



Wildlife Habitat Features Order Consultation Summary – Kootenay Boundary Region

Many comments were received on the Kootenay Boundary Region Wildlife Habitat Feature draft Order and Guidance Document during the January to March 2017 information sessions and September to November 2017 consultation period. These comments and suggestions have been considered. The table below identifies issues raised during consultation and responses to these issues. It also identifies changes that have been made as a result of internal review.

Issue	Response
Guidance Document name	The name of the guidance document has been changed to Wildlife Habitat Features Field Guide.
Bat maternity roosts feature name	The name of this feature has been changed to bat nursery roosts. This change ensures the feature matches with the definitions provided in the provincial Best Management Practices for Bats in British Columbia – 2016. Making the definition match will hopefully reduce potential confusion when agreement holders use the Bat BMPs for additional information.
Fisheries Sensitive Feature (FSF): Current definition within the guidance document is too broad. Literal interpretation would result in all freshwater areas with depths less than 10m defined as a fisheries sensitive feature, regardless if it contains fish or not.	The Kootenay Boundary Region has decided not to include Fisheries Sensitive Features (FSF) in the Wildlife Habitat Feature Order at this time. The original intent of the FSF was to capture features not adequately protected by existing legislation and regulations, as per Section 11 of the Government Actions Regulation. The definition of FSFs is taken directly from the Forest Planning Practices Regulation 1(1) and includes non-native fish species as well as a broad spectrum of aquatic habitats. Without the ability to change the definition it was decided that FSF could not be included. At such a time that the definition is changed or a new feature defined an amendment to the Order may occur.
Include guidelines on recommended buffer sizes	Complete. Each feature chapter now has a section specific to the Kootenay Boundary Region that includes timing windows, geographic location information and buffer guidance.
Provide information on other applicable legislations and which features are covered	Complete. This section was added to the introduction of the Field Guide
Create a customizable document so that users aren't required to print all features	Complete. Website links set up to allow download of the entire document or individual feature chapters.

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Provide information that will help narrow down which WHFs might occur where such as BEC associations	Complete. Each feature chapter now has a section specific to the Kootenay Boundary Region that includes timing windows, geographic location information and buffer guidance.
The definition of and guidance for “significant” for licks and wallows needs to be more clear regarding how to determine significance.	Additional information added.
Breeding bird windows are not always consistent with Migratory Bird Convention Act guidance	<p>Guidance from federal government on migratory bird timing windows is set at a broad level and notes that “this period varies regionally across Canada mainly due to differences in species assemblages, climate, elevation and habitat type”.</p> <p>Regional specific timing windows have been provided and may differ from the information provided from the federal government as it reflects regional variation as result of climate, elevation and habitat. Breeding bird windows will vary from region to region within the province, across a region and from year to year.</p>
Provide a better definition or additional information on the considerations for meeting due diligence	Complete. Additional information provided in the introduction section of the Field Guide.
Can additional Wildlife Habitat Features be added to the Order?	Additional Wildlife Habitat Features may be added in the future. We are not accepting proposals for additional Wildlife Habitat Features at this time.