

ALAN DOLAN
& ASSOCIATES

Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation

Stakeholder Workshop

Meeting Notes

January 30 – 31, 2019

February 27, 2019

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Introduction

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is engaging with stakeholders, Indigenous groups and the public in a project known as *Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation*. Phase One engagement took place in 2018 and included face-to-face discussions and online engagement.

Phase Two engagement (December 2018 – May 2019) is designed to host more detailed discussions with stakeholders from a range of sectors to develop policy options for the government to consider. This included an introductory webinar on December 10, 2018, followed by a two-day workshop on January 30 – 31, 2019 and will include a series of topic-specific Working Group Webinars.

This report documents the result of the January 2019 stakeholder workshop.

The goals of the workshop were:

1. To provide an opportunity for provincial stakeholders to meet face-to-face and share their perspectives on wildlife management and habitat conservation in British Columbia
2. To provide time for participants to have in-depth discussions about policy areas of interest to them
3. To begin to develop policy options for the Province to consider
4. To lay the groundwork for further engagement and discussion through Working Group Webinars, and identify participants wishing to participate in these discussions

The workshop was by invitation. One person from each organization was invited and organizations met the following criteria:

- Provincial in scope and perspective (not regional or place-based)
- Demonstrated interest in provincial wildlife and habitat policy issues
- Fall into one of eight identified stakeholder sectors — Academia and Research; Agriculture; Energy and Mining; ENGOs, Conservation and Wildlife; Forestry; Habitat Conservation and Land Trusts; Hunters, Trappers and Guides; Tourism and Recreation

Groups attending the workshop are listed in Appendix A.

The agenda for the meeting (Appendix B) was designed to have multi-stakeholder conversations on seven policy themes that have emerged in the previous consultation processes. Presentations used in the workshop are in Appendix C. A summary of the results of the stakeholder conversations are presented below.

Results

Note: The document records the views and ideas expressed by a wide range of stakeholders and should not be viewed as consensus recommendations by those stakeholders or actions necessarily supported by the Province.

During the workshop, facilitators presented a selection of key ideas and policy options that emerged from each of the policy theme breakouts (See presentation in Appendix C). The following sections expand on the ideas and options discussed to incorporate further information that was documented in the notes from the One Big Idea and plenary sessions, the Open Space sessions, and on the flip charts.

Funding

The funding discussions aimed to answer the following questions:

- What are the attributes of a good funding policy?
- Are there options to diversify funding sources and create additional funding for wildlife and habitat?
- Who should make decisions on allocating funds? How do we ensure accountability and transparency?

Of the many ideas brought to the table by the workshop participants, the ones that appeared to have group support for further discussion were as follows.

1. Attributes of good funding policy

- Everyone benefits, so everyone should contribute. This principle was discussed in two ways:
 - All British Columbians (including urban dwellers) benefit from wildlife and habitat, so all should contribute to funding this
 - All land users contribute to impacts on wildlife and habitat, so all land users should be contributing to management and restoration costs.
- Administration costs must be reasonable. Some of the ideas discussed could have a high cost of administration in relation to the funds raised. It is better to pursue one or two ideas for raising additional funds, rather than trying to do many smaller options.

2. Raising additional funds

Principles raised:

- For all options involving raising and dedicating funds for wildlife and habitat, it will be important to engage the public. We will need to clearly demonstrate the need for funding, the ways in which funds are to be used, and to present a compelling story. Using the term “nature tax” could create support.
- For all options, funds raised should be placed in a dedicated fund for the support of

wildlife and habitat.

- An option for raising additional funds is to reallocate existing funds: moving funds away from crisis management and towards preventative approaches.

Options for raising additional funds raised by some stakeholders:

1. Allocate 100% of the licence fees from hunting and trapping to the dedicated fund (not just the surtax). Participants suggested that this option would meet broad approval and could happen quickly.
2. Increase the provincial sales tax by 0.125% (or similar small increase), with the increased revenue to the dedicated fund. This was seen as consistent with the principle that “everyone benefits, so everyone should pay”. It was recognized that this is a big political ask, and would need (at very least) letters of support from all participating stakeholder groups to demonstrate broad support.
3. Impose a consumption tax on outdoor equipment and outdoor activities. Impose a consumption tax on outdoor equipment and outdoor activities. An example is the eck-tourism tax currently under consideration in Tofino, and the industry fees for commercial grizzly bear viewing that support bear management.
4. Impose (or expand) tax on land uses that impact habitat (including forestry, mining, tourism, oil and gas). This could include increased (or redirected) stumpage fees.
5. Where fines are levied for wildlife infractions, the revenue should go to the dedicated fund, or direct-awarded to stewardship organizations (at the judge’s discretion).
6. Create an excise tax on outdoor equipment (similar to the Pittman-Robertson Act in the United States)
7. Create an endowment fund to fund research, conservation, restoration and monitoring (at least \$100 m).
8. Levy a parcel tax, a gasoline tax, or real estate tax.

3. Fund allocation and management

Principles raised:

- The method of allocating funds must be transparent and accountable, and will be subject to freedom of information requests.
- First Nations must be included in allocations, in their role as wildlife and habitat managers
- Those who contribute funds should have a say in how they are allocated; those who contribute funds should get clear information on how those funds were spent
- Take advantage of opportunities for using funds to leverage more \$\$

- Take advantage of opportunities for shared benefit – e.g., research that can benefit industry and government
- Create opportunity for multi-year funding of projects
- Avoid situations where government is competing with others for available funding

Options:

- Create a dedicated fund for wildlife and habitat. This could be housed:
 - Within government, making for increased accountability
 - Outside government, meaning that it is less subject to effects of changing governments
 - Some form of hybrid model
- Create an independent institution with the authority to conduct research and other programs; provide the institution with significant funding (similar to Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions)
- An advisory board (or similar body) should be created to make decisions on funding allocations from the dedicated fund. This board should include representation from government, industry, scientists, practitioners, and people with local/regional knowledge.
- The fund could have different streams of funding, e.g., for research, inventory, administrative costs...
- A pilot project could be set up in one region to test the advisory board approach (e.g., northeast BC).
- Consider incentive based options such as reverse auctions

Funding priorities

Although this was not discussed in detail, suggestions for funding priorities included:

- Conservation plans
- Education (prevention of wildlife-human conflicts)
- More conservation officers

Wildlife Planning and Objectives

Key Problem Identified

Lack of clear and enforceable objectives identified as the key problem:

- Without objectives management is reactive, uncoordinated and adversarial
- Without objectives, there is little point in monitoring because we don't know what we are trying to achieve

Considerations for a Planning and Objective-setting Process

The overall process proposed for wildlife planning and objectives:

1. Develop a "population objectives policy framework" that would lay out the principles and procedures for determining how wildlife objectives are set
 - There are different theoretical approaches or principles to setting objectives. We need to decide on one or a set of approaches:
 - i. Carrying capacity of habitats
 - ii. Cost-benefit analysis that optimizes values and management investments
 - iii. Managing to sustenance and recreational demand
 - iv. Managing for ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors (i.e., a habitat emphasis)
2. Set preliminary wildlife objectives:
 - Other jurisdictions do it – how?
 - Make them legal or at least equivalent to other objectives considered by Statutory Decision Makers when making land use decisions. "Consideration" is often trumped by other legal requirements
 - Need to be flexible and adjust as we learn – we won't get it right the first time but we have to start somewhere
 - Can't do it for all species, but need to address consumptive needs and "umbrella" and "indicator" species
 - Need to have sufficient data to even start setting objectives
3. Set habitat objectives to support wildlife objectives:
 - Iterative process with full socio-economic impact analysis – are our objectives feasible? Are they desirable given the trade-offs?
 - Objectives need to be consistently applied to all land users – current approach "silos" different activities and applies different rules

4. Monitor:

- Need sufficient monitoring effort to know whether our objectives are being achieved, and if not, why not

Planning Considerations

How objectives should be set:

- Provincial-scale board could set strategic direction and monitor outcomes, make recommendations to government regarding required changes
- Regional boards with input from experts (biologists, knowledge holders), stakeholders, Indigenous communities, implement provincial direction based on regional circumstances
- There are already boards operating in some regions that work in a similar manner to this

Possible Strategies

To achieve objectives:

- Develop methods to value wildlife – right now it's largely “free” and therefore there are no economic incentive to conserve/manage; everything is based on limits and allocations and limited budgets
- Develop a provincial-scale approach to managing wildlife conflicts, particularly in urban areas – this is an increasing concern and devolving to municipalities is inadequate

Data, Information and Knowledge

1. Publish annual report on state of wildlife in BC

- Varying levels of detail
- Use best available data
 - Science (including Citizen)
 - Local knowledge
 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge

2. Expand and promote use of Citizen Science for gathering wildlife and habitat data

- Use existing tools – all of these are established and in use but are under-utilized
 - Road Watch BC
 - Wild Cam – Network of remote cameras to collect data; great opportunity for partnerships; public education and engagement
 - Moose Tracker App

3. Make data and information a priority for ongoing supportive funding

4. Develop centralized access to online databases of data and information

- Publicly accessible
- Include annual summary of trends
- Identify gaps in information and research
- Create opportunities for collaboration
- Conservation Data Centre, Species Inventory Database

5. Foster partnering to collect and share data between different organizations and agencies

- Governments, universities, industries, First Nations

6. Develop a data management policy to streamline the process

- Identification, collection, analysis, sharing

Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

The Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat discussion aimed to answer the following questions:

- How can we develop an improved decision making model for wildlife and habitat?
- Are wildlife and habitat appropriately considered in the current decision making approach?
- Are there gaps in the legislative / regulatory / policy framework?
- How could the framework for different sectors be better aligned / how could specific activities or sectors better consider wildlife and habitat?
- How can Indigenous knowledge, citizen science and other sources of evidence be incorporated to support improved decision making?

Many ideas were brought forward by workshop participants, several of which appeared to have broad support for further discussion. These ideas are discussed in more detail below but include the need for a provincial wildlife and habitat strategy, the development of regional decision making bodies that support and respond to that overarching strategy, and the need to align and apply the statutory framework to better improve wildlife and habitat outcomes.

The overall sentiment was that if we can identify a new model for decision making that involves both regional decision making and First Nations co-management, we'd have come a long way from where we are now.

1. An overarching provincial wildlife and habitat strategy with a clear vision and goals

2. Vision and goals must be linked to legal objectives/targets

- These legal objectives/targets must be based on the following principles:
 - Science based data, including supply and population assessments
 - Regional and landscape level input
 - Cumulative effects
 - Social values
 - Economics
 - Ecosystem-based management
 - Monitoring data, and subsequent transparent adjustments

3. Decisions around goals, objectives and targets should be transparent

- The rationale behind decisions and trade-off considerations must be clearly documented and explained
- Base decisions on science, not politics, and consider identified shared values

4. Consider a provincial level Wildlife Board and a Chief Biologist to make overarching wildlife and habitat decisions

5. Regional decision making could occur in line with the regional roundtable approach

Considerations include:

- Determine the best role and responsibilities – Strategic/advisory? Decision making powers?
 - Help set/inform the provincial level objectives, goals, targets through regional knowledge and interests/objectives
 - Do they look at the science, objectives and recommendations by the Province and decide how to operationalize it; or does the Province provide the objectives and the operational direction to the regional roundtables? If the latter, what is the role of the roundtables?
- Must include First Nations and stakeholders from across many sectors (First Nations at a nation level, FLNRORD resource management staff, licensees, GOABC, BCWF, trappers, independent guides, tourism/recreation, ranchers, industry, ENGOs, forestry etc.)
 - First Nations infusion can add the newest ideas. We must include them at the regional level, and these must be professionally facilitated
 - Incorporate First Nations knowledge and history, consider how best to incorporate UNDRIP at the very beginning of this work
 - Desire to see more co/shared/joint management opportunities with First Nations – there IS an appetite now for this! People are at a place right now to have this kind of structure and it could really create buy-in
- Local co-management models exist but how can they be effective without an overall provincial strategy? Build on existing examples – moose solutions in Chilcotin; Yukon approach where they make sure all parties are at the table, including First Nations; expanded version of Mountain Caribou Progress Board
 - Concern re: great expense of Yukon model, and amount of funds that go to people management rather than actual wildlife or habitat management
 - Expand the Mountain Caribou Progress Board model further so it is more influential, with sub-committees (it has seven clear objectives and every year they report to the Minister on where they are with those objectives)
- Two-way communication with the Provincial Wildlife Board (or similar) is critical
- How best to fund these regional roundtables?
- Must have professional guidance (RPBios) to ensure local decisions are appropriate for the larger scale or species view
- Must be professionally facilitated
- Consider greater public engagement, more regional workshops, involvement of First

Nations and local governments

7. Align and apply a uniform approach across the many regulations to ensure that activities must consider wildlife and habitat objectives

Considerations include:

- Consider wildlife and habitat objectives together to make them meaningful
- Use of the term 'consider' perceived as too vague, not highlighting the crisis, prefer more clear direction and terminology
- Decision makers for ALL natural resource activities must address wildlife and habitat objectives via an omnibus legislation – Environment Land Use Act?
- Consider updates to the following legislation, among others
 - *Forest and Range Practices Act* (e.g., herbicide application, access)
 - *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (e.g., timing windows, species based, requiring surveys)
- Enforcement of existing regulations and legislation
- Ensure objectives apply on park lands as well as other crown lands, and make improvements to Park Act so there is more active management
- Need for monitoring against set objectives
- Success means that objectives are being met

Stakeholder Engagement

1. Minister's Advisory Council

- Province-wide
- Broad sectoral representation – consumptive and non-consumptive stakeholder groups (similar sectors to IWMHC)
- High level; directly reporting to Minister
- Need for communications to other groups and individuals
- Terms of Reference need to be carefully crafted
- Excellent example in the Minister's Tourism Council
 - Meets quarterly
 - Chair and vice-chair meet monthly with Minister
 - Staggered appointments for continuity
 - Sub-committees to deal with issues in more depth
 - Help inform tourism strategy
- This committee could replace or complement PHTAT (Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team, which consists of BC Trappers Association, BC Wildlife Federation, Guide Outfitters Association of BC, United Bowhunters of BC, Wildlife Stewardship Council, Wild Sheep Society of BC)
- Or it could be a separate committee because PHTAT is mainly concerned with hunting, trapping and guiding regulations and legislation

2. Regional Advisory Committees

- There are some regional PHTAT-type groups and also some species-specific groups meeting, but not consistent across regions
- Broad sectoral participation
- Could build on existing regional PHTATs
- Terms of reference critical
 - Roles
 - Rotating membership
 - Representativeness — representing a sector or representative of a sector

3. Management Planning Engagement

- To be determined
- Engagement for management plans of individual species, multiple species, specific geographical areas

4. Comprehensive list of stakeholder / public emails

- Fundamentally important step; key strategy to reach people all over the province
- Stakeholder organizations could pass on information to their mailing lists
- Let public and stakeholders know about important information and engagement opportunities
 - Management plans for individual species, multiple species
 - Regulation and legislation changes
 - Policy advice
 - Hunting closures
 - Monitoring and survey information
 - Enforcement bulletins
 - Could include news releases and Information Bulletins
- How to “gather” contacts
 - Sign-up on Engage BC; choose areas or initiatives of interest
 - Use existing mailings (hunting licences, guiding permits, provincial taxes, etc.) to let people know that if they want information on certain areas, they will need to sign-up for that
 - Invite people from websites (Province already collects names and email addresses for people interested in news releases of specific topics; could do the same sort of thing on Engage BC)
- Privacy concerns
 - Clear communications on why contact information is being collected and how it will be used
 - People will need to periodically reaffirm their interest in continuing to receive correspondence and notifications

5. Co-ordinate engagement

- Too many different engagement initiatives going on at one time
- Many stakeholders feeling burnout and overwhelmed
- Bundling initiatives is great, such as was done in this project in April 2018 (Species at Risk, Wildlife and Habitat Management, and Caribou Recovery)
- Different parts of Ministry need to co-ordinate their engagement activities
- Need road-map of all the different engagements, where they are going and key milestone dates

6. Improve Engage BC

- Continue allowing people to see what others are saying — submissions, emails, reports — as that is very useful
- Lots of things get posted on Engage BC but often people are not notified about the process (link to 4 and 7)
- Need for follow-up reports and summaries (this project is an exception)
- Would like personal responses to people; usually just get an automatic, electronic response
- Simpler, shorter and clearer communications
 - Most people, especially youth do not have long attention spans
 - Use short videos
 - Start with short, simple information and allow user to “dig down” or “click” to more detailed information; “layered” approach to information
- Make “blog” posts more positive; try to curtail the long and “mean” posts by “keyboard warriors”
 - Moderate the list?
 - Restructure the list?
- Need for a demographic study of Engage BC users — Who uses it?
 - Help to better understand responses and better communicate with public and stakeholders

7. Improve Communications

- Communications plan – different approaches to reach people from different sectors and different geographical areas
- Design and implement a social media policy
 - Broader demographic, especially youth
 - Need dedicated communications specialists to manage it (good example at Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)
- Meeting challenges in rural areas
- Improve online government directory
 - Often a very important engagement approach — one-to-one interactions with staff
- Tell stories about what is going on (a day in a life of a provincial biologist) rather than “dry” Information Bulletins

8. General engagement

- Engage early with stakeholders, not half way through the process
- Youth (18 – 28) not well served by engagement processes
- Not all processes need to have engagement

9. Ensure government accountable on all decisions

- What we heard
- What we did about it
- Why (“just let us know why you did what you did”)

Wildlife Habitat Management

Key Problems Identified

An over-arching theme to the habitat management discussion was a proposed shift towards managing to resilience to address the following issues:

- The need to move away from a reactive model (“management by crisis”) to a proactive approach driven by a high-level vision and clear objectives
- Address climate change impacts, particularly increasing incidence of wildfire and shifts in species and ecosystem distributions
- Cope with increasing demand for services off a limited land base by a growing human population

Specific concerns related to the current legal and policy regime include:

- Lack of government staffing and powers to influence operational-scale decision-making
- Forest Stewardship Plans that are tactical in nature and provide no mechanism for providing inputs on operational planning
- Lack of landscape unit planning
- Insufficient monitoring to determine whether out designations or practices are effective
- Ad-hoc reserve design: lack of connectivity, either “no touch” or “full development” land management creates an ineffective patchwork
- Lack of access management
- Need regulatory alignment for the different sectors – current legal framework can disallow activities in an area by one industry but allow the same activity by another

Strategic Options

Managing to resilience requires the development of a new management regime that is based on one or more possible high-level approaches, such as:

- Ecosystem-based management (maintaining a proportion of unique ecosystems in a state consistent with natural disturbance assumptions)
- Ecosystem services (e.g., water, fibre, domestic forage, spiritual, recreation, tourism, mineral, wildlife)
- Managing to “abundance”

Part of the new management regime should be clear and enforceable objectives that are given an equal footing to legal considerations for statutory decision-makers. “Consideration” in land management decisions is failing.

There is a recognition that generating revenue from the land base is important to communities and for funding broader government services:

- There is an obvious trade-off with more habitat protection or more restrictive industrial practices to achieve wildlife habitat objectives
- Need to optimize the value we get from the land base:
 - Fibre utilization
 - Raw log processing
 - Forage production for domestic stock and wildlife
 - Return to the crown for non-timber values (e.g., mushrooms)
 - Including private property/large land holders in habitat management, providing the right incentives and compensating where required

Tactical and Operational Options

Increasing the level of operation-scale management was seen as a necessity:

- Have biologists talking to operational foresters and others to find creative solutions
- Leverage the knowledge of Indigenous communities, private landowners and others who live and work in our ecosystems

Planning also required at sub-regional scales:

- Move to a more deliberate landscape design
- Increase the use of multi-stakeholder and First Nations planning tables for sub-regional processes
- Planning and restoration in response to wildfires
- Landscape unit planning to fill a gap in the multi-scale land use planning

Achieving Desired Outcomes

The *Achieving Desired Outcomes* discussions aimed to answer the following questions:

- How are we measuring and reporting outcomes – how can we improve public confidence?
- How are we tracking expenditures?
- How are we evaluating success of the program on the whole?

Of the many ideas brought to the table by the workshop participants, the ones that appeared to have group support for further discussion were as follows.

1. Measuring Outcomes of Wildlife and Habitat Projects and Programs

Principles proposed:

- Define the desired outcomes: have key performance indicators (KPIs) that are measurable, transparent and available to all
- Fix the model rather than just making incremental improvements
- Consider cumulative impacts
- Consider broader impacts, including climate change
- Learn from the best practices of other jurisdictions, e.g., Alberta's biodiversity monitoring

Considerations for measuring outcomes:

1. Develop criteria by which outcomes are described: assessment (what are we doing) and then evaluation (were objectives met).
2. Focus on systematic monitoring. This should:
 - a. Be provincial-scale, but take a regional approach within that provincial framework
 - b. Be multi-year to show the trends over time and scale
 - c. Be based on a small number of indicator species (focus species) that will provide information on overall ecosystem health (while recognizing that this will not provide certainty for all species)
 - d. Measure intactness of ecosystems (similar to Alberta model); and consider how much intactness can change before there is significant impact on ecosystem function
 - e. Measure cumulative impacts, not just siloed information
 - f. Include effectiveness monitoring (e.g., is protecting the habitat and food sources

is achieving population targets, are the \$\$ spent achieving the desired outcomes)

3. Create a common data set to improve integrated decision making
4. Provide adequate resourcing for monitoring. Identify what is required and then find the funding (as opposed to doing what you can within the available funding).

2. Reporting Outcomes of Wildlife and Habitat Projects and Programs

Considerations for reporting:

1. Have annual reporting that is prepared and reviewed by an independent group, to ensure fair and balanced reporting. This reporting should recommend actions for change and improvement.
2. Include information that industry is already collecting; report on industry outcomes as well as government.
3. Use annual reporting as an opportunity for education. Make everyone (i.e. public, industry, government, NGO's) aware of how important the health of wildlife is, and be clear about what will happen if we do not achieve intended outcomes.
4. Have a publicly accessible database/website that includes government and non-government activities, and the status of those projects
5. Link funding to reporting of outcomes.

3. Tracking Expenditures on Wildlife and Habitat

Principles proposed:

- Expenditures should be tied to outcomes (what has the money spent achieved?)
- There should be a way to track value for \$\$ spent

4. Overall Program Evaluation – are combined efforts having desired end results?

Principles proposed:

- Consider cumulative impacts
- Consider broader impacts, including climate change
- Work with partners. Government cannot achieve this alone.

Considerations for Program Evaluation:

1. Have well-defined overarching program objectives (and ways to measure progress).
2. Take a long view. Where do we need to be 30 years from now, how do we get there? Then identify a few things to do well to start, and what will come next.
3. Move away from management by crisis (will never succeed). This may include letting

some species at risk go. We can't change what we've done but can change what we do going forward.

4. Act in partnership.
 - a. Align with broader government objectives (e.g., land use planning) and encourage integration across ministries and across sectors/interest groups
 - b. There are many players on the land with siloed decision making, need to focus on cumulative effects and integrated decisions. Recognize that there will be trade-offs in multi-use landscapes and look for ways to harmonize.
5. Conduct an audit of the effectiveness of conservation designations (e.g., parks, WMAs, etc.). Audit a percentage of this land each year. Where designations are not achieving the desired outcomes, consider options.
6. Conduct a pilot program in a defined area, led by a multi-sectoral group (including government) to show how shared data, monitoring of outcomes and reporting could be achieved.
7. Look for incentive-based opportunities to encourage good outcomes.
8. Focus government activities on what government does best (e.g., setting objectives, synthesizing data, preventative approaches), use professionals to provide other services.

Evaluation of the Workshop

In total, 28 evaluation forms were received from 44 participants — a 64 per cent completion rate.

In answer to the question: “Overall, did the workshop meet your expectations?”

- Yes - 74%
- In part - 22%
- No - 4%

Levels of agreement with a series of statements about the workshop are presented in the table below.

Statement	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree
Attending this workshop was a good use of my time	11	13	4	-	-
I had ample time to share my ideas	16	8	4	-	-
Overall, I found the workshop useful	5	19	4	-	-
The workshop was well organized	7	13	6	2	-
The open space sessions to comment on all the policy themes were useful	7	8	9	2	1
The breakout groups provided an opportunity for productive discussions	10	14	2	1	-
The facilitation of the workshop was effective	7	11	6	1	-
This is the right group of people to be involved in this workshop	8	11	5	2	1
This is a good venue for holding the workshop	12	10	3	1	1
The food met my expectations	9	9	7	-	1

Next steps

In the final plenary of the workshop, participants had an opportunity to comment on the engagement process for Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation, on the workshop specifically, and where things were going next.

Summary of the workshop

The summary of the workshop (this report) will be published online on Engage BC and made available to public and stakeholders interested in the process.

The report is intended to document the workshop deliberations and fuel future multi-stakeholder conversations.

Working Group Webinars

Workshop participants were encouraged to sign up for Working Group Webinars for each of the seven policy themes that were taking place over the next few months. The results presented in this report will be used as a starting point for the Working Groups to have more in-depth discussions and refine ideas in each of the policy themes in order to develop policy options for the Province to consider.

A report on the results of the Working Group Webinars will summarize all the options and ideas that were developed by the Working Groups, indicating areas where there was strong agreement across stakeholder sectors, and where possible, indicating policies or ideas that could be adopted and implemented by the Ministry in the short term.

Policy Intentions Paper

The policy options recommended through the Working Group Webinars will be provided to the Ministry, which will take these results along with the results of internal policy discussions, and develop a Policy Intentions Paper.

The Policy Intentions Paper will also be guided by a parallel engagement process with indigenous peoples across the province.

The Policy Intentions Paper will be published and regional and provincial stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to review it and provide comments. The paper will also be made available on the Engage BC website.

Appendices

Appendix A Workshop Attendees

Academia & Research

Pamela Hengeveld, *Association of Professional Biology*

Cole Burton, *University of British Columbia*

Aimee Mitchell, *BC Bat Action Team*

Roy Rea, *Ecosystem Science and Management Program & Natural Resources and Env Studies Institute, UNBC*

Agriculture

Geoff Hughes-Games, *BC Agriculture Council & BC Agriculture Research and Development Corporation*

Kevin Boon, *BC Cattlemen's Association*

Energy and Mining

Scott Grindal, *Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers*

Mike Wilfley, *Canadian Energy and Pipeline Association*

Anitra Paris, *Clean Energy BC*

Diana Walls, *Mining Association of BC*

ENGOS/Conservation/Wildlife

Johnny Mikes, *Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society BC*

Greg Ferguson, *Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature)*

Nicholas Scapillati, *Grizzly Bear Foundation*

Jens Wieting, *Sierra Club of BC*

Erin Ryan, *SPCA BC*

Charlotte Dawe, *Western Canada Wilderness Committee*

Rod Davis, *Wildlife Society - BC Chapter*

Brenton Froehlich, *Wildland Stewards Association of BC*

John Bergenske, *Wildsight*

Forestry

Jennifer Gunter, *BC Community Forest Association*

Archie MacDonald, *Council of Forest Industries*

Dan Battistella, *Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association*

Megan Hanacek, *Private Forest Landholders Association*

Habitat Conservation and Land Trusts

Jen Bellhouse, *BC Conservation Foundation – WildSafe BC*

Gayle Hesse, *BC Conservation Foundation – Wildlife Collision Prevention Program*

Dan Buffett, *Ducks Unlimited, BC office*

Brian Springinotic, *Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation*

Hillary Page, *Nature Conservancy of Canada*

Jasper Lament, *The Nature Trust of BC*

Hunters, Trappers, and Guides

Mark Robichaud, *BC Backcountry Hunters & Anglers*

Brian Dack, *BC Trappers Association*

Gerry Paille, *BC Wildlife Federation*

Sean Olmstead, *Guide Outfitters Association of BC*

Mark Werner, *Sportsmans Conservation Alliance*

Rob Chipman, *United Bowhunters of BC*

Mike Schroeder, *Wild Sheep Society of BC*

John Henderson, *Wildlife Stewardship Council*

Tourism and Recreation

Brad Harrison, *Adventure Tourism Coalition*

Donegal Wilson, *BC Snowmobile Federation*

Kathy MacRae, *Commercial Bear Viewing Association*

Ross Cloutier, *Helicat Canada*

Ciel Sander, *Outdoor Recreation Council of BC*

Walt Judas, *Tourism Industry Association of BC*

Scott Benton, *Wilderness Tourism Association of BC*

Provincial Government Staff

Ward Trotter, Executive Director, Natural Resources, FLNRORD

Chris Hamilton, Director, Strategic Projects and Indigenous Policy, FLNRORD

Jennifer Psyllakis, Director of Wildlife and Habitat, FLNRORD

Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager IWMHC, FLNRORD

Mike Pedersen, Regional Executive Director, Cariboo Region, FLNRORD

Penny Lloyd, Deputy Director, Policy, FLNRORD

Raychl Lukie, Regional Operations Lead, IWMHC, FLNRORD

Sarah Dixon, Senior Policy Analyst, FLNRORD

Steve Gordon, Habitat Manager, FLNRORD

Tara Szkorupa, Senior Wildlife Biologist, FLNRORD

Terry Ahern, Senior Advisor, FLNRORD

Tobe Sprado, Conservation Officer Service

Victoria Klassen-Jeffery, Engagement Lead, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Appendix B Agenda

Westin Hall Centre
Richmond, BC

Day 1: January 30

9:30 – 10:00 am	<i>Arrival, registration, coffee and tea served, mix and mingle</i>
10:00 am Ballroom A-D	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Overview of engagement process
11:00 am Ballroom A-D	One big idea from each participant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “What is one big idea you have that could improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in BC”? (<i>one minute or less</i>) ▪ Introduction to afternoon sessions
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch (provided)</i>
1:00 – 1:15	Minister’s address Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
1:15 pm Foyer	Open Space 1 What problems are you most concerned about that we should be addressing in our policy breakout sessions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open space style, participants have opportunity to visit each of the policy tables to contribute their ideas to every topic.
2:00 – 2:10 pm	<i>Short break, go to breakout rooms</i>
2:10 pm	Policy discussions Part A: <i>2:10 – 3:25 pm: Participants select one theme, participate in discussion</i> <i>3:25 – 3:45 pm: Refreshment break, opportunity to switch to a second topic if desired</i> <i>3:45 – 5:00 pm: Participants select second theme, participate in discussion (or may stay with first theme if desired)</i> Four theme groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding – Foyer ▪ Wildlife Planning and Objectives – Ballroom A ▪ Data, Information and Knowledge – Ballroom B-C ▪ Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat – Ballroom D
5:00 pm	<i>End of day 1</i>

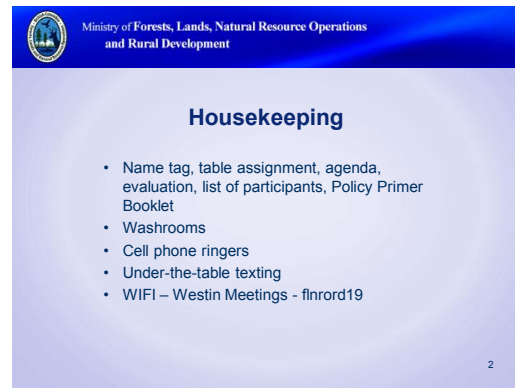
Day 2: January 31

8:00 – 8:30 am	<i>Arrival, coffee and tea available</i>
8:30 am Ballroom A-D	Harvest of highlights from Day 1 breakout groups Set up for Day 2 breakout groups
9:00 am	Policy Discussions Part B: <i>9:00 – 10:20 am: Participants select one theme, participate in discussion</i> <i>10:20 – 10:45 am: Refreshment break, opportunity to switch to a second topic if desired</i> <i>10:45 am – 12:00 pm: Participants select second theme, participate in discussion (or may stay with first theme if desired)</i> Three theme groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife Habitat Management – Ballroom A ▪ Achieving Desired Outcomes – Ballroom B-C ▪ Stakeholder Engagement – Ballroom D
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch (provided)</i>
1:00 pm Ballroom A-D	Harvest of highlights from Day 2 breakout groups
1:30 pm Ballroom A-D	Reflection and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing comments
2:15 pm Foyer	Open Space 2 Opportunity to review and comment on outcomes from all policy theme discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open space style, participants have opportunity to visit each policy table and add to / comment on ideas posted on flip charts Sign up for ongoing Working Group Webinars on policy themes of choice
3:00 pm	<i>Workshop close</i>

Appendix C Presentations



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Workshop Goals

- To provide an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to meet face-to-face and share their perspectives on wildlife management and habitat conservation in British Columbia
- To provide time for participants to have in-depth discussions about policy areas of interest to them
- To begin to develop policy options for the Province to consider
- To lay the groundwork for further engagement and discussion through webinars, and identify participants wishing to participate in these discussions

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Agenda (Day 1)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
10 – 10:40	Welcome and Introductions	Alan Dolan All
10:40 – 11	Overview of Engagement Process	Chris Hamilton
11 – 12	One Big Idea (Speak and Write)	All
12 – 1	Lunch	All
1 – 2	Open Space 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems to address in breakouts 	All

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Agenda (Day 1)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
2:10 – 3:25	Policy Breakout Groups Part A	All
3:50 – 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Wildlife Planning and Objectives Data, Information and Knowledge Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat 	

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Agenda (Day 2)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
8:30 – 9	Harvest of Highlights (Day 1)	Facilitators
9 – 10:20	Policy Breakout Groups Part B	All
10:45 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Habitat Management Achieving Desired Outcomes Stakeholder Engagement 	
12 – 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch 	All

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Agenda (Day 2)		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
1 - 3	Harvest of Highlights (Day 2)	
1:30 – 2:30	Open Space 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comment on outcomes of policy theme discussions Sign-up for Working Group Webinars 	All
2:30 - 3	Reflections and Next Steps	All

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 Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	
IWMHC Engagement Scope	
Why broad multi-stakeholder engagement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage interactive discussions between groups and sectors Broad range of perspectives on wildlife and habitat Collaboratively develop policy recommendations to government Seek agreement where possible Present options 	

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Engagement Scope	
On the table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial scale Legislation, tools, governance structures, and new approaches to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation Work that keeps common species common Indigenous governance and relationships 	

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Engagement Scope	
Off the table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional place-based discussions Allocation decisions Specific hunting and trapping regs Discussions on hunting and trapping as legitimate land uses 	

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Engagement Scope

Off the table

- Fish management (for now)
- Topics related to other engagement processes
 - Land Use Planning
 - Species at Risk
 - Caribou recovery

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IWMHC Timing

- Long-term strategy developed through engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous communities
- Short-term improvements already underway and others may be "off-ramped" before final strategy where it makes sense
 - Broad support
 - Early benefits for wildlife and habitat
 - Capacity and resourcing to implement

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Phase One Engagement Process

- Stakeholder sectoral workshops (April 2018)
 - Bundled with SAR and Caribou recovery
 - 50 organizations
- Indigenous workshops (May – June 2018)
 - 122 communities; 23 facilitated sessions
- Engage BC
 - Online stakeholder submissions – 298 emails
 - Public emails – 1,137 comments

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Phase Two Engagement Process

Objectives

- Communicate Phase One input
- Shift from input to collaboration on key areas
- Include a broad range of sectors
- Build trust and confidence through transparency
- Develop tangible policy options and ideas for improving wildlife management and habitat conservation in BC

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Phase Two Engagement Process

Outcomes

- Through collaboration, three main products:
 - Early wins where possible
 - Consultant's report: options and ideas from engagement
 - Gov't Policy Intentions Paper to inform Phase Three

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Phase Three Engagement Process

- Focus is on Policy Intentions Paper
- Online engagement through Engage BC
- Regional and provincial meetings
- Late Spring/early summer

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Phase Four Engagement Process

- Implementation of a new wildlife and habitat management strategy for BC (Fall 2020)

Source: Justin Callaghan

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Indigenous Engagement

- Parallel initiatives
- Focus is on First Nations perspectives on wildlife management
- First Nations from all around the Province in a "forum"
- Not consultation
- Not place-based
- For now, a separate process

Source: Province of BC

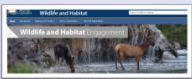
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Sharing What We Heard

- <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/wildlifeandhabitat/>
- Public comments
- Stakeholder submissions
- What We Heard reports – stakeholder, public, Indigenous
- What We Heard and What Is Next report
- Updates and policy documents posted



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ONE BIG IDEA

To improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in BC



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Day 1 Open Space (1 pm)

- Funding
- Wildlife Planning and Objectives
- Data, Information and Knowledge
- Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Wildlife Habitat Management
- Achieving Desired Outcomes
- Other



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Day 1 Policy Breakout Groups (2 – 5 pm)

- Funding (Foyer)
- Wildlife Planning and Objectives (Ballroom A)
- Data, Information and Knowledge – (Ballroom B/C)
- Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat (Ballroom D)



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Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation

Harvests from Day 1 Policy Breakout Groups

Workshop January 30 – 31, 2019

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Funding

1. How much money is "enough" to support BC's wildlife and habitat needs?
2. Where should the funds come from?
3. What are the priorities?
4. How should decisions on allocating funds be informed?
5. How should accountability for funding decisions be ensured?



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Funding

Attributes for fundraising:

- Everyone contributes (everyone benefits)
- Engage public – clear need, clear what funds will be used for, compelling story
- Reasonable administration costs

Attributes for fund allocation and management:

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Decisions on allocation made by gov, scientists, practitioners, local
- Include First Nations in allocations

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Funding

Fundraising – some of...

- Big tent approach (everyone benefits, everyone pays):
 - increase to sales tax (0.125%)
 - Gasoline tax, real estate tax
- User pays approaches
 - Industry contributions (those who disturb habitat pay accordingly)
 - Consumption tax – on outdoor equipment
 - Excise tax (at manufacturing level)
 - ALL licence fee goes to conservation (not just surcharge)
- Or – do we just reallocate funds from crisis to proactive?

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Funding

Managing and allocating funds:

- Decisions by multi-interest group/advisory panel/technical committee
 - Those who contribute should have a say
- Fund within gov – or not? – pros and cons
 - Need to be accountable, transparent, FOIPA
- Consider different pots of funding – e.g., admin, inventory, research... may need different approaches

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Wildlife Planning and Objectives

- What are the benefits and drawbacks of the current approach to wildlife planning and objective setting?
- What could be revised or what would other approaches to wildlife planning and objective setting look like?



Source: Steve Wilson

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Wildlife Planning and Objectives

Problems identified:

- Lack of consistent objectives that apply to all resource users, leading to fragmented and siloed management
- Failure to account for economic value of wildlife
- Insufficient monitoring
- Trying to do everything for everyone, everywhere

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Wildlife Planning and Objectives

Setting objectives:

- Everything flows from population objectives for game and non-game species (but not all species)
- Infrastructure required — provincial- and regional-scale boards with broad representation and expert support
- Objective-setting policy framework that address core principles, some options:
 - Climate adaptation/ecosystem resilience/representation
 - Carrying capacity/sustenance and recreational demand
 - Cost-benefit
- Approach needs to be flexible, scalable
- Equal footing to legal objectives in statutory decision-making

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Wildlife Planning and Objectives

Valuing wildlife:

- Change the economic model to change incentives and therefore human behaviour
- Develop a price structure - those who exploit must pay, those who enhance get paid
- Market model to link to abundance (increasing price with lower abundance)

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Data, Information and Knowledge

Publish annual report on state of wildlife in BC:

- Varying levels of detail
- Use best available data
 - Science (including Citizen)
 - Local knowledge
 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge

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Data, Information and Knowledge

Expand and promote use of Citizen Science for gathering wildlife and habitat data:

- Use existing tools
 - Road Watch BC
 - Wild Cam
 - Moose Track App

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Data, Information and Knowledge

Make data and information a priority for ongoing supportive funding

Develop centralized access to online databases of data and information

- CDC
- SPI

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Data, Information and Knowledge

Foster partnering to collect and share data between different organizations and agencies

- governments, universities, industries, First Nations

Develop a data management policy to streamline the process

- Identification, collection, analysis, sharing

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Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

1. What would improved decision-making models look like?



Source: Steve Wilson

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Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

- Regional decision making within an overarching provincial strategy
- Provincial level Wildlife Board (or similar): provincial strategy, clear vision, and objective targets that consider science-based data, cumulative effects, and socio-economic values
- General support for First Nations, stakeholders and gov at the same table in a regional roundtable manner (more than the 'traditional' stakeholders (trappers/hunters/guides))

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Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

- Regional / roundtables to help develop the provincial strategy, set science-based and transparent objectives, and provide independent oversight. Two way communication with the Provincial Wildlife Board (or similar) is critical.
- Examples:
 - The moose solutions in Chilcotin (co-management approach with First Nations)
 - Cariboo Progress Board (expanded version)
 - Yukon approach

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Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

- Ensure decision-makers for ALL natural resource decisions across all legislation (Land Act, Coal Act etc.) MUST consider wildlife objectives – may require Environmental Land Use Act or similar legislation
- Ensure that wildlife and habitat objectives apply on park land as well as on other crown lands.
- Government decisions should be transparent; and the rationale behind decisions and tradeoff considerations clearly documented and explained.

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Decision Making for Wildlife and Habitat

- Overall - if we identify a new model for decision making that involves both regional decision making and First Nations co-management, we'd have come a long way from where we are now!

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Day 2 Policy Breakout Groups (9 – 12 pm)

- Wildlife Habitat Management (Ballroom A)
- Achieving Desired Outcomes (Ballroom B/C)
- Stakeholder Engagement (Ballroom D)



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Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation

Harvests from Day 2 Policy Breakout Groups

Workshop January 30 – 31, 2019

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Stakeholder Engagement

- 1. Minister's Advisory Council**
 - Province-wide
 - Broad sectoral participation
 - High level
 - e.g., Tourism Council

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Stakeholder Engagement

- 2. Regional Advisory Committees**
 - Broad sectoral participation
 - Terms of reference critical
 - Roles
 - Rotating membership
 - Representativeness

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Stakeholder Engagement

- 3. Management Planning Engagement**
 - To be determined



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Stakeholder Engagement

- 4. Stakeholder / public mailing lists**
 - Fundamentally important step
 - How to "gather" interest
 - Sign-up on Engage BC
 - Use existing mailings
 - Privacy concerns

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Stakeholder Engagement

5. Improve Engage BC

- Follow-up reports
- Personal response to people
- Use video
- Make "blog" posts more positive – moderate?
- Demographic study – Who uses it?

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Stakeholder Engagement

6. Improve Communications

- Communications plan – to reach people
- Social media policy
- Meeting challenges in rural areas

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Stakeholder Engagement

7. Ensure government accountable on all decisions

- What we heard
- What we did about it
- Why

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Wildlife Habitat Management

1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of the current approach to wildlife habitat management?
2. What are alternative or improved approaches to wildlife habitat management?

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Wildlife Habitat Management

- **Major theme: managing to resilience**
 - Recognizing climate and economic shifts (static to dynamic):
 - wildfire response
 - future opportunity
 - Services model:
 - wildlife, food, fibre, forage, mineral, recreation, tourism, cultural, spiritual

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Wildlife Habitat Management

- **Shifts in approach**
 - Moving towards regulatory alignment
 - More intentional management at all scales:
 - Operational planning
 - Landscape unit planning
 - Regional and provincial alignment
 - Maximizing value from a fixed land base
 - ensuring the effectiveness of management actions
 - leverage value of the private land base and the experts who manage it
 - properly valuing goods and services derived from habitat

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Achieving Desired Outcomes

1. Tracking expenditures
2. Measuring outcomes
3. Reporting outcomes
4. Program evaluation



Source: Steve Wilson

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Achieving Desired Outcomes

- Are we achieving our stated objectives – how do we know?
- Need for a big fix – long term
- What can we do in short term?

Tracking

- Database/website – gov and non-gov projects, status
- Include info industry already gathering

Measuring

- Audit of lands designated in some way for conservation
 - Is this designation working, what needs to change?
 - Would another piece of land achieve this better?

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Achieving Desired Outcomes

- Systematic monitoring
 - Identify key species
 - Provincial scale indicators
 - Measurement over years
 - Annual reporting – outcomes, how \$ spent, what needs to change/improve
 - Learn from others – best practices
 - Regional approach: Pilot project – NE BC
- Effectiveness monitoring – are actions leading to the desired outcomes
- Have criteria for objectives, e.g., habitat condition

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Achieving Desired Outcomes

Reporting

- Annual reporting
 - Prepared/reviewed by independent group

Integrated decision making

- Many players on the land with siloed decision making, need to focus on cumulative effects, integrated decisions
- Strategic approach
- Think long term but identify key actions to take now, then what comes next
- Focus government activities on what gov does best (e.g., setting objectives, synthesizing data, preventative approaches)

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