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SUBJECT			
Translocations of Native and Non-native Wildlife			

This Policy Replaces:

04.07.13.02 - Translocations of Wildlife and Non-Native Species (2001)

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Director
Regional Managers
Wildlife Management Staff
Ministry of Environment staff, including those in the Environmental Sustainability & Strategic Policy Division, and the BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Species-at-Risk Recovery Teams

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Ministry:

1. Translocations and relocations within the scope of this policy are designed and implemented in a manner that will benefit or cause no harm to the conservation of native wildlife and ecosystems;
2. Translocations and relocations are designed with
 - (a) an Implementation Plan, and
 - (b) a Post-release Monitoring Plan.
3. The Implementation and Post-release Monitoring Plans should provide quantifiable expected and actual measures of success with confidence intervals so that the Province can document whether the measures of success have been achieved including
 - i) the survival rate of captured wildlife,
 - ii) the survival rate of translocated wildlife,
 - iii) the percentage of translocated wildlife that remain at the new location, and
 - iv) the reproductive success of translocated wildlife;
4. The health and welfare of the wildlife is considered prior to, and during, the translocation or relocation, and adverse effects to the wildlife are minimized;
5. Translocations of native species to areas outside of that species' indigenous range can be considered for conservation introductions that are components of approved species-at-risk recovery plans;

PREPARED BY		AUTHORIZATION	
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POSITION	POSITION		
Policy Unit Head	Assistant Deputy Minister		
			DATE EFFECTIVE
			28 October 2015



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6. Translocations and relocations for the management of wildlife that come into conflict with humans should
 - (a) not cause adverse environmental effects,
 - (b) not require the Province to incur financial costs for the translocation or relocation, and
 - (c) meet the criteria in the procedure, 4-7-13.02 - Translocation of Native and Non-native Wildlife;
7. Translocations and relocations of non-native species should be prevented.

Definitions:

“animal” – means an amphibian, reptile, bird, or mammal as defined in the Wildlife Act (RSBC 1996 c.488).

“home range” – that area traversed by the individual in its normal activities of food gathering, mating, and caring for young (Burt 1943).

“indigenous range” – the known or inferred distribution generated from written or verbal records or physical evidence of the species’ occurrence. Where direct evidence is inadequate to confirm previous occupancy, the existence of suitable conditions within an ecologically appropriate proximity to proven range may be taken as adequate evidence of previous occupation. The indigenous range does not include range extensions caused by the intentional or unintentional movement of animals by humans (IUCN 2013).

“native species” - as defined in the *Wildlife Act* (RSBC 1996 c.488), is a species that

- (a) is indigenous to British Columbia, or
- (b) has extended its range into British Columbia from another part of North America, unless
 - i) the species was introduced to North America by human intervention or activities, or
 - ii) any part of the extension of its range within North America was aided by human intervention or activities.

“relocation” (see **translocation**) – the deliberate capture, transport, and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals within the animal’s home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010).

“translocation” (see **relocation**) – the deliberate capture, transport, and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals beyond the animal’s home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010) and includes

- (a) **“reintroduction”** – the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared (IUCN 2013);



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- (b) **“reinforcement or supplementation”** – the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of conspecifics (IUCN 2013), and
- (c) **“conservation introductions”** – the intentional movement and release of an organism outside its indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations of the focal species or to perform a specific ecological function (IUCN 2013).

“wildlife” - as defined in the Wildlife Act (RSBC 1996 c.488), means raptors, threatened species, endangered species, game and other species of vertebrates prescribed by regulation.

Reasons for the Policy:

Translocation and relocation of native wildlife can be a valuable management tool to conserve biodiversity (e.g., maintaining species abundance) and to protect or recover native species of concern. Translocation and relocation projects are vital to the province’s international responsibility to conserve and enhance natural biodiversity and native populations. Translocation and relocation also serve as tools for the management of wildlife that come into conflict with humans. Conversely, the translocation and relocation of non-native species can have negative effects on native biodiversity, so the translocation and relocation of non-native species should be prevented.

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7

Subsection:

- 02.01 Capture, Possession and Use of Raptorial Birds
- 04.01.3 Control of Species
- 12.05 Possession of Live Wildlife

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Procedure Manual, Volume 4, Section 7

Subsection:

- 02.01 Capture, Possession and Use of Raptorial Birds
- 04.01.1 Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
- 04.01.2 Management of Problem Wild Ungulates
- 04.01.3 Protecting Species at Risk from Other Species
- 12.05 Possession of Live Wildlife
- 13.02 Translocations of Native and Non-native Wildlife

Other Cross-References:

Burt, W.H. 1943. Territoriality and home range concepts as applied to mammals. Journal of Mammalogy 24(3):346–352.



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- Hopkins, J.B., S. Herrero, R.T. Shideler, K.A. Gunther, C.C. Schwarz, and S.T. Kalinowski. 2010. A proposed lexicon of terms and concepts for human–bear management in North America. *Ursus* 21(2):154–168.
- IUCN. 2013. Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland. 72 pp.