



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Environment

POLICY MANUAL

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SUBJECT
Control of Species

This policy replaces:

Protecting Red-listed Species from Other Wildlife
Wolf Control for Wildlife Management Purposes (Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 4.01.3)
Problem Wildlife Management (Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 4.01)

Staff, organizations directly affected:

Ministry staff responsible for: 1) the management and conservation of species, 2) the management and conservation of parks and protected areas, 3) preventing and responding to conflicts with species and 4) the issuance of permits under the *Wildlife Act*, *Park Act* and the *Ecological Reserves Act*
Any individual or group requesting a permit for the control of species

It is the policy of this Ministry to:

1. support the control of individuals or populations of native species that represent a significant risk to property or human safety except that control will generally not be applied for the purpose of protecting property unless reasonable preventative measures have been taken to avoid such conflicts,
2. support the control of individuals or populations of species where there is sufficient evidence or reason to believe that they represent a threat to the viability or recovery of a population that is 1) Red or Blue-listed or 2) not Red or Blue-listed species but designated as Special Concern, Threatened, Endangered or Extirpated under the federal *Species at Risk Act* provided that control to benefit these non-Red or Blue-listed populations is included in an accepted Recovery Strategy,
3. control native species in order to benefit populations of species at risk only in areas where the specific species at risk are not open to hunting, trapping, falconry capture or retention fisheries,
4. support the control of individuals or populations of non-native species where it can be justified (i.e. practical and the benefits outweigh the costs and risks) in order to reduce risks to property or human safety or benefit the conservation and management of native species and ecosystems,
5. ensure that all control of species is consistent with the following direction:
 - a) the preference is, where practical, for techniques that target individuals as opposed to populations except in the case of non-native species where techniques that target populations are preferred,
 - b) non-lethal techniques are preferred over lethal techniques where practical except in the case of non-native species where lethal techniques are preferred,
 - c) lethal techniques will only be used in exceptional circumstances on species at risk,
 - d) impacts to non-target native species should be minimized to the degree practical,
 - e) where legal harvest can effectively be used this will be preferred over lethal control,
 - f) control will not be applied in a manner that will threaten the long-term viability of a native species,
6. exempt potentially beneficial research on control from some elements of this policy as approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister,
7. ensure humane treatment, including appropriate care and handling, of the affected individuals from any species being controlled, and,
8. only control species for the purposes outlined in this policy except as approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister.

PREPARED BY	AUTHORIZATION
NAME Matt Austin	NAME Nancy Wilkin
POSITION Species Specialist, Large Carnivores	POSITION Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Division
SIGNATURE 	
DATE EFFECTIVE Feb 12/06	REVISION NO. 1



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Definitions:

Assistant Deputy Minister: the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment responsible for management and conservation of species.

Blue-listed Species: an indigenous species, subspecies or natural plant community of special concern in British Columbia as established by the Conservation Data Centre.

Control: actively limiting or reducing the population of a species through means other than legal harvest (does not include ecosystem management and conservation activities such as prescribed burns).

Native Species: individuals or populations of a species when within the natural range of the species.

Natural Range: the area occupied by a species as a result of its own movements including areas where the species has been extirpated as a result of human activities and excluding additional areas where the species occurs only as a direct or indirect result of its intentional or unintentional physical movement by humans or direct human physical intervention (e.g. constructing a bridge or fish ladder, water diversion or instream barrier removal) allowing it to move past a natural barrier.

Non-native Species: individuals or populations of a species when outside the natural range of the species.

Red-listed Species: an indigenous species, subspecies or natural plant community that is extirpated, endangered or threatened in British Columbia or that is a candidate for such a designation as established by the Conservation Data Centre.

Species at Risk: Red and Blue-listed species and species designated as Special Concern, Threatened, Endangered or Extirpated under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Reasons for Policy:

- To provide direction to Ministry personnel on the role of control in preventing and responding to conflicts with species.
- To provide direction to Ministry personnel on the importance of protecting species at risk where the viability or recovery of their populations is threatened by another species.
- To provide direction to Ministry personnel on the control of non-native species.
- To emphasize the preference for both non-lethal techniques and techniques that focus on controlling specific individuals as opposed to populations when controlling native species.
- To emphasize the preference for legal harvest over lethal techniques of control.
- To emphasize the need to consider and address the welfare of the affected individuals from the species involved in control programs.

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Procedure Manual Cross-reference:

Protecting Species at Risk from Other Species

Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores Procedure (Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 4.01.1)

Possession of Live Wildlife Policy & Procedure (Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 12.05)

Other Cross-references:

Wildlife Harvest Policy

Translocations of Wildlife and Non-native Species Policy (Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 13.02)

BC Parks Conservation Management Part 1: Conservation Program Policies (Wildlife Management)

Wildlife Act

Wildlife Amendment Act

Park Act

Ecological Reserve Act

Migratory Bird Convention Act

Fisheries Act (Canada)

Species at Risk Act

Forest and Range Protection Act

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