



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation

Stakeholder Workshop
January 30 – 31, 2019

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Facilitators' Role

- Traffic cop
- Inclusivity
- On task; on time
- Document

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Ground Rules

- Respect everyone's right to be heard
- Respect everyone's views
- Seek common ground
- Use plain language

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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 • 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	Summary 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	Lunch	

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Agenda (Day 2)		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
1 - 3	Summary of Highlights (Day 2)	All
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 	
2:30 - 3	Reflections and Next Steps	

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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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish management (for now) Topics related to other engagement processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Planning Species at Risk Caribou recovery 	

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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 Species at Risk 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

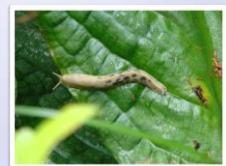
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Phase Four Engagement Process

- 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

Source: www.wildlifeworkshops.com



Source: <http://thinking.sunnysidejournal.com/the-great-outdoor/wildlife-of-british-columbia-11-species-to-look-out-for-the-summer/>

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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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Summary of Day 1 Policy Breakout Groups

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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
- Consider different pots of funding – e.g., admin, inventory, research... may need different approaches

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Wildlife Planning and Objectives

1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of the current approach to wildlife planning and objective setting?
2. 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

- Conservation Data Centre

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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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Summary of Day 2 Policy Breakout Groups

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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

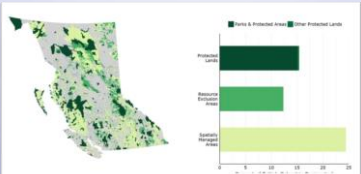
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Wildlife Habitat Management

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

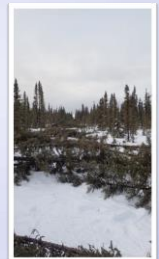
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Achieving Desired Outcomes

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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