



July 23, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Please take this document as the official response of the Golden District Rod & Gun Club to the paper titled **Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation in British Columbia**. Our club formed a committee to meet and discuss this important issue. We feel like we addressed the eight challenges posed in with a focus that was best for fish and wildlife and their habitat.

The challenges fish and wildlife are facing are great. The time is now to make positive steps forward in creating better management plans for now and the future. We appreciated the opportunity to voice our collective thoughts and to be a part of the changes that need to happen for fish and wildlife's sake.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need clarity on any of the points brought forth in the following document.

Kind regards,

Chad A. Parent

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Golden District Rod & Gun Club response to Ministry of FLNROD document titled Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation in British Columbia

Challenge #1

How to advance reconciliation with indigenous peoples in wildlife management and habitat conservation

- Indigenous people should be a part of fish & wildlife management decisions in BC, as well as government and non-indigenous people
- Indigenous people need to have the same accountability as all others with regards to our wildlife resources (ie Regulations and hunting & fishing seasons)
- Management should be based on science

Challenge #2

How to increase the involvement of non-governmental conservation organizations as well as a broad range of wildlife and habitat stakeholders and the general public in wildlife management and habitat conservation

- Make wildlife a public priority (ie explain to the public why fish and wildlife is important to them)
- Stop commodifying fish and wildlife
- Emphasize the intrinsic value of **all** wildlife
- Make the public more aware of fish & wildlife management issues through education
- Remove politics from wildlife
- increase the annual budget for our fish and wildlife resources

Challenge #3

Some wildlife populations are declining across the province

- Wildlife overpasses and fences for highways **AND** railways

- Stop managing our wildlife to zero. Keep populations at healthy numbers by establishing baselines for population numbers. Act quickly if population numbers fall below that baseline to restore to healthy numbers
- Speed restrictions in high wildlife collision areas. (ie night time max. speed reduction)
- More conservative quotas
- More research into population numbers before quotas are set
- COS needs stronger enforcement tools, a larger budget. There should be higher penalties for violations

Challenge #4

Habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation are increasing due to human activity

- Make industry more accountable for deactivation & reclamation of roads and resource extraction activities
- reduce urban sprawl. Promote high density living in existing urban land (ie incentives for green roofs, urban gardens, urban wildlife habitat)
- Restrict multi-home ownership (ie holiday homes in prime habitat)
- New development must have wildlife survey to determine wildlife's needs
- Urban development plans may need to have more green spaces, wildlife corridors. Development may need to be prohibited due to critical habitat
- Restricting some access (ie resource roads) to all users (including commercial ventures) especially in sensitive areas.

Challenge #5

Climate change is resulting in more wildfires and extreme weather contributing to wildlife diseases, forest health issues and the spread of invasive species, affecting wildlife populations and altering habitats

- Research the effects of climate change on fish & wildlife and their habitat. Act accordingly and quickly
- Manage for the future. Be flexible with the management plan

Challenge #6

There is a growing need for better information on wildlife habitats to inform management and conservation outcomes and achieve robust compliance and enforcement

- Fish and Wildlife management should be based on science only
- Regularly posted reports of biologist field studies by the biologist (not politicians) to keep the public informed of what is happening on the landscape.

Challenge #7

Concerns about human-wildlife conflict are increasing, including those related to agricultural impacts, urban wildlife, wildlife-vehicle collisions and dangerous wildlife

- Safe passageways over highways **AND** railways
- Wildlife corridors through urban areas
- Compel communities to provide attractant management (ie bear resistant garbage containers), by-laws. Make sure these measures are enforced
- More incentives for ranchers to construct wildlife fencing around livestock winter feeding areas
- Work towards long term solutions versus short term gains (ie open season on cow elk in the Kootenays)
- Use hunting as a management tool (grizzly bear hunt).

Challenge #8

Wildlife management and habitat conservation are funded through annual Ministry budgets, contributions to Habitat Trust Foundation from surcharges on hunting, trapping and guide outfitting licences, and through partnerships (ie, academia, non-governmental organizations, industry, etc.) Current funding levels may not meet expectations for improved wildlife habitat conservation.

- Every dollar from hunting licences and tags needs to go directly back into wildlife resources
- Excise tax on outdoor equipment similar to Pittman-Roberts/Dingel-Johnson taxes in the US
- More BC recreation sites should be on a user pay system. These funds could go towards wildlife conservation
- We are willing to make sacrifices for benefit of wildlife.