actual species at risk act.
- Parts of the *Wildlife Act* that mention species at risk are very outdated
- The Act mentions four species at risk (e.g. pelicans, sea otter), but some of these aren’t very at risk anymore. They should be removed, so that the Act doesn’t give the false impression that it addresses species at risk or provides protection for them. Want to avoid this impression because we also don’t have a provincial Species at Risk Act in BC

- How can we better integrate species at risk protections in other acts (Forest and Range Practices Act, Energy Resource Activities Act, Oil and Gas Activities Act)?

Limited Entry Hunt (LEH)

Update the LEH system

- LEH system needs to be overhauled – not an accurate number being taken on the land
- Long seasons that aren't coordinated with the U.S., especially in areas near the border. B.C. is much more lenient.

Wildlife conflicts

Address wildlife conflicts in the Wildlife Act

- Relates to community engagement, and some communities have own bylaws on this
- Control and educate about increasing human-wildlife conflicts due to catastrophic events.
- Creating nuisance wildlife, human-wildlife interaction issues

Address wildlife attractants in the Wildlife Act

- Should update language around conflicts to enable enforcement around preventing the attracting of wildlife, rather than it being a ticketed offence after the fact
- Should have broader wildlife attractant laws in the *Wildlife Act*
- Should be a law against feeding wildlife in general, not just dangerous wildlife.
- Wildlife feeding – expand dangerous definition to all wildlife with the exception of some birds in certain seasons – wildlife feeding prohibitions with enforcement.

Roads and access

Address roads and access in the Wildlife Act

- Need to do more on having comprehensive access management policies in the Act. Something that's more proactive than reactive.
- Should be better planning around access.
- Salvage logging after wildfire generates more access.
- Management units are really large, and lots of motorized access – there are very few refuge areas for wildlife.
- Economics of putting roads to bed is prohibitive – it's needed for our fish and wildlife – maybe we need to realize that we need to pay a bigger price.
- Access topic may be more related to FRPA? Road restoration can be impacted by future harvest plans.
- *Wildlife Act* strong enough that industries have to be accountable for their impact on the wildlife and we have to be bring it back to be sustainable on both sides. Map comparisons of good

habitat – very little left in East Kootenay - impact of roads and access have degraded habitat. Need to hold industry accountable.

- When industry builds road – put a sign up that says the life cycle of that road – hold accountability around the de-activation and sloping. That way the public and recreationists won't get attached, public will know that it isn't worth investing in trails or structures. Better communication with the public. Fits under the work of the CE framework – rehabbing roads that aren't needed. It would change the expectations of the public. Challenging because we log a block – move on, then come back and log the old.

Funding

Increased funding/fines

- Insufficient funding for proper management of conservation lands.
- Increasing penalties for people that commit offences – allowing conservation officers to come down harder on offenders, especially if repeat offenders. Fines need to teach a lesson.
- Believe that most British Columbians would be in favour of increasing fines under the *Wildlife Act*.

All users should contribute to funding wildlife management and enforcement

- Assess the implementation of a recreational user license fee or tax on recreational goods.
- As it stands, the public purse funds the *Wildlife Act*, including jurisdictional enforcement.
- It is important that all users of wildlife habitat landscapes contribute to protection—not just hunters, trappers, and anglers. Consider implementing a user fee or tax on recreational gear (akin to the Pittman-Robertson Act). Such a tax could be inclusive of all 'consumption' including birdwatchers, backcountry skiers, snowmobilers, etc....
- E.g., Pittman Roberts Tax, outdoor recreation licence (i.e., for mountain bikers, snowmobilers, etc.)

Dedicated funding

- Implement a dedicated funding model inclusive of all land users, not just hunters and fishers.
- Funding revenues from licenses (hunting/angling/trapping/commercial licenses) should be directed towards wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation, not just into the public purse.
- Conservation mechanisms for land acquisition – B.C. is lagging in this area.
- Ways to earmark funds for conservation in perpetuity rather than going into general revenue. Not just updating user fees, but update mechanisms for ongoing hooks to leverage funding and look at models in U.S.

Mandate and role of HCTF

- HCTF should have a broader mandate and representation in the renewed Act.
- Reassess and restructure the funding and spending mechanisms, scope, and objectives of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

- Redirect funds (i.e., hunting/trapping/angling fees and fines) and seek new sources of funds towards habitat and conservation through the HCTF.
- *Wildlife Act* should look at the mandate and role of the HCTF. Now that there is new funding and focus on ecosystem health, the HCTF needs to have a broader mandate.
- HCTF seems to focus on game species, but it should expand, be more holistic and inclusive with conservation goals focusing on wildlife habitat and species at risk.

Addressing and mitigating impacts

Transportation corridors

- Address and mitigate the impacts of transportation corridors on wildlife/wildlife habitat.
 - Seek ways for the *Wildlife Act* to have powers to mitigate the impacts of wildlife and habitat fragmentation caused by transportation corridors.
 - Is it possible for the *Wildlife Act* to mitigate impacts of railways, or just highways/roads?
 - Seek measures to mitigate impacts of roads on wildlife corridors—coordinate with other ministries to address habitat fragmentation and highway mortalities.

Urban development

- Find ways that the *Wildlife Act* can apply to mitigate impacts on habitat from urban and rural development.
 - A lot of impact for wildlife is on urban and rural development. Will the *Wildlife Act* be applicable to mitigate urban development? Example of Kamloops where pipeline was not allowed to carry on, but the municipality was allowed to develop in the same area.

Compliance/enforcement

Increased education

- Enforcement is key – with the foundation being education so there is less enforcement required
- Implement real enforcement measures, starting from education and awareness.

Consistent enforcement

- Enforcement is not consistent – legislation could help smooth that out
- It is important the *Wildlife Act* holds all users accountable, not just commercial users but also public recreationalists.
 - *Wildlife Act* should have authority over all activities, both “consumptive” (hunting, trapping, angling) and those traditionally seen as “non-consumptive” (i.e., birdwatching, OHV, mountain bikers, winter backcountry users, etc....).
 - Adventure tourism and commercial recreation (e.g., heliskiing, guiding) seem to be held to different standards than public recreationalists. For example, heliskiing operators have strict oversight for use in the backcountry, whereas snowmobilers have little regulation and can cause destructive impacts to winter ranges.

- The Species at Risk Coordination Office (SaRCO) should have authority and powers to cover multiple sectors and to regulate public users—we can't just pick the users that are easiest to manage and ignore other impacts.

Strengthen enforcement

- Develop a role and process for the *Wildlife Act* analogous to the Chief Forester and the Timber Supply Review and Allowable Annual Cut—but through the lens of user impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Give more “teeth” to enforcement measures to address issues like disregard for closures.
- Enforcement – we write these acts and spend a lot of time providing input, we write more rules without using the rules we have already – what teeth and what budget for making sure that the rules are followed. There is a limited number of rules – do we have a plan for enforcement.
- Will there ever be a moment when the enforcement lives in the same ministry that makes the rules?
- What is this going to look like on the land. Ensure implementation and enforcement are built into the Act, enabled and facilitated.
 - Need to invest in enforcement staff to make the implementation work. There is an arm in COS but needs more.
 - Need in Ecosystem Health framework for enforcement as well.
- Wildsafe works very closely with Conservation Officer Service, they don't have the ability to reach all residents that need support, more people and coverage, don't trust the process or that anything will happen

Flexibility

Enable flexibility and responsiveness to changes

- Ensure flexibility and responsiveness to changes in population levels
- Conservation or stewardship are always behind, change in management is always behind the actual issue (ex. Wildlife numbers, so more permits are put out but it is late, and elk or mule deer become problem)
- Improving the speed at which WMAs are designated, functionality of GAR orders.
- Faster response time and flexibility to change what is happening on the land after things have changed – ability to open and close hunting seasons as needed

Regional approach

Consider regional approaches

- Delegate authority to regional staff so better decision making can be made, all coming from the same place of wanting better wildlife on the land

- Have more regional based hunting opportunities – if you live in the Okanagan you get priority because its in your backyard – this would make people more active in what they want to see in those areas

Education and understanding

Education as a tool

- Add education as a pathway of changing perceptions and bringing more people on board with the need to support wildlife in the Province.
- Need people that live in the lower mainland to care about wildlife in other areas – significant disconnect between people that reside in B.C. and those that care about wildlife – draw in more people into the conversation

Specific suggestions

- Hybrid animals – possession of captive wildlife – those parts of the act need to be worked on as well.
- Need to remain competitive and change the way we do it. British Columbians love our outdoors – what is the economic impact of having that land more natural – dollar stretched over years before harvesting. Look at what the tourism vs. fibre value of a tree – study that may be underway.
- How can we limit disease transfer and loss of habitat as it relates to agriculture.
 - Improve how this is defined and managed.
 - Better link and address the management and stewardship of wildlife and agriculture activities.
- Have good consistency across board when reviewing management plans. Would like to see more focus on the education side.
 - Requirements for users, operators.
 - Mandatory requirements for getting permits (e.g., trapline operators).

Question 2: How can you help to ensure the successful introduction of a renewed B.C. Wildlife Act?

Connect with diverse groups

Connect with regional groups

- Utilizing existing partnerships and networks in the regions, some of these networks offer webinars (e.g., Kootenay Conservation).
- Should engage those most impacted, such as folks in resource-dependent communities

- Messaging around the BEHF could have impacts for how the *Wildlife Act* is reviewed as well

Connect with stakeholders

- Responsibility of government to engage with communities and member groups more as well. Dialogues are good but need more opportunities.
- Engaging the membership of whatever organization you work with.
 - Educate why Act is changing, what are the benefits to wildlife and habitat.
 - Sees the diversity in groups participating in the dialogues as a positive as it covers many different perspectives, interests but all are here for the same reason, wildlife and habitat.
 - Educate members to support and then look outside borders of group.
 - Agreement with these sentiments across the board.
 - Important to have conversations with people you don't normally speak with and that have different viewpoints.
- Connect with groups represented at this Dialogue session
 - CPAWS-B.C. can help raise public support, especially around habitat protection
 - EcoJustice can help create awareness and share information, particularly around connections to the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework (BEHF)
 - These groups need to understand how work is progressing in order to help create awareness
- Connect with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition
 - Many organizations involved
 - Should approach them and ask how the Coalition could provide support
 - CPAWS-B.C. would be happy to facilitate talking with the Coalition

Connect with outdoor users

- Getting information out to other user groups beyond hunters and anglers (e.g., QR codes on signage).
- Better inclusion of motorized recreation users into wildlife conversation to share values, change culture.

Connect with decision-makers

- Use your stakeholder platform to advocate to decision makers, ministers, MLAs etc. Engagement at the political level.
- Ensure resiliency of the wildlife work in the province to make it through the election
- Talking to MLA now and ensure they know the importance of what is going on
- Concerned that a lack of government resilience may impact future implementation of the *Wildlife Act*. How do we design the *Wildlife Act* to hold up to future political changes?

Connect with industry

- Get people on board such as farmers, landowners, developers, contractors. There should be greater involvement. Changes to the *Wildlife Act* need to be clearly justified and communicated to the public.

- Work to gain buy-in/acceptance of the *Wildlife Act* from government and non-government sectors.
 - The *Wildlife Act* (protections of wildlife and wildlife habitat) should become an accepted philosophy inside government. The *Wildlife Act* needs to always be considered across sectors, as for many years these values have not been considered.
 - Somehow the strength of the new act must be part of the day-to-day thought pattern of licensees.
 - We can't rely on enforcement and reactive approaches to the *Wildlife Act* implementation. We need proactive approaches such as working to gain buy-in from all sectors of government, industry, FN, and the public.
 - The messaging is the most important thing, we need buy-in.

Public education

Educate public about wildlife and the Wildlife Act

- Educating people about what is going on is important. Get information disseminated far and wide to a variety of audiences. Highlight that the *Wildlife Act* amendments are unprecedented and have the potential to enact significant improvements for protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Putting money into enforcement and education at outset will be important, so people can see that something really has changed.
- Education!
 - Collaborative approach to share information and educate
 - Use established groups to share information about the Act (conservation networks, Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation group, B.C. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Coalition, etc.)
 - Engage individual members
 - Ensure we continue to hold these multi-stakeholder engagement opportunities
 - Make sure we in turn educate MLAs and other political figures to ensure successful introduction of the Act.
- Engage people in activity to learn – hands on

Include wildlife education in schools

- Many different avenues for education – youth, school, the public, local residents, visitors (short and long term)
- Integrating with other ministries and acts (schools)
- Ensure a diverse discussion in schools, reality-based education (kids think the world is Disney)

Diverse ways to communicate/educate

- Education in collaboration and bringing in Indigenous knowledge
- Online presence and written communication and visuals

- Education, collaboration, highlighting through different conferences and for a and tying back to the *Wildlife Act*, reinforce messaging on policy initiatives over and over again so public and user groups are aware of changes.
- Use of communications, social media, looking for good data on wildlife (e.g., working with ICB.C. on data of wildlife collisions).
- Having independent bodies doing polling to find attitudes and values of people, can help to form messaging around values that people are passionate about – did this on water issues and it helped with messaging. Helps insert wildlife and ecosystems among other political priorities.
- There is a mistrust of government in some regions – there needs to be accurate information that’s not just on webinars. It is easy to spread misinformation faster than real information – need to be smart in implementing initiatives. Social media is a big issue.
- Supporting community-based efforts – meet community needs, they are different between communities

Representation for non-consumptive users

Consider an advisory body for non-consumptive users

- Need to give non-consumptive users equivalent standing and input into wildlife – ideally see another entity like PHTAT but for non-consumptive users sit at the table
- Recreation needs a voice.
- Wildlife rehabilitators not represented. B.C. Nature.
- Provincial representative body that is broader e.g., non-consumptive users. Could be something to help the success of this going forward.
- Needs to be representative of larger group of people – public’s perception of consultation from government – how large a spectrum – need to know that voices were heard and that could contribute – needs to be big
- Unduly – making sure that the other acts don’t supersede the *Wildlife Act*. Should have equal footing. Non-consumptive users, need a committee of non-consumptive users

Consistent and clear messaging

Provide clear and consistent messaging

- To help it you have to believe in it. I was hopeful in listening to the Minister – reconciliation and ecosystem – it will come down to releasing something that we get
- Should be clear around what is expected to be included in the Act Review, and what is needed
- Need consistent messaging between PHTAT, MWAC, and Forum
- All need to be speaking same language and communicating out to their memberships
- Although there will be divergence on some issues, should try and get the three bodies aligned

- Working together will increase chance of success
- Can't lose sight of end goals with upcoming provincial election – need to hold elected officials accountable
- Hard to understand all the different processes and how they fit together – FLP, T4W, *Wildlife Act*, how could you as a public be fully briefed on all of them? – Grizzly bear stewardship plan. What We Heard Report – just do what we said we would do anyway.

Question 3: Beyond the Wildlife Act renewal, what are the highest priority issues or opportunities that the MWAC should be addressing?

RWACs

- Encouragement to keep gentle pressure on regarding the creation of RWACs. They're an important component
- RWACs may be fine at a regional level but there still isn't the collective voice at the provincial level. As well RWACs are intended to have ALL voices.
- Fish and Wildlife Coalition is a good example of successful broad collaboration.
- Role for MWAC in clarifying what the roles RWACs will play.
- Need to clarify roles of the RWACs, and share this information broadly.
- Concern raised from some that there could be issues with RWACs impacting resource stewardship, "breaking apart"
 - Has heard conversations (from fringe groups) RWACs could splinter management across regional levels instead of consistency across province.
 - Concern from some around maintaining provincial consistency when there are regional groups making decisions.
- RWACs could help move away from single species management towards regional wholistic habitat-based management.
- Keep the pressure on to establish the RWACs and ensure they are well resourced

More outreach and engagement

- Could be a role to raise the non-consumptive user voices.
- Not enough opportunities for the breadth of interest holders to engage with MWAC.
 - Maybe they could attend group meetings, the coalition etc so more voices can be heard, and more people could understand what MWAC is about. And same for Forum.
 - More opportunities for direct contact and interactions.

- This person noted the benefits and growth they felt in having the opportunity to be part of MWAC/Forum/PHTAT meetings.
- A second vote for this. Put a face to the acronym. Bring the faces together to have the conversations (zoom is acceptable)
- There is an opportunity here both specifically for *Wildlife Act* review, and then beyond.
- Materials for communication such as written materials or podcasts were proposed to facilitate sharing information about wildlife.

Data and inventory

- Better data
- Mandatory wildlife inventories, so we know what we have on the landscape.

Other

- Restoration economy
- Consider how we can generate funds so that investments are made in the health of the ecosystems that all user groups enjoy
- Ensure wildlife is the priority - don't get mired in details of different ministries, regulations etc.
- Wildfires and flooding and how it related to *Wildlife Act*
- Youth climate corps
- Opportunity to get ahead of damaging narratives, such as wildlife/biodiversity being prioritized ahead of communities and people
- Impact of trains on wildlife. It is unlikely the *Wildlife Act* will have power over CPR or CNR, as railways are federally managed. Are there avenues to mitigate the impacts of railways (grain dumping, wildlife mortality) on a provincial level?
- Better protection for endangered/threatened plants. What protection do plants have? Beyond FRPA and SARA, how can we provincially manage and protect plants?

D: Introductory Presentations

Ministers Wildlife Advisory Council

First Nations—B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Forum

Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Committee

Wildlife Act Review

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

WILDLIFE DIALOGUES 2023



1



2

AGENDA

Welcome

Updates:

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat
Conservation Forum

Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team

Wildlife Act Review

Breakout discussions

Summary

2



THE MINISTER'S WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL

3

VISION:

Wildlife and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians

TWO PARADIGM SHIFTS

Reconciliation
Ecosystems first



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2022 DIALOGUES: RWACs

- Your advice on establishing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees was used in establishing framework, e.g.,
 - Start, but start small and build on success
 - Ensure First Nations readiness to participate, create ethical space
 - Seek tangible outcomes
 - Role of RWACs to foster dialogue between people with diverse perspectives and knowledge systems to represent a unified voice for wildlife
 - Call for members:
 - East Kootenay Wildlife and Habitat Advisory Committee
 - Okanagan Boundary Wildlife and Habitat Roundtable
 - Thompson Lillooet Wildlife and Habitat Roundtable
 - Discussions underway in other regions
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PROGRESS

Funding

- Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation
- Conservation financing

Planning

- Strategic Plan for Conservation Lands (in progress)
- Modernized land use planning, Forest Landscape Planning

Policy

- Interim Collaborative Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Planning Policy
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

Legislation

- Wildlife Act Review
-

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BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH FRAMEWORK

To prioritize the conservation and management of biodiversity and ecosystem health in British Columbia, and to formalize this priority for all sectors through legislation and other enabling tools

- Draft framework released in November
 - Webinars November – January
 - Feedback to Biodiversity.Ecosystemhealth@gov.bc.ca
 - Deadline January 15th
 - Search for *BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework*
-

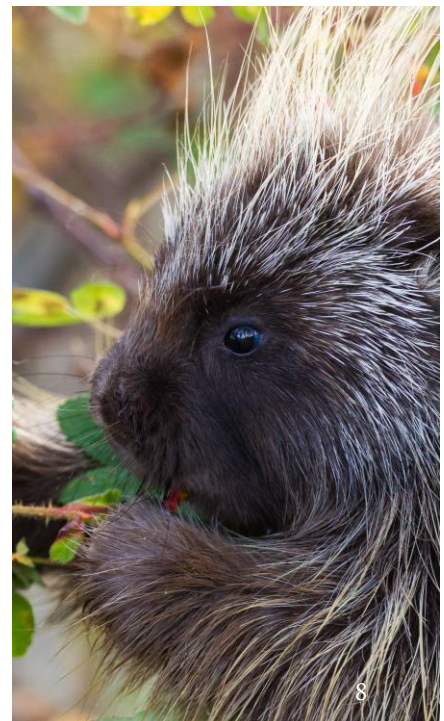


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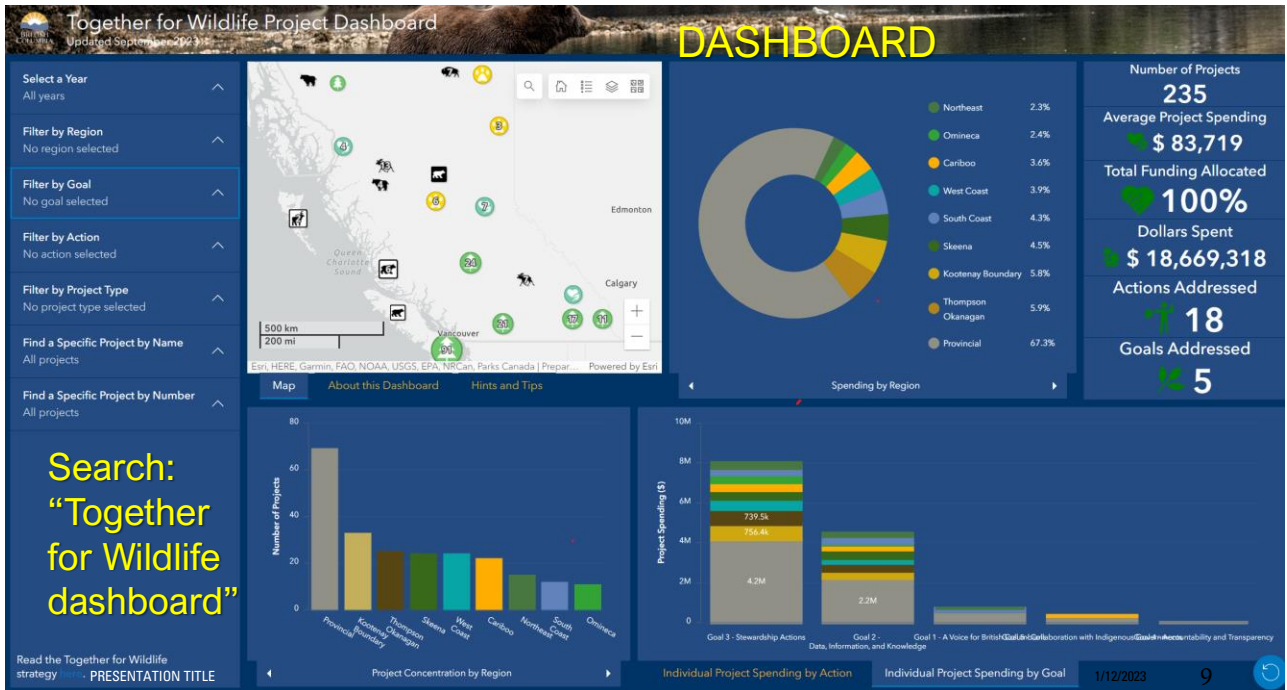
ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

- Ongoing establishment of RWACs
 - Presentation to Premier's Task Force on Emergencies re wildfire response
 - Strategic Plan for Conservation Lands (in progress)
 - Ongoing support for student research projects
 - Funding for on-the-ground projects
-



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WILDLIFE ACT RENEWAL

High priority

- Collaboration with First Nations Forum and PHTAT
- Focus on developing content for Policy Intentions Paper
- Act likely not introduced until 2026
- Need to build strong, provincewide support for Wildlife Act renewal

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THANK YOU

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

MinistersWildlifeAdvisory.ca

11

First Nations - BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum.

Wildlife Dialogues Update

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

1

Introductions

Rep'rep'skan, Morris Prosser. WLRs Senior Wildlife Policy Advisor.

Peyecw7, Hunter Lampreau. QS Co-Director.

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

2

Presentation contents:

- Facts of The Forum.
- Recent Accomplishments.
- Wildlife Act Review; Forum's Function

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

3

Forum Facts.

Fact: The Forum DOES NOT operate as a representative body for rights and title of Indigenous Peoples, or a consultative entity, as rights & title & decision-making jurisdictions remain in community at a territorial level.

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

Fact: The Forum focuses on issues that are widely applicable at the Provincial scale.

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

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

4

Recent Accomplishments

- Co-development of Indigenous Knowledge Policy from Bill 14 Wildlife Act Amendments
- Contribution to Wildlife Act Review Reconciliation focussed aspects.
- Endorsement of Co-developed Interim Non-Statutory Shared Decision-Making Policy and Collaborative Habitat and Stewardship Planning Policy.
- Input into Bio-Diversity and Ecosystem Health Framework
- Joint meeting with PHTAT and MWAC resulting in Agreement to work together on Wildlife Act Review.
- Continued Growth with 4 more member Nations.

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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Wildlife Act Review; Forum's Function.

- Strategic, technical advice to B.C. to best engage Rights & Title Holders/Representatives, while maintaining an anti-racist approach.
- Bridge cultural gaps between user groups to facilitate consensus, education and improved understanding of Indigenous Rights.
- Advise and co-design content for BC to consider for the Act Review Intentions Paper

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

6

Taking an Anti-racist Approach

- Forum's approach is work collaboratively with Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council and the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team to:
 - Foster safe spaces for intercultural dialogue and discussion where we can put wildlife first.
 - Help the broader public understand the effects colonization had on First Nations.
 - Work to establish Walking on Two Legs/Two Eyed Seeing Approaches where Indigenous governments and the Provincial government can work together.

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

7

& the age-old question you may be asking yourself..



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

8



Photo: Roy Rea

PHTAT Update (Provincial Hunting & Trapping Advisory Team)

MWAC Wildlife Dialogues, December 2023

Michael Burwash - PHTAT Chair, Associate Director Wildlife, F&W Branch, WLRS

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PHTAT Members

The Team is composed of members from a range of hunting and trapping stakeholder organizations in BC:

- 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

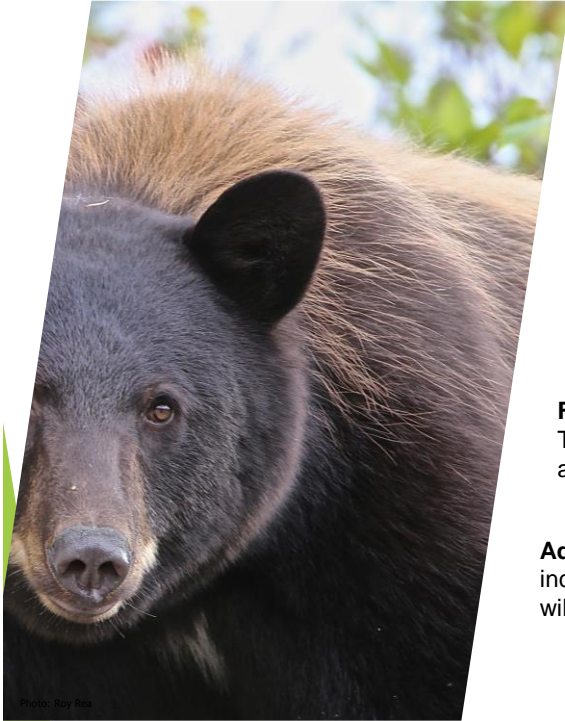
- BC Conservation Officer Service
- First Nations Liaison
- Chair – Wildlife Manager
- Director of Wildlife
- Other provincial government representatives as appropriate

2 Non-government scientific advisors – BC university academics



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PHTAT's 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

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PHTAT Collaborative Work

- Supporting shared priority efforts with the First Nations Wildlife and Habitat Forum (FN Forum) and MWAC
- Dialogue and collaboration to provide creative ideas and defensible solutions for wildlife policies, regulations and strategies at a Provincial Scale
- Supporting opportunities to advance shared stewardship actions through other Natural Resource agencies



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Thank you



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Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship

Wildlife Act Review

December 2023



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Background

- Action 12 of the Together for Wildlife Strategy commits to a review of the *Wildlife Act*.
- The *Wildlife Act* has not been significantly updated since the 1980s and remains largely focused on extractive activities (e.g., hunting, trapping).
- Priority areas: reconciliation; setting objectives; improving wildlife stewardship outcomes; ensuring effective and accessible service delivery; dedicated funding.
- The review of the Act supports the “Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*”.
- There are also several administrative updates needed to support the proper functioning of the Act.

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Progress To Date



Approved Consultation and
Cooperation Plan

January 2023



Collaborative policy exploration

Early engagement and internal working
groups



Finalized Discussion Paper

With support from FN Forum

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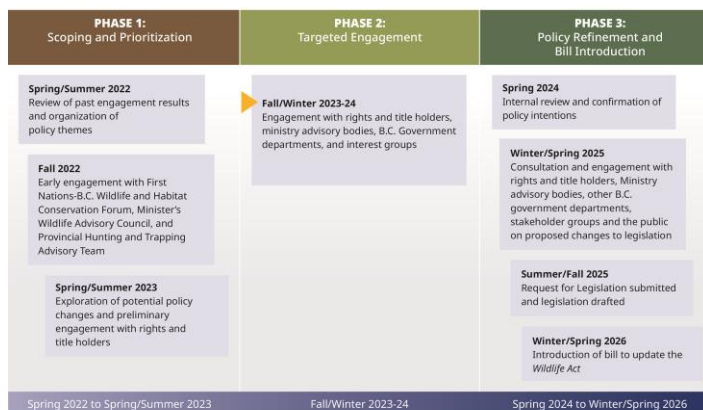
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Where We Are

Wildlife Act Review: Consultation and Cooperation Plan Timeline



- Discussion paper distributed to First Nations and internal staff in early October.
- Targeted engagement to continue throughout Winter 2024.

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Engagement Tools



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- **Wildlife Act Review Website**
- **Dedicated project email:**
WildlifeActReview@gov.bc.ca
- **Webinars for internal staff**
(November 16th and 21st)
- **Webinars for First Nations to be planned shortly**
- **G2G discussions as needed**

Phase I: Scoping and Prioritization	Phase II: Consultation and Engagement	Phase III: Policy Development and Implementation
Spring/Summer 2022 Initial scoping and prioritization of issues for review.	Summer 2022 Engagement with Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders on priorities for review.	Spring 2023 Policy development and consultation of public feedback.
Fall 2022 Final engagement and review.	Check out our new site	Spring 2023 Review and implementation of policy outcomes.

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Policy Themes



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Discussion Paper

- Outlines goals of review.
- Summarizes opportunities for improvement, by theme.
- Examples listed are not comprehensive and not meant to imply government direction.
- Intended to inform policy intentions paper.

Summary of Wildlife Act Review Discussion Paper



Fall 2023 – Winter 2024

What is the Wildlife Act Review?

The B.C. government, in partnership with First Nations and key advisory bodies, has initiated a review of the Wildlife Act in response to Action 12 of the Together for Wildlife Strategy. This work is also in response to Section 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which requires the Province to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Goals of the Wildlife Act Review:

- Using a distinctions-based approach, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by aligning the Wildlife Act with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support the prioritization of biodiversity and ecosystems health in B.C. through improved legal tools that protect, restore and/or enhance on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, and maintain the social and economic well-being of communities for future generations.

- Increase public trust and confidence in fish, wildlife, and habitat stewardship.
- Cultivate abundance through responsible fish, wildlife, and habitat stewardship, supporting quality hunting, trapping and angling opportunities and other connections to wildlife and nature for all.

Process and Scope: The Province has drafted a discussion paper with technical experts on the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum and in consultation with advisory bodies and other B.C. government ministries. The discussion paper forms the basis for engagement discussions happening in the Fall of 2023 and the Winter of 2024. Policy intentions will be developed with input from advisory groups, followed by consultation and cooperation with First Nations rights and title holders and engagement with interest groups and the public. The results of this process will inform recommendations to improve and update the Wildlife Act.

Wildlife Act Review: Consultation and Cooperation Plan Timeline

PHASE 1: Scoping and Prioritization	PHASE 2: Targeted Engagement	PHASE 3: Policy Refinement and Bill Introduction
Spring/Summer 2022 Review of past engagement results and organization of policy themes Fall 2022 Early engagement with First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum, Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team Spring/Summer 2023 Exploration of potential policy changes, and preliminary engagement with rights and title holders	Fall/Winter 2023-24 Engagement with rights and title holders, ministry advisory bodies, B.C. Government departments, and interest groups	Spring 2024 Internal review and confirmation of policy intentions Winter/Spring 2025 Consultation and engagement with rights and title holders, Ministry advisory bodies, other B.C. government departments, stakeholder groups and the public on proposed changes to legislation Summer/Fall 2025 Request for legislation submitted and legislation drafted Winter/Spring 2026 Introduction of bill to update the Wildlife Act
Spring 2022 to Spring/Summer 2023	Fall/Winter 2023-24	Spring 2024 to Winter/Spring 2026

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE ACT REVIEW DISCUSSION PAPER

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FALL 2023 – WINTER 2024

Discussion Paper: Goal Statements

1. Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by aligning the *Wildlife Act* with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Support the prioritization of B.C.'s biodiversity and ecosystems health through improved legal tools that protect, restore and/or enhance on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats and maintains the social and economic well-being of communities for generations.
3. Increase public trust and confidence in fish, wildlife and habitat stewardship.
4. Cultivate abundance through responsible fish, wildlife and habitat stewardship, supporting quality hunting, trapping and angling opportunities and other connections to wildlife and nature for all.



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Next Steps

- Targeted engagement will continue throughout Winter 2024 and will inform the development of policy intentions.
- Broader engagement on proposed changes to legislation with advisory bodies, stakeholders, other BC Government agencies, and the public, and consultation with rights and title holders will begin in 2025.

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Thank You

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E: Participants

Indigenous Dialogues		Stakeholder Dialogues	
Kate Hewitt	CIER	Ian Thomas	Ancient Forest Alliance
Rosie Robbins	Esketemc First Nation	Helen Davis	Artemis Wildlife Consultants
Rob Matthews	Gitxsan Laxyip	Scott Walker	Back Country Horsemen Society of BC
Kirk Miller	Nak'azdli Whut'en	Brad Harrison	Backcountry Lodges of BC Association
Rosemarie Sam	Nak'azdli Whut'en	David Hendrickson	BC Conservation Foundation
Yvonne Patterson	Okanagan Nation Alliance	Ben van Drimmelen	BC Nature
Troy Larden	Skeena Region	Donegal Wilson	BC Snowmobile Federation
David Skerik	Skeena Region	Andrea Wallace	BC SPCA
Amy Brewer	Syilx	Nadia Xenakis	BC SPCA
Shannon Whelan	Taku River Tlingit First Nation	Holly Wise	BC Trapper's Association
Marie Baptiste	Tkemplups te Secwepemc	Meg Bjordal	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter
Caitlyn Aleck	Tsleil-waututh nation	Katherine MacRae	Commercial Bear Viewing Association
Jim Webb	West Moberly	Johnny Mikes	CPAWS-BC
Jason Gravelle	Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi't First Nation	Greg Sawchuck	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Hunter Lampreau	First Nations Forum Co-Chair	Kevin Podrasky	East Kootenay Wildlife Association
Morris Prosser	First Nations Forum Co-Chair	Sarah Korpan	Ecojustice
Michael Burwash	PHTAT Chair	Yvonne Miller	Grasmere Community Society
Chief Harry Nyce	MWAC Co-Chair	Nicholas Scapillati	Grizzly Bear Foundation
Nancy Wilkin	MWAC Co-Chair	Wendy Cary	H4BC Hunt.Gather.Conserve & NBCGA
Shaun Hollingsworth	MWAC, facilitator	Juliet Craig	Kootenay Conservation
Jasper Lament	MWAC, facilitator	Sue Senger	Lillooet Tribal Council
Jason Northcott	MWAC, facilitator	Dave Wharton	Outdoor Recreation Council, B.C. & Federation of Mountain Clubs
Pam Doerksen	WLRS	Alan Duffy	PHTAT, BC Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Danica Crystal	WLRS	Glen Cartwright	PHTAT, BC Trappers Association
Avril Nagel	WLRS	Kyle Stetler	PHTAT, Wild Sheep Society of BC
Catherine Denny	WLRS	David Fyfe	PHTAT, Wildlife Stewardship Council
Jennifer Walker	WLRS	David Quigg	Sierra Club
Jennifer Meilleur	WLRS	Sam Medcalf	Southern Guides and Outfitters Assoc
Rodrigo Solis-Sosa	WLRS	Sara Dubois	SPCA BC
Lisa Tedesco	WLRS	Ciel Sander	Trails Society of BC (TrailsBC)
Karlee Snetsinger	WLRS	Christopher Barker	Wild Sheep Society of BC
Anna McIndoe	WLRS	Kyle Stelter	Wild Sheep Society of BC

Indigenous Dialogues		Stakeholder Dialogues	
Annie Pumphrey	WLRS	Cori Lausen	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Rodrigo Solis-Sosa	WLRS	Rod Davis	Wildlife Society - BC Chapter
Diana McNeill	WLRS	Lisa Lopez	Wildsafe BC
		Hunter Lampreau	First Nations Forum Co-Chair
		Morris Prosser	First Nations Forum Co-Chair
		Michael Burwash	PHTAT Chair
		Nancy Wilkin	MWAC Co-Chair
		Kari-Stuart-Smith	MWAC, facilitator
		Doug Heard	MWAC, facilitator
		Mike Demarchi	MWAC, facilitator
		Megan Hanacek	MWAC, facilitator
		Jennifer Psyllakis	WLRS
		Jen Walker	WLRS
		Pam Doerksen	WLRS
		Danica Crystal	WLRS
		Avril Nagel	WLRS
		Catherine Denny	WLRS
		Annie Pumphrey	WLRS
		Rodrigo Solis-Sosa	WLRS
		Lisa Tedesco	WLRS
		Karlee Snetsinger	WLRS
		Derek Thompson	T4W Advisor