Carol: Comments on Improving Wildlife Management and Habitat Conservation in BC:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about a topic that is long overdue for review and reform.

Our apology for the late response but we are going to send this anyway.

The Primer prepared is very complete and has many useful and important objectives. Here are a few ideas:

1. There is an urgent need to include the use of wildlife by Indigenous peoples in the Wildlife Harvest Database. A prerequisite for this is an educational program that will increase awareness among First Nations as to the importance of scientific base to wildlife management.

2. Involving NGCOS is one of the most challenging aspects of Wildlife Management due to the diversity of public opinions in the modern era as to the use of wildlife. We support the formation of provincial/regional wildlife boards to sort out these opinions in a better way than in the media. There must be better public education about wildlife management and these boards could be tasked with public communication to ensure that the public understands more about the complexities and challenges of managing wildlife in human-altered ecosystems.

3. It must be recognized that certain wildlife populations are to be managed as game for the purposes of hunting. A distinction must be made between populations managed under an era management concept (actively managed) and others managed under an evolutionary concept (i.e., natural processes allowed to proceed basically unimpeded). This will involve prescribed burning, supplemental winter feeding, predator control, and other more specific activities e.g., preventing domestic sheep from coming into contact with wild sheep. While it is unlikely that the province will return to the days of ungulate abundance, such as occurred during the latter half of the 20th Century, it is important to emphasize the management of wildlife for quality rather than quantity. This will require wildlife managers paying greater attention to maintaining balanced sex and age ratios in managed big game populations. For example, the current moose management goal of a minimum of 35 bulls per 100 cows is too low to ensure the recruitment of mature, older-aged bulls which is essential to maintaining the biological and social health of moose populations. Another example is hunting ungulates during the peak of the rut such as the general open season for bull elk in the East Kootenay should be replaced with LEH to ensure the proper balance is established and maintained. Too few wildlife managers in the province fully understand the need for balanced sex and age ratios.

4. The province has suffered immense habitat losses through private land alienations and human developments and resource extraction. A certain amount of habitat loss will continue as the human population increases. However, it is important to increase the repatriation of alienated lands and the restoration of degraded habitats. Funding for these activities should be sourced from resource developments such as increasing compensation from BC Hydro dams including the Columbia Treaty dams, mining, e.g., Elk Valley coal mines involving the loss of recreational use over tens of thousands of hectares without compensation, agriculture which fences marginal farm lands in some areas to keep wildlife out and often have no leave strips for wildlife in intensively farmed areas. More education is

needed to inform forest industry and highway development and the public about potential ways for incorporating wildlife habitat requirements into development plans. Difficult issues could be studied by students working on technical or higher educational degrees.

5. Climate Change: Connect the province with the University of Arizona Laboratory Tree Ring Research Lab in Tucson, Arizona. https://ltrr.arizona.edu/

6. There is a need to establish a "WILDLIFE EDUCATOR" seat at UBC, SFU or UVIC who will also work in conjunction with the provincial government as a Chief of Wildlife to be the most informed wildlife manager in the province. This position would work to stimulate good research, good management and also speak informatively about any topic that should arise in the province concerning wildlife. Their responsibility should be to provide the most current research information and solutions to wildlife issues around the province.

7. There is a need to provide better advice and regulations about the proper protection of wildlife corridors, particularly crossing highways and roads. Proper culverts, wildlife gates and signage could save many thousands of animals each year. Research on this issue is warranted in order to stimulate solutions to heavy tolls in many areas. The province's highway standards need to be overhauled and brought into modern fencing techniques; it is no longer justified to build five-strand fences that exacerbate wildlife/vehicle collisions.

8. Commercial users of wildlife should pay whether they be consumptive or non-consumptive. The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund should not be utilized for non-game activities. It would be desirable to have a source of funding from the sale of certain products particularly certain targeted hunting products and also a few products like binoculars.

Brent: Wildlife and habitat branch:

Challenge#1: Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

What programs and policies are most important to advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with indigenous peoples and help implement UNDRIP?

- Reconciliation and engagement with First Nations is critical, however exclusively negotiating while alienating other stakeholders is counterproductive. We have a shared interest in wildlife management in British Columbia and anything other than a round table sets the process up for failure. It creates a climate of mistrust and lacks transparency. Having all with a vested interest in the long-term sustainability of habitat and wildlife at a round table is critical establishing an environment of trust and positive outcomes.

Challenge 2: Increasing Involvement and Shared Stewardship

• How should a broad range of stakeholders be involved in wildlife management and habitat conservation decisions?

- This new model of Wildlife Management has its merits; however, it is imperative that only stakeholders that are willing to contribute to conservation be involved. Groups should be provincial in nature, have a B.C.-based membership/workforce, and conduct on-the-ground stewardship activities. Those that fail to give back to wildlife and its well-being should not earn a say.

- It is imperative that science-based wildlife management be used as the backbone of this process. The North American Wildlife Management Model has a long history of effectiveness and we feel that those organizations that do not support this model should not participate in this process.

- It is important that decision making involvement input from individuals in the regions as to what is working in their community.

- Involve groups at the beginning of the process to offer input and direction and include that consistently throughout the entire decision-making process.

• What are your suggestions for a new governance model for wildlife management and habitat conservation?

- I feel that any use group that accesses crown land be responsible for user fees. If individuals are using our natural resources and natural habitat, they should be willing to pay fees associated with this. Examples of this would be wildlife viewing companies such as whale watching companies, bear watching companies, heli-skiing, hunting license fees and resource extraction industries.

- Fish and wildlife management should have legislated objectives in order that Wildlife Managers can be held accountable. Setting meaningful population and habitat objectives such as road densities should be a priority.

Challenge 3: Declining Wildlife Populations

What measures need to be taken to proactively manage wildlife and habitat and prevent wildlife from becoming species at risk?

- Setting legislated population objectives and following that up with frequent and accurate population monitoring is imperative. Mandatory harvest reporting, and where needed, compulsory inspections, will allow wildlife managers to more accurately track wildlife population trends.

- Science-based management including accurate data is imperative to effective management.

- Decommissioning linear features from industry, and land reclamation/restoration will assist in

creating sustainable habitat.

- Fish and wildlife management should have legislated objectives in order that Wildlife Managers can be held accountable. Setting and achieving wildlife population objectives should be a priority.

Challenge 4: Increasing Human Activity

What is the most effective way of ensuring that wildlife and habitats are healthy while fostering a healthy economy to ensure life is affordable for British Columbians?

- Increased encroachment on wildlife habitat is placing incredible stress on a multitude of species. Loss of habitat to industry is common, however increased backcountry access by recreational user groups continues to affect wildlife populations. Mandating environmental impact studies which include wildlife population assessments before approving industrial and backcountry recreational (heli-skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing) pursuits is imperative.

- Reduce road density to mandated objectives and require rehabilitation.

- Any industry or backcountry user group that accesses wildlife habitat should be responsible for contributing to the well-being of the resource itself and wildlife. Developing a compensatory program for resource and wildlife management would be effective.

Challenge 5: Wildfires and Extreme Weather

What are the most effective ways to proactively adapt to the impacts of climate change to wildlife and habitats?

- In my opinion, my next statement is extremely important not only to exponentially benefit wildlife, but to mitigate and reduce fuel loads in the wildland interface for human safety with these natural fire barriers. We have a win-win situation here for all groups!

-The use of prescribed burns is a well-documented management tool which can restore wildlife populations, make our forests more resilient, and protect communities. Mandating specific wildfire burn plans for each region would be an effective means to ensure wildlife habitat is properly maintained.

- The Wild Sheep Society of BC has been pushing regions to carry out prescribed burns and we are often unsuccessful in these requests. Having a comprehensive prescribed wildfire management plan at the regional level and working proactively with committed organizations such as the Wild Sheep Society of BC would be effective. We are willing to invest funds, resources, time, and man power to carry out wildlife habit rehabilitation. It is incredibly frustrating throwing our support behind these initiatives only to have the plans held up in the approval process.

- A robust education initiative about wildfire benefits to the general public would help with social licencing.

- A review of relevant policy and legislation which hinders prescribed burns and ecosystem restoration should be initiated.

Challenge 6: Better Information

How can Traditional Ecological Knowledge, citizen science and other forms of knowledge complement science to support decision-making?

-First and foremost, there needs to be a venue for citizen science and then those views must be heard. The hunting community reiterated the necessity to utilize science-based management surrounding the grizzly bear hunt. When the decision was made to terminate the hunt based on emotion and public sentiment over science-based principals, trust is lost by our community. When input is provided and willfully dismissed, seeking further input becomes a challenge.

-It is important to recognize that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is not limited to First Nations. Other user groups including ranchers, farmers, outfitters, and hunters all frequent the land and have local knowledge that is effective if properly utilized.

What are the best ways to share information broadly so that there is transparency and trust is gained among all parties?

Having stakeholders at the table and sharing information with them to disseminate to their membership is critical. A round table creates the best environment for these discussions. Engaging in ‘government to government’ negotiations whilst ignoring stakeholders creates an environment lacking in transparency and creates an environment of distrust.

- Hosting local and regional round tables are necessary to sharing information, and developing a regional strategy that will benefit wildlife and habitat

Challenge 7: Human-Wildlife Conflicts

What are the most effective ways to reduce wildlife-human conflicts in British Columbia?

- Utilizing science-based management and hard data to make wildlife decisions is imperative. Decisions made based on social and special interest groups pressures are rarely in the best interest of wildlife. The cancellation of the grizzly bear hunt was one additional management tool that would effectively reduce wildlife-human conflicts. Despite at times strong opposition to it, decisions on wildlife management must stem from science-based decision making not emotional bias.

- Utilizing hunter harvest as a means for predator control assists with wildlife management and creates long-term positive benefits for conservation from funding.

- Effective planning of communities and infrastructure to reduce the impact on wildlife. Where wildlife habitat and corridors are well known, plan to avoid them or at the very least develop mitigating strategies.

- In dealing with wild sheep specifically, layout all areas in the province where wild sheep exist and develop a 50 km boundary around all of those areas. Within those areas, mandate compulsory testing on domestic sheep for any diseases that place wild sheep at risk. Developing disease mitigating strategies in these zones are an effective means in managing wild domestic disease transmission

Challenge 8: Funding

What are the best funding models, funding sources, and creative financing ideas that could increase resources for wildlife management and habitat conservation and provide additional flexibility for how funding is prioritized and allocated?

- It is imperative that every dollar raised from recreational user fees be paid to a dedicated exclusive account that is utilised only for wildlife and habitat management. It is important that these monies do not get placed in to general revenue and all revenue goes directly to wildlife management.

- All resource user groups whether wildlife watching, snowmobilers, heli-skiing or the like pay user fees that go to wildlife and habitat management

- Dedicated budgets be allocated for wildlife management that is mandated by legislation. Wildlife should not be a political issue. Funding should be legislated and maintained from year to year. In other words, a change in the political party should not mean that wildlife budgets suffer. These funds should be allocated to a non-government wildlife society for administration based on clear management objectives and policies.

S: To those concerned...

Our wildlife is suffering due to unsustainable practices....

1. Stop the culling of wolves...these amazing and wise beings keep healthy populations of wildlife going, taking out sick and diseased ones and stemming impossible diseases such as botfly and others that are destroying ungulates

2. Stop the cutting of forests particularly old growth which is almost extinct which is making those creatures that depend upon it extinct, and if you want cariboo, stop the logging in their migration routes

3. Put an end to salmon farming, it is the worst thing one can do to the coast other than logging the river valleys. Salmon feed and feed on life for thousands of miles, and provide sustenance and have for eons, when they return to spawn. Fish farms and the parasites and diseases that are prominent as a result of their presence are destroying our wild salmon and as a result, destroying all the wildlife that have depended upon their return to the rivers such as wolves, bears, eagles, migrating birds, trout and so much more it is a travesty to not hold our wild salmon in the highest regard and encourage their abundance.

4. End the bear hunt, so few black bears are around any more, it is so sad to see. The loss of wild salmon is also part of their reduction in numbers but the bear hunt is appalling.

5. Put an end to the governments lottery for wildlife.

6. Give nature a chance, protect the wild and the free, give it an opportunity to teach us the real values of what it brings and sustains....humans are the only species that destroys what it depends upon, nothing else take everything.

7. Recycle and put back, encourage wild food for wildlife, stop garbage dumps being a resource for only rats, cockroaches and seagulls. Enrich the soil and wilderness with positive and healthy materials.

8. Stop dumping sewage in the ocean, recycle sewage and compost and put it back on the land. Enrich the soil.

9. Protect food sources for killer whales and protect our oceans, the herring are a source of great nourishment for everything from whales to salmon to halibut and much more. They are very vulnerable and need to be protected and encouraged in order to feed all life.

10. Respect other species, humans need to learn from them and honor them and learn our place in the great circle of life.

Allen: To Whom it May Concern;

There are a myriad of issues which need addressing in our management of Wildlife and Habitat.

The recent obvious decline in ungulate populations is especially alarming to me. While the term "managing to zero" may qualify as derogatory language to use in reference to our Provincial government, I believe that is what the government is doing.

Here are my personal suggestions for improvement - in no particular order:

- Make wildlife and wildlife habitat a priority. While our economy is important, we must have a balanced approach to resource development and recreational activities. Wildlife needs wilderness - let's make sure they have what is needed.

- Make science based decisions. There are some good people still in government - let them direct a wildlife recovery program. Don't muzzle them. Endless planning processes - such as the Cumulative Effects Framework (and perhaps this very process) haven't got us anywhere. FLNRO is "fiddling while Rome burns". Take meaningful action immediately. We haven't any more time for "bureaucratic paralysis".

-Establish legislated objectives for wildlife species in the province so that no government can get away with "managing to zero". For example - elk in the Kootenays were once at 40,000 but are now down to 6,000. I preferred the higher number but perhaps a minimum of 25,000 would seem reasonable.

- Re-hire the staff needed to do the job properly and provide them with consistent funding. Don't rely on grants from HCTF for everything.

- Re-educate the urban based electoral majority who have lost touch with all things natural. Resist social pressures where possible.

- Develop a new and much broader funding model for wildlife which takes in revenue from all users of Crown Land through user fees and/or excise taxes on outdoor gear.

- Re-establish a Fish and Wildlife Branch - FLNRO model puts wildlife too far down the ladder and timber harvesting to high on the ladder.

-Bring in mandatory harvest reporting for all hunters. Current process of determining resident harvest is outdated and inaccurate. I don't care how you do it, but we need the data.

-Bring in predator management where necessary.

- Make prescribed burning the common tool it should be.

- Dramatically reduce the number of resource roads open to motorized traffic. De-commission roads where practical.

To allow wildlife resources in the province to sink to the current levels is unacceptable. Let's work together to correct this mess.

Angela: To whom it may concern.

Ban trapping and snares including extremely cruel glue traps for mice. I've never seen or heard of a humane trap. With an ever increasing human population, there are fewer and fewer wild spaces for wildlife. More animals are killed by vehicles and forest fires. Cats (both domestic and feral) kill countless millions of animals each year. Fewer older structures and old trees mean less availability for nesting areas for swallows and bats. Lights left on at night in empty highrises cause millions of bird deaths every year (and wastes valuable electricity!). Increasingly busy water areas mean unsafe habitat for whales and other marine life. All these negative impacts (and many others) caused by humans and our tax dollars still goes towards hunting and killing more wildlife!?!?! What a ridiculous plan!!! Use our money to do good for the planet ?? rather than further destroying the Earth!!

Signed,

A concerned member of Earth ??

Tom: To whom it may concern,

I am taking this opportunity to comment on the recent ""engagement"" process.

While it may seem like a great idea to some, we have seen this exercise before. As mentioned in the document, it will take several years to develop the plan after a lengthy process - a process that will have a potpourri of emotional, social and maybe some biological opinions. But there will be no clear direction.

While the system gutted by the previous government may not have been great, the ""professional reliance model"" has now been recognized as ineffective; something that was obvious to some at the outset.

The present situation is inefficient and ineffective. However, government has had a year to make significant changes to re-instate one ministry with a new funding model if it chose to, but has failed to take action. The present document is a continuum of being seen to be doing something, while wildlife continues to suffer.

As mentioned, funding continues to be a problem - not only amount but priorities. Policies are being ignored (eg regional moose management plans), agreements forgotten, and the enforcement of regulations is from another ministry. In significant portions of the province, existing policy directing staff to work with stakeholders is being ignored. Goals cannot be effectively achieved when two ministries have opposing objectives (eg caribou and moose populations).

Had actions in the recent year shown there was intent to improve wildlife management, this plan may be viewed as an opportunity to make the province better. Spending more money on ""recovering"" caribou amounts to be seen to be doing something, rather than actually doing something and preventing the northern herds from being the same position in ~10 years.

If present direction is being ignored, why should anyone believe a new, shiny, pretty document be any different? And only after another few years go by.

Deanna: To whom it may concern,

It is crucial that domestic rabbits are removed from the Schedule C wildlife designation, and further we request assistance from the Province of BC to help support the trapping and control of the rabbits through sanctuary rescue.

Thank you

Emily: Hello,

I'm emailing in regards to the government's wildlife and habitat conservation consultation - please see below for my comments and suggestions.

* The government must work to implement UNDRIP and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples must be done in a meaningful and genuine way.

* A wider range of stakeholders must be involved in wildlife management and habitat conservation decisions. Typically these decisions have been formulated behind closed doors and with select parties, but it must become more transparent, inclusive and genuine.

* It's time to do away with the outdated and hunter-centric North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, in favour of a compassionate conservation model of wildlife management. The current model is too reliant on control and consumption and not conservation. A renewed strategy should be science-based, as well as ecologically and ethically-informed.

* Proactive measures to help avoid species at risk should include:

    * Halt old-growth logging and open-net fish farming

    * Address road density, which is a major barrier to habitat connectivity. Deactivate and restore unused forest service roads (and other roads).

    * Move away from unsustainable resource extraction - wildlife and habitat cannot handle more disturbance and fragmentation. We must move toward sustainable alternatives.

    * Implement species at risk legislation

    * Stop predator culling - it doesn't address the root causes of species decline and is not supported by science or the public.

* Wildlife and habitat protections need to be a priority of government. Projects should be evaluated at the ecosystem level in order to gauge the cumulative impact of all projects in any given area.

* Priorities for reducing wildlife-human conflicts should include stronger public education, increased enforcement and fines for problematic behaviour.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this feedback.

Gillian: Some suggestions:

* Immediate moratorium on any logging of remaining old growth forest in BC – why is this continuing when so little is left?

* Increase mandatory stream setback sizes in all BC municipalities and regional districts.

* More funding initiatives for purchase of conservation areas in municipalities and tree-planting programs: require municipalities to reach conserved habitat goals.

* Implement Greenbelt zoning across BC.

* Conservation plans should not be subject to commercial approvals.

* Fund or foster initiatives for municipalities to conserve wildlife crossing areas.

* Set aside conservation areas more aggressively, permanently removing them from the pressures of development - more money for conservation purchases.

* Mandatory wild 'strips' in developments on previously natural and vegetated areas – i.e. – not brown areas.

* Bring private forest lands under public rules for conservation, etc.

* Remove fish farms from BC – salmon are the cornerstone species on which so many creatures depend, and fish farms are severely damaging wild salmon populations.

* Ensure mandatory stream and river flows in water and aquifer management.

* Address climate change.

* Purchase or expropriate watersheds.

* Trapping is a non-discriminatory and cruel activity, killing large numbers of non-targeted animals.

* Value of wildlife and conservation areas outside of lethal stream revenues must be recognized in funding discussions – value of birding, ecotourism, air and water purification, etc.

* Fund more education programs through BC Nature and other organizations.

* Tackle climate change – fund more bike lanes, etc.

* Create the Fraser River National Wildlife Area – see website fraserwildlifearea.com

* Fund province wide wildlife-friendly agricultural initiatives such as set-asides and hedgerow planting – see Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust.

* Tackle plastic pollution – encourage recycling.

* Cat control programs – cats kill billions of wildlife annually. Require municipalities to licence cats, spay programs, etc. Pursue public information campaign to inform about the negative environmental effects of cats on wildlife – list and cull as invasive species?

* Stop Site C - too much habitat to be lost.

Thank you.

Judy:

As a breeder of domestic rabbits for show and food purposes I firmly believe that feral domestic rabbit populations need to be controlled and or eradicated due to the risks they pose to domestic rabbitries and the public. In recent months the Rabbit Haemoraghic disease outbreak has greatly affected all rabbit owners in BC and has resulted in much distress over possible infection of rabbits beyond our borders. Responsible breeders have quarantined themselves and their rabbits from travel, shows ,sales of breeding stock and even some meat sales. Some people had to wait about 8 weeks before a vaccine could be accessed for their stock and 4H and pet owners scrambled to vaccinate their rabbits. Rabbit shows and exhibition at agricultural fairs has for the past 6 months been cancelled and no known date for resumption has been determined.

Feral rabbits were the source of the outbreak and will again be the subject of controversy if not trapped and culled (preferable) or turned over to sanctuaries . Ignorance and lack of responsibility led to the feral populations but a lack of enforcement and control of the populations due to poor mangement design has allowed the colonies to flourish . Lack of resources no doubt makes it difficult to gain control of population growth but overall rabbit health and public health need to be considered a priority. A stronger mandate or change to the classification of feral rabbits is much needed by the governing body.

Dan:

We are failing miserably at sustaining this beautiful province . The forests are dying and being slashed by logging companies . The wild salmon are sick and being wiped out as a result of allowing fish farms which is essentially killing the orcas . The caribou are struggling and so are the oceans ! The fires we are about to face in the coming years as our forests go into drought will be suffocating. A little too late ! But try to start by banning fish farms , limit hunting , no pipelines and ridiculous hydro projects . Limit pesticide use and better construction demolition . Do something now ! Smarten up government of B.C. and Canada . We are all going to lose our homes if big steps are not taken immediately. Everyone needs to do thier part , especially you .

Christine: We share this planet with all live. It concerns me greatly how much habitat in form of logging, mining and incrowging on wilderness men continuous does.

I love to see hunting outlawed. We take live so thoughtless and can not give it back. The past. should be our teacher.

My greatest wish is, that we have people in our government who will past laws to let our wildlife live in peace as we are.

From my heart and soul.

Mike:

Here are my '11th hour' suggestions to improve wildlife management in BC.

1. Develop an implement an effective access management strategy

According to a recent report (attached): ""Resource roads are increasing in BC at a rate of 10,000 km of new roads per year, but no data are collected on the rate roads become unusable, either through natural processes or deactivation."" I suspect that the rate at which roads are becoming unusable is but a fraction of the rate at which they are being built. Four-wheel-drive vehicles, ATVs, side-by-sides can get just about anywhere, leaving willdife in the province with little refuge from humandisturbance. See the Forest Practices Board report: https://www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/SR49-Access-Management-2015-Update.pdf

Proper access management in B.C. is long overdue.

2. Manage wildlife populations in a manner that is sensitive to species' biology

This means taking into consideration the role that proper age-class structure of the population has on the health and vitality of the population. Too many populations are overexploited in this regard. For example, the latest survey of elk in the East Kootenay suggests that bulls are getting hammered. The same can be said of many moose populations where there is a lack of prime (senior) bulls in the population.

3. Stem the carnage of wildlife on our highways and railroads

For far too long now, far too many animals are killed annually on the roads and rail lines in B.C. This includes a wide range of species--not just game animals. Effective solutions are at-hand, they just need the political will to implement them. It's (well-past) time to act. Regular offenders such as railroads should be required to pay a toll for every animal they kill.

4. Adequate enforcement

Provide the Conservation Officer Service with the budgets needed for them to properly fulfill the scope of their mandate throughout the province.

5. Science-based decisions

Ensure that decisions about wildlife and habitat management are bested on the best available science. And where the scientific evidence is lacking, seek to gather the data through properly funded research by qualified individuals.

6. Fund the whole thing

Consider something like the Pittman–Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act -- but applied to more than guns and ammo, rather to all items that might be used in the outdoors where wildlife are an important part of the recreational experience. Collect fees from commercial or industrial operators that

damage wildlife habitat or that kill wildlife during the routine course of their business (e.g., railroads). Be sure that funding allocations are not biased towards endangered species where the return on investment is sub-par. In cases where the recovery of species at risk is involved, those costs should be borne by all of society, not just those that enjoy the direct (recreational) benefits of wildlife and habitat management.

7. Manage predators and predation

Accept that predators are part of the ecosystem and that management of such is legitimate in cases where they could jeopardize management objectives for other (prey) species.

8. Require BC Hydro to manage transmission line rights-of-way in a manner that enhances wildlife habitat value where possible and appropriate

Every year, BC Hydro manages vegetation on a vast number of hectares of land with high capability for wildlife habitat. That vegetation management is primarily for protection of their infrastructure (and rightly so). However, opportunities to integrate wildlife habitat enhancement with infrastructure protection abound, but there is no solid effort to do so. This should change.

9. Adequate base of government biologists

This is tied to the Professional Reliance Review. The government needs to have the in-house expertise to properly fulfill its mandate. The current system of industrial referrals in a results-based environment means that there is insufficient oversight and monitoring going on over most of the province. There have been attempts to look at big-picture things like cumulative effects, but there will only be a greater need for this in the future as an increasing population places increasing demands on a static area of land that is increasingly faced with threats such as industrial development and climate change.

10. Strategic regional planning

Yes.

Celeste: Wildlife and Habitat Consultation

So many points have been submitted so far, and so many reasonable solutions can be found on the government's websites, that for me to summarize all the logical conclusions from the people I trust, would do nothing to influence or move those in charge right now in any way at all. This whole "consultation" thing is just about POLITICS. To wait until all citizens have their say, and then talk about it is just TOO LATE. We're well advanced in climate change. To address it would mean some people would lose their jobs. Others would have to change.

Everything from insects to all animals, humans, fish, trees, plants and the very soil are all interdependent. So for example, to cull a "predator" doesn't save a herd of elk, as has been proven in various places over years. Another example: Salmon are absolutely necessary for the survival of the rain forests on our central coast. They return upstream to the place of their birth, lay eggs, and die. Their bodies are necessary food for bears and wolves, who take their leftovers into the woods, which fertilize all the trees. There is salmon DNA atop every Sitka spruce in the Central rain forests.

These obvious facts of Nature have been gradually coming clear to me in nearly 80 years of life. It's all I can do to keep up hope for this once in a lifetime, beautiful world.

In deep sincerity,

Brenda: Congratulations on this much needed initiative. I think you cover most of the key problems in your list of " Challenges ". In the " opportunities " I see a lot of room for consolidating in order to simplify. And I think simplifying will be needed.

I wonder if there should be a short term interim action plan (top top priorities, maybe?) to put in place over the next year while the rest is being worked out . Many of the suggested '" opportunities' will take a number of years.

In general, I believe the issue of direct human disturbance, through presence, motorized and non motorized, needs more recognition as a threat to wildlife. This relates to the impacts of tourism, back country recreation and residential settlement. And to the use of roads and other forms of access. We tend to think mainly of big resource extraction industry as the offenders.

I'm interested in contributing to the next phase of this initiative but unfortunately right now don't have time for a major submission.

Olga: Support the online comments made by Rabbitats Rescue Society. Feral domestic rabbits need to be removed from the Schedule C wildlife designation. It's time the province and the various cities of the lower mainland stepped up to manage and control populations of feral rabbits. Like any other feral domestic animal they need to be humanely trapped and housed in sanctuaries. The dumping of domestic pets needs to be addressed with education, stricter penalties and enforcement.

Don: Dear Wildlife Defense League: I have hunted in the past and am a part time fisherman so I believe I have a balanced attitude when it comes to making choices about our wildlife. One of the things that I found to be quite extraordinary is the inability of some hunters to have compassion for animals during periods of wildfires. Frankly, I don't even understand how they believe they are sportsmen when they are hunting animals living in burnt out forests and going through heavy periods of stress for themselves and their offspring. Yet, somehow the ""hunter"" believes he has the right to kill these animals. In addition, there seem to be no barriers placed upon hunting and the constant flow of technology into their ""sport."" I have heard stories told by hunters of setting up their game cameras as an additional tool for ""hunting,"" as if their guns with highly developed scopes are not enough. It is not unimaginable to consider a hunter setting up a camera and shooting apparatus to kill an animal without even being there, with an app telling him of his kill while he/she sits in the bar bragging about his equipment.

Technology has made it possible for people who kill animals to spend as little time as possible actually hunting. When you consider that many use ATVs to disrupt the quiet of a forest and stress out all animals, hunters interfere with wildlife they may not even shoot. This is all because they have the ""right"" to shoot animals. Vast tracts of forest lands should be allowed to be inhabited by animals, and animals alone. It should not be my right to get a hunting license so I can kill an animal using all the advantages I have stated. Hunting is the biggest invasive behaviour in the world as we have proven over and over again through poaching and greed that animals are basically a financial statistic. Please don't even get me started in the subject of trapping, which is one the biggest cowardly, lazy, cruel acts possible.

The distribution of animals has changed drastically in my lifetime. I used to see lots of moose but I rarely see them now and people are still allowed to kill them. It is their ""right."" I think hunting should strictly be a lottery decision and there should be limits placed on the types of technology allowed to kill animals. Hunting has lost its' personality as a sport - it is just killing to me.

I have a few different ideas of fishing in our lakes since most of them are stocked. It is not the same with our wildlife but people don't care about the difference and it's time they gain and regain their respect for nature.

Norlan: Wildlife MUST be protected and managed.

It should be our top priority given we have failed with most environmental initiatives.

We are turning a blind eye to the rising temperatures and global disasters.

Wildlife protection is a choice. It's my top priority.

Nathan:

First of all, I am thankful that the Provincial government is looking at ways to improve and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat within our amazing province. We live in one of the most wild and untouched areas of North America and this is something precious we should seek to manage effectively. I do not mean that there should be no development ever, or that people should not be able to make use of all the abundant renewable resources that are available in BC.

Having read through the Discussion Paper, and the challenges put forth in it, I want to voice my support of the position of the BC Wildlife Federation that they put forth in their response, which you can also find here: http://www.bcwf.net/images/M_images/2018-July/WildlifeHabitatResponse.pdf

I support a science based approach to wildlife management that is utilized in the North Amercian Model to wildlife management.

Ryan:

Our wildlife need more funding!! The BC government promised to put all money's raised by hunting license sales directly to wild life projects but that never happened.

We need to stop aerial spraying immediately!! The wildlife need this habitat to survive, hence the ministry finding 4 in 10 collared moose died of starvation.

Road access and lack of deactivating logging roads is a major challenge that needs to be addressed. It was one of the major issues in the report on grizzly bear habitat.

First Nations in areas where there is leh for moose need to also be put on a quota system and the Harvest of cows made illegal until populations return.

Predator numbers need to be lowered substantially. Wolf populations in most areas are out of control and the grizzly hunts need to be reinstated to increase calf/fawn survival rates.

Richelle: We need to implement strategies that incorporate PROPER research, with each sentient being and species as a whole AS THE FOCAL POINT. Never should we be culling wildlife. A cougar was recently shot and the deep population is too high - HELLO?

Cheyenne:

I would like to take the time to thank you for giving an opportunity for us locals to voice our opinions for the future of wildlife management. I hope you give me the time to read my email and am excited to see what feedback you receive from the province. My hobbies include quadding, hiking and hunting. Being a hunter, I have been out in the field consistently throughout the years. One of my concerns (I'm hopeful you are already well aware of) is that we are seeing less moose, less deer and smaller herds of elk. I am seeing more cougars, more wolves, and way more grizzlies. I have seen more grizzlies in the past two years than I have my whole life. Last hunting season I walked into one multiple times. A neighbour had 16 sheep and their dog slaughtered by one grizzly bear earlier this year. The thing about banning the Grizzly bear trophy hunt is that it's not saving grizzlies lives, or the population. The same amount or more are going to be put down from Conservation Officers or people protecting themselves. I am no biologist but grizzly bears do have territories and can travel a long distance in a day- meaning they are looking for their own territory which will equal more human conflicts. So in my opinion, the province looses a lot of money, whether it be tags (used for conservation efforts) or local hunting stores, taxidermists and any revenue from people traveling to hunt in the certain Limited Entry Zones. They are not an endangered animal in this area. I recommend you listen to a podcast called 'Bow hunters Life #6 with April Vokey and Kim Greentree' it has references of lion hunting being banned and now lions are terrorizing local farmers and whole prides are getting poisoned. It sounds extreme but Grizzly Bears are at the top of the food chain, and letting them thrive even more in this area will not help the populations of ungulates.

Another note I am curious on, I have been doing a little research on the chronic wasting disease, and am curious if B.C has any rules, regulations and future plans for preventing it. I live close to the Alberta Border where farmed deer are legal, even though there haven't been any nearby deer confirmed with it, it is something that I think about a lot.

For conservation efforts, I completely support the 1400 meter elevation rule for motorized vehicles to help the caribou but I have noticed that there is poor awareness around these areas. There are a lot of people who don't read the hunting regulations, specifically at the restricted areas I have found no signage. I believe more people need to be aware of the regulations and more so the reason why.

As a hunter, if there is anything I can do to help the future of our wildlife please let me know.

R & H: Decisions about hunting opportunity should be based on credible, non-biased science.

Science based management allows hunting opportunity when appropriate.

Manipulation of this issue for political purposes and using public opinion based on emotional response, while useful as a political strategies, this is not a sustainable approach to ensuring wildlife population health.

It's a given that not all government actions will be popular. Take politics and emotion out of the equation and manage with a scientific approach.

Government can either act on science or be bullied into doing something contrary to science based management.

Bryan: RE: Engage BC – Wildlife and Habitat in BC

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit comments on the new era of wildlife and habitat management in BC. From my perspective, this initiative is extremely important and a change is long overdue. I am encouraged that this review is now taking place and hope that it leads to real and meaningful changes to the wildlife and habitat management system in BC.

Wildlife and its supporting habitats are being degraded at an alarming rate. There are many factors contributing to this current state (together these are often referred to as cumulative effects), but whatever the multitudes of impacts are, we are now at a critical crossroad in BC and have a choice to do something now. Will wildlife and habitat conservation become a priority or will we see the collapse of these systems? This is the state we feel wildlife and habitat are in BC right now.

I feel strongly that wildlife and habitat management is the government's responsibility. It is not citizens jobs to tell government how to manage wildlife and habitat; government employs professional personnel who are educated in this regard. As citizens we can only make suggestions as to what we feel needs to be addressed and offer insight and observations. Here are 5 main points and recurring themes that I feel need to be prioritized into the future:

1. Wildlife and habitat management need to be a government priority and appropriately funded through a dedicated and adequate funding model.

2. BC needs clear management plans with defined objectives that are sustainable, enforceable and resilient to 4-year political cycles.

3. Setting management objectives must be prioritized within FLNRORD or it will not happen.

4. This requires having appropriate data that supports science based wildlife objectives and management plans.

5. Implementation of these plans will require changes to natural resource policy and legislation as wildlife and habitat are presently largely managed under legislation shaped to accommodate other priorities. ie: Forest and Range Practices Act

I would also like to emphasize the following points:

- Government needs to prioritize wildlife and habitat management and bring it forward in all landscape decisions. Large intact wild landscapes support healthy, vibrant and resilient wildlife populations and provide sustainable hunting opportunity.

- Science based wildlife management plans need to follow the North American Wildlife Conservation Model.

- We cannot manage wildlife and habitat in isolation. It needs to be a factor in all landscape management decisions – from resource extraction, industrial use and recreation use.

- One plan cannot work for the entire province. We need to develop regional plans and even sub-regional plans to address the diverse landscapes and varying issues around the province.

- An overall provincial access management plan and various regional plans need to be developed as part of any wildlife and habitat management system. We have road densities that are well above recommended sustainable levels, and that is before we include the many illegal trails that are being built into the backcountry.

- The new model needs to recognize that hunting is an integral part of conservation and this important heritage should continue.

- Huntable wildlife populations need to be an objective of wildlife management plans. Huntable populations are healthy populations.

- The fundamentals of fair chase need to be established in management plans to address the present and future effect of technology on wildlife vulnerability and loss of hunting opportunity.

- Wildlife exclusion fencing/migration corridors needs to be addressed.

- Online licensing – hunter profile, compulsory reporting, LEH priority system, data inventory can all be acquired through e licensing.

- Habitat burns, invasive weed management, habitat enhancement plans to support and sustain wildlife populations. Over the past few years government has taken on numerous initiatives that have outlined what needs to be done to make wildlife and habitat management a priority in BC. These reports include, but are not limited to;

The Gorley Report - A Strategy to Help Restore Moose Populations in British Columbia

The Morris Report – Getting the Balance Right: Improving Wildlife Habitat Management in British Columbia

Along with these reports, the discussion paper included in this review process already identifies the key components that should be included in any new wildlife management plan. As a BC citizen and member of BC Backcountry Hunters and Anglers I encourage government to take the message already presented and start making changes to legislation soon that will improve the conservation of our wildlife and habitat now.

To ensure the sustainable utilization of our wildlife resources in BC, the new model MUST establish that hunting is ensconced in the conservation fundamentals of the plan. Hunting is applied conservation. Thank you for the opportunity to engage.

Rob: Good day,

I am an avid hunter, fisherman and conservationist! I am directly involved with several wildlife groups in BC and believe science based management is the only viable options and strongly feel Regional Biologists should be the ones adding or subtracting tags and or hunts.. not politicians

Aaron: What programs and policies are most important to advance meaningful and lasting reconciliation with

indigenous peoples and help implement UNDRIP?

- Reconciliation and engagement with First Nations is critical, however exclusively negotiating while alienating other stakeholders is counterproductive. We have a shared interest in wildlife management in British Columbia and anything other than a round table sets the process up for failure. It creates a climate of mistrust and lacks transparency. Having all with a vested interest in the long-term sustainability of habitat and wildlife at a round table is critical establishing an environment of trust and positive outcomes.

Challenge 2: Increasing Involvement and Shared Stewardship

• How should a broad range of stakeholders be involved in wildlife management and habitat conservation decisions?

- This new model of Wildlife Management has its merits; however, it is imperative that only stakeholders that are willing to contribute to conservation be involved. Groups should be provincial in nature, have a B.C.-based membership/workforce, and conduct on-the-ground stewardship activities. Those that fail to give back to wildlife and its well-being should not earn a say.

- It is imperative that science-based wildlife management be used as the backbone of this process. The North American Wildlife Management Model has a long history of effectiveness and we feel that those organizations that do not support this model should not participate in this process.

- It is important that decision making involvement input from individuals in the regions as to what is working in their community.

- Involve groups at the beginning of the process to offer input and direction and include that consistently throughout the entire decision-making process.

• What are your suggestions for a new governance model for wildlife management and habitat

conservation?

- We feel that any use group that accesses crown land be responsible for user fees. If individuals are using our natural resources and natural habitat, they should be willing to pay fees associated with this. Examples of this would be wildlife viewing companies such as whale watching companies, bear watching companies, heli-skiing, hunting license fees and resource extraction industries.
- Fish and wildlife management should have legislated objectives in order that Wildlife Managers can be held accountable. Setting meaningful population and habitat objectives such as road densities should be a priority.

Challenge 3: Declining Wildlife Populations

What measures need to be taken to proactively manage wildlife and habitat and prevent wildlife from becoming species at risk?

Wildlife and Habitat Engagement

- Setting legislated population objectives and following that up with frequent and accurate population monitoring is imperative. Mandatory harvest reporting, and where needed, compulsory inspections, will allow wildlife managers to more accurately track wildlife population trends.
- Science-based management including accurate data is imperative to effective management.
- Decommissioning linear features from industry, and land reclamation/restoration will assist in creating sustainable habitat.
- Fish and wildlife management should have legislated objectives in order that Wildlife Managers can be held accountable. Setting and achieving wildlife population objectives should be a priority.

Challenge 4: Increasing Human Activity

What is the most effective way of ensuring that wildlife and habitats are healthy while fostering a

healthy economy to ensure life is affordable for British Columbians?

- Increased encroachment on wildlife habitat is placing incredible stress on a multitude of species. Loss of habitat to industry is common, however increased backcountry access by recreational user groups continues to affect wildlife populations. Mandating environmental impact studies which include wildlife population assessments before approving industrial and backcountry recreational (heli-skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing) pursuits is imperative.
- Reduce road density to mandated objectives and require rehabilitation.
- Any industry or backcountry user group that accesses wildlife habitat should be responsible for contributing to the well-being of the resource itself and wildlife. Developing a compensatory program for resource and wildlife management would be effective.

Challenge 5: Wildfires and Extreme Weather

What are the most effective ways to proactively adapt to the impacts of climate change to wildlife and habitats?

- The use of prescribed burns is a well-documented management tool which can restore wildlife populations, make our forests more resilient, and protect communities. Mandating specific wildfire burn plans for each region would be an effective means to ensure wildlife habitat is properly maintained.
- The Wild Sheep Society of BC has been pushing regions to carry out prescribed burns and we are often unsuccessful in these requests. Having a comprehensive prescribed wildfire management plan at the regional level and working proactively with committed organizations such as the Wild Sheep Society of BC would be effective. We are willing to invest funds, resources, time, and man power to carry out wildlife habit rehabilitation. It is incredibly frustrating throwing our support behind these initiatives only to have the plans held up in the approval process.
- A robust education initiative about wildfire benefits to the general public would help with social licencing.

- A review of relevant policy and legislation which hinders prescribed burns and ecosystem restoration should be initiated.

Challenge 6: Better Information

Wildlife and Habitat Engagement

• How can Traditional Ecological Knowledge, citizen science and other forms of knowledge complement science to support decision-making?

-First and foremost, there needs to be a venue for citizen science and then those views must be heard. The hunting community reiterated the necessity to utilize science-based management surrounding the grizzly bear hunt. When the decision was made to terminate the hunt based on emotion and public sentiment over science-based principals, trust is lost by our community. When input is provided and willfully dismissed, seeking further input becomes a challenge.

-It is important to recognize that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is not limited to First Nations. Other user groups including ranchers, farmers, outfitters, and hunters all frequent the land and have local knowledge that is effective if properly utilized.

What are the best ways to share information broadly so that there is transparency and trust is gained among all parties?

Having stakeholders at the table and sharing information with them to disseminate to their membership is critical. A round table creates the best environment for these discussions. Engaging in 'government to government' negotiations whilst ignoring stakeholders creates an environment lacking in transparency and creates an environment of distrust.

- Hosting local and regional round tables are necessary to sharing information, and developing a regional strategy that will benefit wildlife and habitat

Challenge 7: Human-Wildlife Conflicts

What are the most effective ways to reduce wildlife-human conflicts in British Columbia?

- Utilizing science-based management and hard data to make wildlife decisions is imperative.

Decisions made based on social and special interest groups pressures are rarely in the best interest of wildlife. The cancellation of the grizzly bear hunt was one additional management tool that would effectively reduce wildlife-human conflicts. Despite at times strong opposition to it, decisions on wildlife management must stem from science-based decision making not emotional bias.

- Utilizing hunter harvest as a means for predator control assists with wildlife management and creates long-term positive benefits for conservation from funding.
- Effective planning of communities and infrastructure to reduce the impact on wildlife. Where wildlife habitat and corridors are well known, plan to avoid them or at the very least develop mitigating strategies.
- In dealing with wild sheep specifically, layout all areas in the province where wild sheep exist and develop a 50 km boundary around all of those areas. Within those areas, mandate compulsory testing on domestic sheep for any diseases that place wild sheep at risk. Developing disease mitigating strategies in these zones are an effective means in managing wild domestic disease transmission

Challenge 8: Funding

Wildlife and Habitat Engagement

What are the best funding models, funding sources, and creative financing ideas that could increase resources for wildlife management and habitat conservation and provide additional flexibility for how funding is prioritized and allocated?

- It is imperative that every dollar raised from recreational user fees be paid to a dedicated exclusive account that is utilised only for wildlife and habitat management. It is important that these monies do not get placed in to general revenue and all revenue goes directly to wildlife management.
- All resource user groups whether wildlife watching, snowmobilers, heli-skiing or the like pay

user fees that go to wildlife and habitat management

- Dedicated budgets be allocated for wildlife management that is mandated by legislation. Wildlife should not be a political issue. Funding should be legislated and maintained from year to year. In other words, a change in the political party should not mean that wildlife budgets suffer. These funds should be allocated to a non-government wildlife society for administration based on clear management objectives and policies.

Additional Questions

What challenges are we missing?

- The recent provincial election resulted in the grizzly bear hunt being terminated as a result of social pressures and special interest groups. Due to urbanization, society is becoming disconnected with wildlife and many individual's perception of wildlife is what they learn through Disney or the Discovery channel. Science based wildlife management is the basis of sound wildlife practices and should continue to be. Government must also utilize their fiscal resources to educate the public on the need to manage wildlife based on scientific principals which includes sustainable, lawful, and ethical harvest of wildlife. It is important that the government dedicate additional financial resources for public outreach. The average British Columbian is losing sight of the realities of wildlife and that harvesting through hunting and trapping is not only sustainable but an effective management tool which provides essential funding for wildlife conservation. This message must be shared with the general public and resources must be used to achieve this means.

What currently works well in BC for wildlife/habitat management?

What changes in wildlife/habitat management are most needed for BC (highest priority)?

- Funding – Dedicated funding from outdoor consumptive and non-consumptive users.
- Science – Legislated objectives on population levels, road density, critical habitat, regular monitoring

- Social support – Social support can and will be gained through responsible use and stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Are there any challenges or opportunities listed that concern you? Why?

Melvin: The Government needs to Impose a$1.00 tax on Stumpage that would go directly into programs to enhance wildlife and the sustainable populations that were once here.

We are changing the landscape with only profit margins in mind and that is why we are in this predicament.

The U S directly puts large amounts of money into Fish and Wildlife to sustain their long term objectives and their future for all to enjoy and appreciate.

Our Government fails to see the importance of this concept and any money for Fish and Wildlife goes into general revenue.

We are all stakeholders and we all lose unless our Government sees the value of this Commodity instead of looking at a flatted landscape and spreadsheets.

We have to be the voice now before we are asking where did they go!

Jess: I'm writing in response to wildlife and habitat discussion you are accepting letters. First meeting July 31.

Industry thought;

is habitat needs to be protected. Logging and mining are an essential part of our provinces resources and economy. They must continue for many of our families to survive. Our province is becoming more expensive just to live, we need jobs. Even the pipelines. It creates new areas for feeding for elk, deer and moose. Enact more restrictions to the logging practices. The cut blocks left are littered with dead wood. I'm surprised anything can walk across them, make the loggers clean up better after themselves. The mines and pipelines do a great job.

Access thought;

I'm not opposed to an off highway vehicle restriction, such as only ATV traffic from

10-4. I hunted with a full ATV closure last fall and it was great, quiet, more animals, less dust. Better in every way.

Allocation thought;

Please stop shooting antlerless animals. Or at least put it on a draw system. I hate seeing breeding stock shot off by able-bodied hunters. Whom all would rather shoot a buck or bull. Females are baby making machines, let them make babies.

I won't even help my friends with cow or doe draws, I 100% disagree with it. Lower the allocations for resident draws. Where I live there are over 100 moose LEH permits. It's completely outrageous. I saw 5 moose this spring, the population is on the verge of being wiped out. I understand we have a caribou issue here. The caribou have been in a harsh decline since they tried to reduce the moose population for wolf reasons. ""Prey management 2002"" it didn't work, let the moose come back. 20 years ago the moose were prolific and the caribou weren't in such a steep decline. Wolves will eat caribou too. If there is no beef at the buffet I'll eat chicken, same as the Wolves.

Predator thought;

Work with the trapping community to manage the wolf population. If there was an incentive for hunters and trappers to catch or shoot predators, they would do it. Maybe a bounty or call it something more PC, predator study. If it was worth it for the trappers to reduce wolf population, they would be all over it. Good for the biologists to see what the wolves are eating, caribou is on their menu. Bears and cougars are a part of this too, great table fare and are eating machines. There should be a sighting report line for these animals, just to see where population densities are high.

First Nation thought;

Keep consulting the FN. they are a vital part of our country and want the same thing we want. Our province and country to be abundant with game and maintain a healthy balance with nature. We all

want fish and wildlife to sustain us. We all want to enjoy our time with friends and family with sustenance from our province. All ceremonial gatherings should be treated the same. The FN are important and should be consulted with every decision, we should maintain a working dialogue to keep all parties content. (Ideally everyone would be happy with all decisions, we all know this can't happen. I'll settle with content.)

Grizzly bear thought;

Not really what this thought is about but the title is captivating.

All decisions regarding wildlife should be science based and backed with facts.

The decision to shut down a sustainable hunt like the Grizzly hunt was based solely on popularity, not science. (Thanks social media) this knee jerk reaction has taken jobs away from a lot of people, my friends included. It's hard for a million people that live in Vancouver to believe there are still grizzly bears around, if they haven't seen them. The bear population is healthy in our province and with decreased hunting opportunity human bear conflict will rise. They just de-listed Grizzly bears in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho for hunting. It's a resilient animal and was not being over harvested in BC. Not saying it shouldn't be more regulated, but should be reevaluated.

Fishing thought;

This is a very important subject that has affected many people, not just the fishing community. Commercial fishing has decimated the populations on plenty of fish stocks. (We can't undo the damages from generations before us) Sport fishing is an awesome resource, there should always be some fish retention. We have a great Bull trout fishery. Retention should be 1 per boat. Kokanee here have been taking a beating. People camp and can Kokanee on the spot on the lake north of town. I spoke to one guy that bragged he caught over 200 this year and canned them all. There should be a possession limit, its a vulnerable species with strange spring weather messing with their spawning streams.

There is lots of work to do and I am more than happy to do my share to help.

These are a few of my thoughts.

Thanks for your time,

Keith: The grizzly hunt ban was not fairly looked in to and there is a lot more to have considered before making it part of an election platform.

The reality is if you spend time out in BC winderness you know that boar grizzly bears need to be managed. I'd rather see money from hunters go towards the protection and management and education than money spent to dispose of problem bears.

Cheers

Maureen: Hello - I wish to provide my Wildlife and Habitat feedback by e-mail. Here are some thoughts of mine as well as others which I think would be helpful:

Increasing Involvement and Shared Stewardship

•Form a working group with FLNRORD, MOTI, ICBC, other road safety agencies, concerned citizens like me), and conservation organizations to identify, prioritize, and implement appropriate actions.

Declining Wildlife Populations

•Improve data collection and analysis so we know where animals are getting killed

•Identify and prioritize high risk highway locations where wildlife vehicle collisions are common,

•Implement strategic wildlife vehicle collision countermeasures, and research methods in other jurisdictions,

•Increase (funds) for highway brushing,

•Decrease driving speeds on highways, particularly night time driving speeds in moose collision prone areas,

•Review and update wildlife signage (and increase ""smart signage"",

•Improve mortality data collection (through GPS and video) on trains and implement compensation for wildlife mortality. .Requiring clean- up of tracks (charge the railways!) from grain and other potential food debris is imperative.

Better Information

•Identify critical wildlife movement corridors and provide safe passage for wildlife where these corridors intersect highways.

.Study successes (Banff National Park and even international jurisdictions) and implement same

.Gather stats on human deaths and injuries - high cost!

.Research technological solutions (vehicle sensors) etc. to find potential solutions

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

•Reduce roadside attractants for wildlife (forage and mineral licks),

•Implement strategic wildlife vehicle collision countermeasures (fences with crossing locations/cameras to monitor animal movement and behaviours/fencing, especially in high collision areas and in critical habitats) and monitor the results - similar to Banff National Park

Jacqueline: I would like to see a beautiful British Columbia in which animals and humans can coexist. One of the best things about BC is the wealth of wildlife and the beautiful outdoors in which they exist. We need to show the world that it is possible to live in an area where wildlife is teeming. As humans we live in their world, we are taking animal's homes away from them, please don't trap them as well. If we can't live with nature and all she has to offer, how do we expect to be able to live peacefully with each other?

Thank you for reading this.

Kathy: I would love to see a more wildlife friendly approach taken with regards to their increased loss of habitat. BC does not need another ski resort or golf course in any of the sensitive areas ie: Jumbo, but not limited to there. There is also a lot of loss in areas where logging is allowed and shouldn't be, as near Stagleap around the last of the remaining mountain caribou. Human impact is entirely responsible for their decline, not wolves as the money mongers would have us believe. Our wildlife is precious, with every death we lose a little more of our beauty in this province. I would also like to see more Conservation officers, there seem to be very few of them looking after vast tracts of area. They have an important job to do, and shouldn't be compromised by lack of personnel. Thanks for listening,

Lorraine: Mankind and wildlife need clean air, clean water, unadulterated (poisoned food) to survive. The basics needs for survival for all of life is being destroyed by the greed of certain types of mankind.

Clean up the air by stopping chem trails, nature knows how to look after itself better than man's interference. Aluminum, boron etc. is killing life and making fires more likely.

Clean up the water by the above and to ban fracking which is destroying the life blood of the earth with its poisons.

Ban trapping and hunting until the land heals from all the wildfires, to restore a habitat for the wildlife.

Stop putting chemicals and poisons on the land and restore the microbiome of the soil.

No glycosate (round up) to be allowed and many other toxins being used. It is killing the soil and all life.

No more cell towers, smart meters, 5G,

Ban GMO food and all crops desiccated with glycosate.

Stop letting Corporations get away with murder, and then making the taxpayer /Gov't pay if they can't get their way. Eg. Gov't payout to corporation eg. ban on MMT additive to gasoline.

Time to set some new rules or all life is doomed, not just our wildlife.

The bullies quit once they are stood up to.

Gordon: Vehicles of any description can be useful to humans; however, we have become used to putting them anywhere we wish-and without due regard to consequences. Such 'entitlement' has created a culture of 'human desires first, all other. concerns (eg wildlife) second. And all too often this is a poor second(eg leads to demise of a local population). For most of the past half century,It has been well documented that roaded areas are the prime destroyer of wildlife habitat, as they fracture intact watersheds & disrupt migration corridors.Removal of many secondary forest roads (eg put them 'to bed') plus cancellation of any planned ones will greatly mitigate existing problems of wildlife population management.

Daniel: As a resident of this province, Fish and wildlife conservation matters to me. As a member of both the bcwf and the B.C. chapter of backcountry hunters and anglers I strongly echo their inputs and concerns in these issues. Prioritizing conservation and habitat, dedicated funding models and clear and decisive management plans as well as setting clear objectives for recovery of wildlife and fisheries.

Jack: Government Biologists and Bureaucrats have failed British Columbia's wildlife for the past 30 years. They are managing people not wildlife.

We have to be PROACTIVE with wildlife not REACTIVE.

Politics has to be removed from the management of our wildlife and our ecosystem; our environment has to come first.

British Columbia needs to have province wide predator control. We should be looking at a 90% survival rate for our ungulate calf populations, not 3 to 4%.

Politics have to be set aside for the betterment of our wildlife. Quit being scared of a boycott from other countries that will never happen and bring back wolf control.

Reinstate the Grizzly bear hunt. The Grizzly bear population, the Black Bear population, as well as, the Wolf population are at an all time high across the province. They need to be controlled to bring our calf survival back to where it should be.

Limited Entry Hunting and antler restrictions should have never been needed in BC. The Failure of Government and Biologists to endorse predator control has caused the decline of the ungulate population in the north.

Region 6 is still sitting on 3 wolves as a bag limit because the biologist has a personal bias. There should be no limit on wolves and open year round.

Every Regional Biologist must have a mandate to grow the Ungulate population. That's what their job should be, not figuring out how to divide an ever shrinking pie. They should be growing the pie.

All Terrain Vehicles have changed the landscape.

This needs to be addressed immediately for ALL USER GROUPS.

These machines can go any where in the North country. Our ecosystem can not regrow fast enough to cover the destructuion that these machines have made and continue to make. They should be contained to ROADS only.

10-20 years ago the back country was not under the assault that it is today because of these machines. Where one goes, others will follow creating a road, 20-40 kms back, in what used to be the untouched back country that is now damaged and degraded.

Managing Hunters is not WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. For 30 years this has been the model, it's not working and has not worked from the start. QUIT. Manage WILDLIFE for WILDLIFE

This is a pretty simple formula: Decrease Predators and Increase Ungulates.

Clayton: Folks,

Very happy to see this all going forward.

My thoughts:

Challenge 2: I think all stakeholders, including non-consumptive users, should have a say in BC's wildlife. I think public opinion and will are valuable social dimensions to guide wildlife, management, but would hope that all final decisions are grounded in science-based, defensible management that was the conservation of BC's wildlife in mind as a top priority over the wants of the stakeholders.

C3: Setting objectives is important, but also challenging and subjective. Nevertheless, developing population targets for wildlife that allow natural variation and considers the perspectives of stakeholders (for example hunters who want more elk, and ranchers who want fewer) will be a worthwhile pursuit. BC harbours some of the richest natural capital and wilderness in North America. Research programs should be used to support and test such objectives. Long-term monitoring programs would pay dividends if stratified across gradients of human disturbance, BC ecosystems, and hunting pressure.

C4: Managing road densities seems like a fruitful avenue to bolster the viability of wildlife populations while allowing the economic side of resource development to continue. Public access restrictions on forestry roads should yield benefits for many wildlife species, and it is no surprise that this recommendation was one of the top mitigation strategies recommended by the BC cumulative effects analysis pilot in the Elk Valley.

C5: I may be getting repetitive, but the use of science to produce evidence, which can be used to compare the efficacy of various mitigation measures when brought forward to stakeholders. Managing climate change and habitat loss are going to be some of the largest challenges to wildlife management over the next century. Mitigation measures may come at a cost to society, thus it is imperative that costly mitigation measures are effective and backed by rigorous science.

C6: The government could produce succinct, reports, not like the current unwieldy ones produced, and have them all hosted on an easily accessible website, which can be advertised. Finding government reports at the moment is difficult and inconsistent. Infographics are a very easy way to communicate ideas rapidly in a very short form too.

C7: Research. If we knew the answer, we'd solve it. Urban ungulates and town bears during food failures are both complicated situations born out of classical ecological dynamics: predator avoidance, conspecific avoidance, food subsidies, etc. The causes and solutions to conflict can be generated with dedicated work on this topic in BC to develop novel solutions.

C8: Increased funding will be required to generate the level of evidence required to manage BC's wildlife in a defensible manner. Hunters would likely pay more to hunt some species, but funding should look outwards to resource industries causing elevated pressure on wildlife, and to non-consumptive users that receive the benefits of wildlife but contribute little.

Maria: Hello

I was born and raised in europe.

When I immigrated over 30years ago, Wildlife was plentyful and it seemed everybody thought

they had the right to hunt.

To manage and retain a healthy wildlife population I believe following.

The Government needs to take some drastic steps to limit some of the hunting but recognize

that harvesting mature game, helps in the health of wildlife.

Example, harvesting mature old Grizzly's, keeps mortality rate of Moose,Caribou, Sheep down.

As the study in Alaska showed, that one Grizzly kills about 30+ Moose a year.

If the Government wants to take into consideration that First Nation live of Moose, then they should

step in and reconsider the Grizzly closure. That in itself will give Moose a better chance to re populate.

That said, I believe the Government has mismanaged the wildlife, in giving out too many LEH's and

in open areas Hunting licenses to residents.

There is no right to hunt for residents, it is a privilege. Just like it is a privilege to have a driver's license.

This is the first step that needs to be education around, people with privileges usually take care of their privileges.

People thinking it is their right, leads to abuse, this is where we right now.

If the Government does not do anything about the situation we are in now, then we will end up like europe.

Hunting clubs, for the chosen few and the clubs are responsible for retribution for any wildlife damage done.

I believe that right now, the Government has a chance to do the right thing and preserve the privilege of hunting for

the residents and the right for First Nation and Outfitters.

First Nations should be considered first for their right to harvest. Then the Outfitters rights to outfit. That is what the

Gov sold to them, which is closely tight to First Nations. This is the roots of outfitting. Our heritage.

Then the privilege of residents to hunt.

There should be more education provided to school kids about the benefit of hunting , responsible hunting and

responsible harvesting of game.

At the moment, in the north, what I have seen and heard, that there has been so much abuse and over harvesting

with everybody's attitude that they believe they have a right to get a Moose, Caribou, Goat or Sheep.

That attitude has to change. It is a privilege to harvest any of the game.

Hunters need to be educated, to harvest mature game and not have the attitude of : If it is Brown it goes Down.

Here in the north that is definitely the experience.

Resident of a LEH area should have the privilege to have first choice on all LEH's. In the north even the

non First Nation people live of Wild game.

Outfitters need to be more encouraged to donate as much meat as possible to local residents of where they outfit.

This in itself will reduce some hunting, when locals get meat, there is no need to harvest more.

If the locations are too remote, there should be a encouragement of the Government to set up donation stations.

Which can be used in return for the food bank etc.

The amount of money coming in as a result of hunting licenses etc, should be utilized for habitat, management , and

donation places set up.

Education should be brought into schools, in regards that our heritage is hunting and harvesting of the land, with that said

that there needs to be respect for the land and the wildlife.

The Government needs to take the lead and show the residents and the world that our Wilderness is not to be destroyed

just for the sake of MONEY. Mining causes so much irreversible damage to the land. The money does not stay in the

communities, it goes south or over sees, and we are left with devastated country.

What is taken out of the North needs to be put back into the North.

We do not need more rules, we need more education. It needs to start in the primary and elementary schools.

Thank you for your time

Joliesa: I'm borrowing this comment from Challenge 3: Declining Wildlife Populations that was posted by a gentleman names Scott. I wholly agree with all 5 of his point.

Scott:

1. All money from hunting tags, fees should go directly back into conservation. Another small tax needs to be implemented on other outdoor activities as well to help with habitat loss that they cause (mountain biking, ski resorts, dirtbiking, snowmobiling, etc). Note* every penny from a new tax needs to go directly back into habitat enhancement and protection.

2. Migration routes need to be protected and enhanced. Development needs to take serious consideration for this. Highway crossings need to be added where there are known migration corridors.

3. Forestry needs to do a better job and following science based protocols for wildlife. Stop spraying chemicals, stop planting one species of trees in a cut, Deactivating spur roads once done,No more old growth cutting. To name a few.

3. Predators, and more predators. This is something our government won't touch because of social politics. There is a boom in predator numbers, and they need to be controlled and managed. Again social politics needs to stay out of wildlife Management decisions as this is a touchy subject with the general public, just look at the absolutely wrong decision this was made on the sustainable grizzly hunt.

4. Protect and enhance habitat, this kinda goes without saying. More controlled burns, more habitat protection.

5. With saying all this it comes down to money, like I said before, we need more money to achieve this. Fish and game clubs, BCWF, wild sheep society, Rocky Mountain elk foundation, and all the hunters , fishers, trappers, guides, have been donating, and putting their own money and time into protecting wildlife more then anyone else in this province. It's time the government took a stand, listened to the ones who are so invested in this, and help.""

(Reference: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/wildlifeandhabitat/2018/05/22/challenge-three/#comment-173)

I would add that ending spraying, more prescribed burns, and better diversity among native trees to our forests after logging would be assets. Open leasehold or range lands for predator management in areas where ungulates and other wildlife are suffering.

Helping out our farmers, other wildlife, and our ungulate population, potentially drawing them back out of urban areas.

Thank you for taking the time to read these concerns/suggestions.

James: The efforts now being made for outreach and public engagement are appreciated, and reinforce that changes to wildlife and habitat management are needed.

For the purpose of my observations I separate stakeholders in wildlife management into 4 groups: First Nations, Industry (inclusive of recreational tourism and guide outfitters), Hunters and Conservationists (I define as members of the public with involved in boots on the ground activities), The public (anyone not included in the first three groups)

Reconciliation and consultation with First Nations is needed, but should not overshadow reconciliation and consultation with any other stakeholder. The process to date with all stakeholders this far have been more about demands and negotiation. This demand and negotiation process has proven to be an ill-suited method of managing renewable resources. Omitting any one stakeholder from a consultation process is just more of the same approach. Managing of wildlife and habitat should not be about what is best for stakeholders, but more about what is best for wildlife and habitat, and what is best for British Columbia.

I belong to the hunter and conservationist group. Our stake holder group actively provides funding by way of donations and license sales revenue we are now generating. Our group provides a considerable amount of data for biologists that comes at no cost to the public. Our group provides boots on the ground work in managing wildlife in accordance with the north American Conservation model with regards to predator management and management of carrying capacity of wildlife, which are some of our only tools to offset the negative impacts of industry. We provide boots on the ground and funding for organizations that are involved in habitat restoration projects. The contribution my group provides would be greatly increased by additional tax on the products we purchase if it were to be applied to wildlife and management as is the practice in many states. These are some of the contributions hunters and conservationists make to improve wildlife, habitat and British Columbia. My experience is that these contributions are not understood by the public, and are overshadowed by First Nations.

For each stakeholder group to understand what is best for wildlife, habitat and British Columbia, we all need to be educated on what each group can contribute, this is where we need to start.

Colby: Feed back,

Not only as a first responder but also as a hunter the elimination of the Grizzly bear hunt has had an impact on both sides.

I have been seeing more and more Grizzly bears in the hunting area MU 7-27 & 7-28, that i have not seen in the previous years.

Working in an isolated first nations community I personally have taken the time to speak to Elders, hunters and community members a like and all have said the same thing “why the hell did they do that in the first place, they are going to become more and more of a problem”,

I know of two that were dispatched by the first nation members and both reported to C/O service and this is only the first year.

It goes without saying that I am in full support of the Grizzly hunt and believe that for both Wild Life Management and conservation purposes it should be reviewed and re-opened.

Jack:
Time to reinstate the grizzly bear hunt. Far too many bears out there with no fear of man. We hunt moose in 7/06,and 7/08. Bears everywhere.

Clay: It is high time we start putting our wildlife in BC first. We are the most diverse ecosystem in North America and one of the least populated areas as you get 60 kilometers north of the US border. Yet we manage our wildlife on politics and opportunity over biology and longevity of the species. Please take the initiative to be the government that says NO we will do this the right way for our children and grandchildren. Let's sit down with all the concerned groups and find a way to keep BC beautiful. Increase our herds to sustainable numbers stop hunting the females of the species and regulate and restrict the harvesting of young immature animals let's give our wildlife a chance. Start burn projects for wildlife enhancement, initiate predator control to increase populations and use sound biology practices with a clear and concise plan of where and what we want these numbers to be. I want to be proud to live here again not embarrassed.

Steve: Listen to the people who care for the wildlife, use science not a left wing group with one objective

Rob: Good day,

BC's wildlife and habitat are nearing a point of no return, something drastic needs to be done before its to late! I support and work with several conservation organizations in BC, the people, volunteers, financial offerings speak for themselves! It's time BC pushed forward with sound scientific based wildlife management, no other option is acceptable...emotion based management has no place, get your votes elsewhere!!!!!

Thank you for your time,

Bradley: To Whom it may Concern;

Our family has been in the Outfitting business in BC since 1952. My wife and I since 1977. Employing local workers and supporting our local community, gas stations, airlines meat processing shops, taxidermists, grocery stores, car dealerships etc, the list goes on.

Our vision is for this province is a strong and stable guide outfitting industry and abundant big game populations for all to enjoy, today and in the future, for generations to come. Our Guide outfitter Association representing our voice of the guide outfitting family promotes conservation, stewardship and sustaiable use of our wildlife.

If we don't have abundant healthy populations we have no business, we are functioning as wildlife ranchers in the province, we as outfitters firmly believe what we appreciate, wildlife should have a value and should be considered in all land use decisions.

Currently the province is experiencing declines in many wildlife populations. This includes most ungulate populations, Moose, Elk, Caribou, Mule Deer. As we change the landscape with resource extraction. other species mostly preditors, are benefiting from the new landscape. If this government wants to correct this imbalance, swift and decisive action must be taken. As we have been told at local meetings with government, that the province is managing hunters not wildlife. If government is truly concerned about wildlife, auction must be taken in three specific areas, habitat, land use, and preditor control.

People cannot expect healthy wildlife populations without healthy forests. Not plantations, healthy forests are a biodiverse, functioning range of natural vegitation at various seral stages through the ecosystem. This type of diversity meets the needs for a broad range of wildlife species and produces a variety of ecosystem services including water purification, nutrient cycling, carbon storage, climate regulation, and wildfire suppression. However, in BC logging is occuring at an unsustainable rate and needs to be curtailed.The current status are insufficient. Free growing needs an overhaul, mounding in swamps and wetlands to grow trees must stop. Replanting needs to be minimized. There needs to be some insentive for forest licencees to plant a variety of species including decidious not just pine plantations. The use of chemical spraying killing off all the ground plants and fertilizing our forests must also be curtailed, this is killing our grouse as they eat the fertilizer thinking it is gravel.

Land-use decisions must be ecosystem-based and at a large land scape level, managed for all wildlife, not individual species. These decisions need to be science based and made with inclusion of both local and traditional knowledge, and colaboration of all stakeholders.

Wildlife mamagers need population objectives for preditors and prey. When they are out of balance, managers need to use all the tools to regain the wildlife balance, including lethal means.

Action taken in these three primary areas will produce a province with abundand wildlife.

Dave: To date this province has given little direction in regards to Wildlife Management Plans by Species, Forest Stewardship Plans have not put much effort into Wildlife Enhancement and in many cases the opposite. Removing hunting as a management tool based on politics instead of science is prejudice against hunters and sound management for Wildlife.

Michael: First comment is bc government is not serious about game management.

Second you want to safe the Selkirk herd good luck.

Third comment maybe when the caribou management plan came out you should of closed all there habitat to everything period. Not keep it open to waiting in summer, skidooing on clearcuts, logging which was still happening, backcountry skiing and so on. All of it should have shut down period

Jim: Let's start by prefacing myself. I have grown up in small communities. I have also read the UNDRIP and believe it to be approximately 180 years to late as it relates to British Columbia. The first priority is protecting environment and enforcing conservation laws.

Challenges 1&2

I see challenges 1 and 2 as interrelated. How does one give the Indigenous people of British Columbia a greater say in wildlife and habitat management without disenfranchising the non-government conservation groups whose members have donated countless hours to restoration of wildlife and habitat? There is a fear that non-aboriginal citizens of British Columbia will be shut out of much of their province and denied access to wildlife and habitat they have help restore.

Challenge 2

Wildlife needs to managed in a scientific manner and not done in the court of public opinion. I don't think I need to mention the grizzly bear hunting moratorium announced last fall as a glaring example but I will.

How does one weigh the opinion on wildlife between bicycle commuters in Vancouver and the parents in the interior whose children have a real possibility of a wildlife encounter on the way to the school bus? One group is indirectly affected by decisions while the other is directly affected. The same comparison can be made between graphic design artists and miners, loggers and ranchers. Who will see the greater impact of wildlife and habitat decisions?

Challenge 3

The amount of dollars that are allocated for wildlife and habitat conservation in British Columbia is a disgrace. Take look at the moneys allocated per person or per square kilometer compared to Washington, Oregon and Idaho and we are dead last by far. The threee states have had successful reintroduction programs, many times obtaining species from British Columbia. Hopefully they won't have to return the favor. Take a look at their models.

I fail to see how a management biologist can effectively manage a species without some knowledge of harvest rates. Knowledge of the aboriginal harvest rate of game species is essential. Failure to have this knowledge has the potential to put some big game species at risk.

The effects of the Ecotourism on Wildlife and Habitat needs to be studied. As an example: there are coastal rivers which have large numbers of float tours to view grizzlies. What effects is this having on bear behavior? Contrast this to the McNeil River which limits the number of viewing permits only allows viewing from a small patch of gravel.

Challenge 4

There needs to be more boots on the ground to help protect wildlife and habitat. The loss of habitat through development creates pockets of wildlife and the potential to loose subspecies in a single event becomes increasingly more likely. Tap local knowledge of wildlife corridors and work with private land owners to help maintain the corridors.

Challenge 5

I have taught my children that the only consistent in nature is change. Of all species that have existed on Earth, 99.9 percent are now extinct. Don't try to manage something you cannot manage.

Challenge 6

Do not exclude the knowledge of people on the land who are not aboriginal. Many of those that live and work in rural communities are acutely aware of their environment.

Additional comment

I sincerely hope this consultation does not have a predetermined outcome. The history of political parties pandering to their power bases in British Columbia has not made for good wildlife and habitat policy.

Marnie: Challenge 2: Increasing Involvement and Shared Stewardship

* How should a broad range of stakeholders be involved in wildlife management and habitat conservation decisions?

* What are your suggestions for a new governance model for wildlife management and habitat conservation?

People who kill animals by hunting and trapping should have much less say than they currently have.

People who kills animals by hunting and trapping should have much less say than people who actually care about our flora and fauna.

Conservationists, environmentalists, and those who actually care about our flora and fauna should have much more say.

And experts in the fields should be the ones listened to; politicians should stop spouting off about things that they know little, if anything, about.

Politicians should be listening to the scientists and other experts.

Challenge 3: Declining Wildlife Populations

* What measures need to be taken to proactively manage wildlife and habitat and prevent wildlife from becoming species at risk?

Stop destroying and killing our flora and fauna.

Research and studying with accurate measurements over time are needed.

Involve multiple stakeholders: Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people; government organizations and non-government organizations; people with both practical knowledge and theoretical knowledge; researchers and scientists from business and university settings; …

Err on the side of caution when doing something; first, do no harm.

Hold people accountable, especially government people – both those voted in and those appointed and/or hired.

Look at the big picture, the holistic picture; the entire ecosystem, not just one or two parts of it.

We should be stewards of the earth; instead, we are its destroyers. (sad)

Challenge 4: Increasing Human Activity

* What is the most effective way of ensuring that wildlife and habitats are healthy while fostering a healthy economy to ensure life is affordable for British Columbians?

Lessen access, especially to hunters and trappers, to our flora and fauna.

Access to our flora and fauna should be as non-destructive and non-damaging as possible.

Yes, we want people to be able to enjoy the outdoors recreationally, but they need to do so in ways that are safe for both them and for the flora and fauna.

Access by businesses needs to be done with controls in place with those controls actually being well-enforced – unlike in the past and even in the present.

Challenge 5: Wildfires and Extreme Weather

* What are the most effective ways to proactively adapt to the impacts of climate change to wildlife and habitats?

Stop wasting our resources, including our water.

Stop setting fires and do a better job of stopping fires after they have started by whatever causes.

Build ring roads and fire breaks around our towns and cities.

Lessen access to outside areas that are too dry.

Challenge 6: Better Information

How can Traditional Ecological Knowledge, citizen science and other forms of knowledge complement science to support decision-making?

* What are the best ways to share information broadly so that there is transparency and trust is gained among all parties?

Combine knowledge in a large online database which is available to all to look at.

Allow people to submit information to a database management group with the database management group making sure that anything added to the database is accurate.

Information that is wrong should, of course, not be added, except in such a way that it is clear that it is wrong, based on …

The status of information added should be clear to all.

----- Information is considered accurate based clearly on …

----- Information is considered to require more study, proof, or whatever with the current basis of the submission having based on …

Who is in the database management group and their credentials should be clear to all as well.

Decisions made should be based on the database information. Who has made the decisions and why should also be clear to all.

Challenge 7: Human-Wildlife Conflicts

* What are the most effective ways to reduce wildlife-human conflicts in British Columbia?

Lessen access to our flora and fauna. It should be a privilege, not a right.

Enforce leaving flora and fauna alone and, for example, not feeding wildlife, either directly or indirectly such as, for example, not preventing access to garbage.

Keep wildlife off of our roads and highways with appropriate fencing and far more wildlife corridors either over or under our roads and highways.

Stop killing wildlife; if and when necessary to do so, move animals; do not kill them.

Hire people to appropriately accompany and/or direct and/or educate and/or guide people, both locals and tourists, in order to keep both people and the flora and fauna safe

Challenge 8: Funding

* What are the best funding models, funding sources, and creative financing ideas that could increase resources for wildlife management and habitat conservation and provide additional flexibility for how funding is prioritized and allocated?

Access to our flora and fauna should be a privilege, not a right.

Charge for the privilege of access – especially access by businesses, hunter, and trappers.

Hunting and trapping should be discouraged with both hefty charges to be allowed access for hunting and trapping and even heftier charges for poaching - hunting or trapping without permission.

Enforce restrictions and use hefty fines as part of the punishment for not obeying restrictions.

Make sure that you have GOOD hidden cameras installed in many places.

Do NOT bother with poor cameras which do not allow for identification.

What good is a camera shows that someone is there but is so blurry, fuzzy, and unclear that about all that you can tell is that it is a human being?!?!?!?.

Install GOOD cameras.

The cameras should be real-time cameras with remote access which allow real-time notifications to real human beings who can immediately act and hopefully catch people in the act.

We need to not only stop destroying the world but also start restoring it or at least allow it to restore itself.

Robin: I am a bow hunter, (as are my two sons), in this province and I deeply care about the wildlife resources we have in BC.

I am deeply concerned with this current government and their attitude to only listen to the small minority groups that yell the loudest.

Wildlife proper management means watching the numbers of wildlife, limiting some species numbers in the allowed hunting season while ALSO increasing some species numbers that are out of line with proper management of all our wildlife.

Currently there are numerous groups trying to stop all hunting as it is their conviction to be vegetarian or that hunting is cruel but that is not the conviction of all BC citizens. I am deeply concerned that this small minority group speaking up will have a greater effect on the wildlife management process in BC with this current government.

I am also deeply concerned that the province has halted the Grizzly bear hunt as that will allow their numbers to grow uncontrolled and will effect human populated areas and end up in human life loss more than likely. The same is to be said by slowing or stopping the rapid increase in the wolf population in the province. Left unmanaged the wolves can have a drastic negative effect on all other wildlife species in this province.

PLEASE I beg you to talk to organizations like the Guide Outfitters Association of BC who have a very good handle on the wildlife management needs of BC as it is their livelihood to keep a prosperous wildlife situation in BC.