

SPECIES AT RISK WORKSHOP

Engagement Report



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

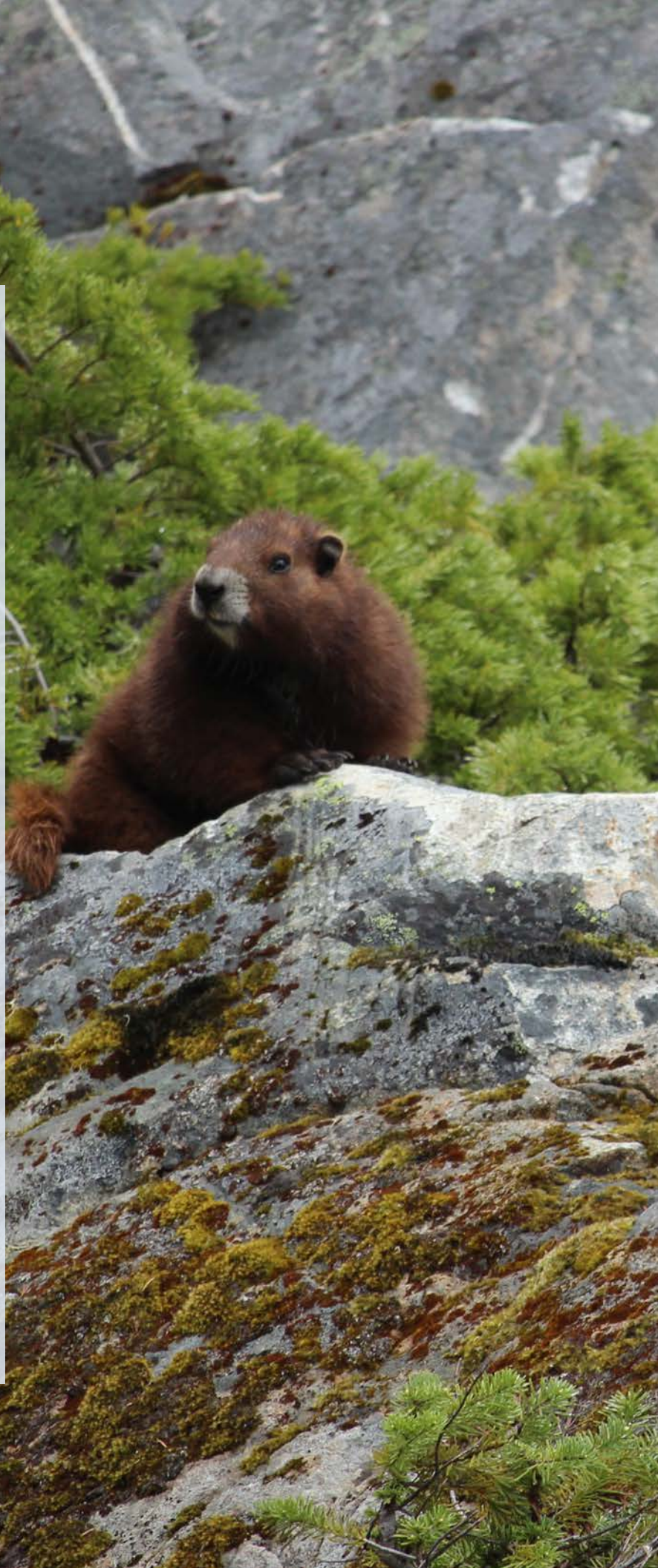
Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document summarizes a multi-stakeholder engagement workshop hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) that took place on June 13 and 14, 2018 in Richmond, B.C. During this workshop, stakeholders from various sectors shared their perspectives and provided input regarding the process for developing species-at-risk legislation, as well as the supporting regulations, policies and programs. The engagement with stakeholders from diverse agencies and organizations was intended to inform the Ministry of multiple perspectives and allowed for collaborative relationships to be established.

The different perspectives represented at the workshop included those from a range of industry, environmental organizations, academics, local governments and professional organizations. The diversity of participants resulted in a range of different hopes, concerns and suggestions. However, several themes emerged over the course of the two-day workshop.



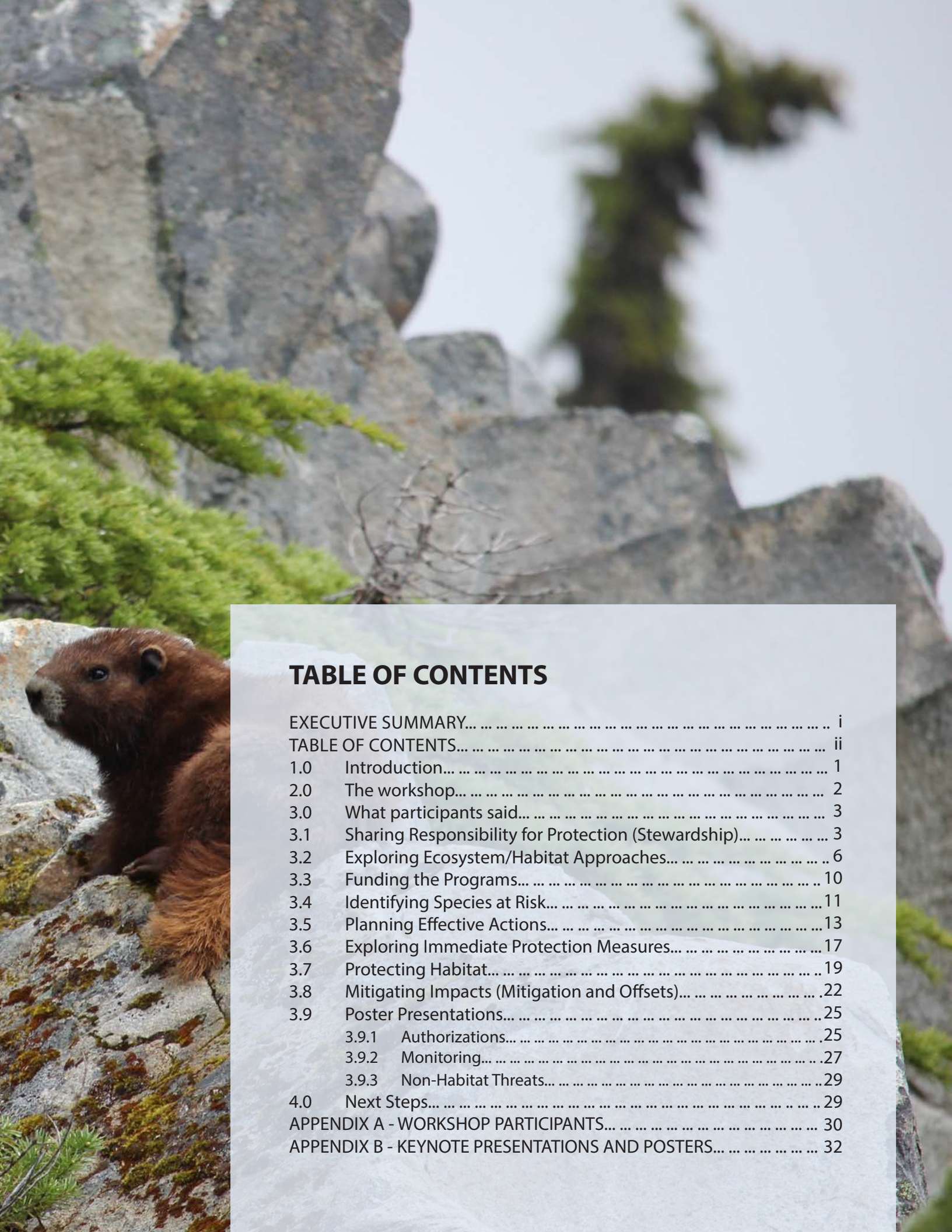


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1.0 INTRODUCTION


Image: Golden Paintbrush by Karen Stefanyk

In July 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Ministry) was given the mandate to develop and enact species-at-risk legislation and to harmonize other laws to ensure they all work toward the goal of protecting our beautiful province.

The Ministry launched a three stage engagement process to solicit ideas for the development of supportive regulations, policies and programs, and to foster the strong, collaborative relationships needed to achieve better outcomes for species at risk. Concurrent but separate engagement processes were held for stakeholders and Indigenous nations across British Columbia.

FIRST STAGE – UNDERSTANDING PERSPECTIVES:

The purpose of this stage is to better understand the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous peoples and stakeholders about species-at-risk legislation.

WE ARE HERE! 

SECOND STAGE – IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS:

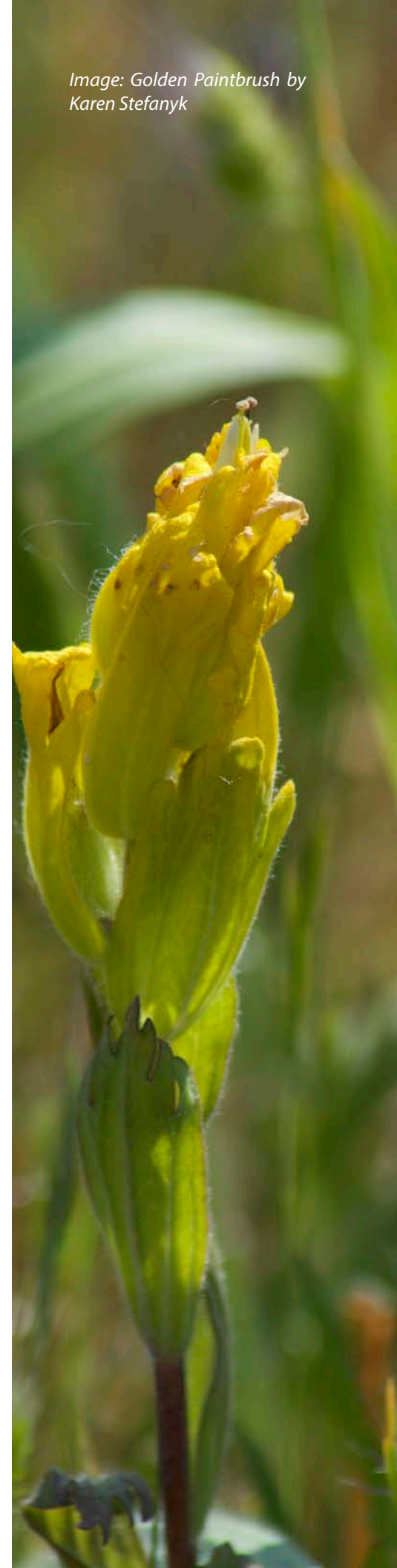
The purpose of this stage is to continue discussing the problems, concerns, and potential impacts identified in Stage 1 and to find ways to address them. This will be the opportunity to share creative ideas about what people think B.C.'s species-at-risk policy and legislation should achieve.

Based on the feedback from the first and second stages of engagement, the ministry intends to publish a discussion paper that outlines specific policy proposals about how government intends to protect species at risk. Government will invite all British Columbians to comment on the discussion paper.

THIRD STAGE – REFINING SOLUTIONS:

Feedback from the discussion paper will help to refine the policy that will form the legislation. After that, we will continue to carry out engagement as we develop and implement the legislation and supporting regulations and policies.

This paper summarizes comments provided at a workshop with organizations and experts with an interest in species-at-risk. Groups from various backgrounds were invited to attend, creating a diverse and dynamic group to work with the Ministry to identify approaches to building effective legislation.



2.0 THE WORKSHOP

On June 13 and 14, 2018, the Ministry hosted an interactive stakeholder workshop in Richmond, BC on the x̣m̄əθk̄w̄əȳəm (Musqueam) traditional territory with representatives from the public and private sectors, not-for-profit and industry organizations to better understand a diverse array of perspectives about species-at-risk legislation and how species-at-risk protection relates to their work. A list of all organizations and ministries present at the workshop is provided in [Appendix A](#).

Keynote speakers included Dr. Kai Chan, Dr. Peter Arcese and Dr. Tara Martin from the University of British Columbia. Keynote presentations are included in [Appendix B](#).

During the workshop, participants were asked a series of questions which encouraged them to reflect on how their work relates directly or indirectly to species-at-risk protection and recovery, focusing on eight aspects of protection:

- **Topic 1:** Sharing Responsibility for Protection
- **Topic 2:** Exploring an Ecosystem/Habitat Approach
- **Topic 3:** Funding the Programs
- **Topic 4:** Identifying Species at Risk
- **Topic 5:** Planning Effective Actions
- **Topic 6:** Exploring Immediate Protection Measures
- **Topic 7:** Protecting Habitat
- **Topic 8:** Mitigating Impacts

The workshop was divided into two days of discussion: the first day focusing on Exploring issues and Options for each topic and the second focusing on Setting Directions. There were three rounds of discussion on each day, allowing attendees to freely choose which topics to discuss.

At the start of each round, Ministry staff provided an introductory presentation to set the context for each topic. Participants then worked with a facilitator to generate discussions on a set of topic-related questions. Participants shared their ideas with the group and ideas were then grouped into five key insights and summarized.

Feedback was also solicited on the following topics from interactive posters present at the workshop space:

- Authorizations (Permits, Exemptions, building on success)
- How can we better facilitate monitoring of species at risk in British Columbia?
- Exploring Ways to Address non-habitat threats

The posters were collected at the end of the workshop, summarized (Section 3.9) & included in [Appendix B](#).

Following the workshop, all breakout session worksheets were collected and transcribed in detail by the third-party contractor, MODUS, and provided to the policy teams for further consideration.

The information that was gathered was complex and diverse. This document records some of the main themes and messages that were provided.

3.0 WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

Participants provided ideas and solutions for the management of species at risk and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be part of a multi-stakeholder discussion.

3.1 SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION (STEWARDSHIP)

The purpose of this session was to establish an understanding of stewardship actions to safeguard species at risk. Stewardship is a widely used term that can have many different meanings. In the broadest sense, stewardship encompasses actions that are beneficial to species and ecosystems and may be undertaken by individuals, governments, industries, non-government organizations, Indigenous peoples and other land holders. Acting proactively can be more flexible, sustainable, and could be achieved at a lower cost than actions which are required by regulation. This session explored what potential proactive stewardship actions could look like and what is needed to encourage and sustain them. A summary of the discussions is provided below.

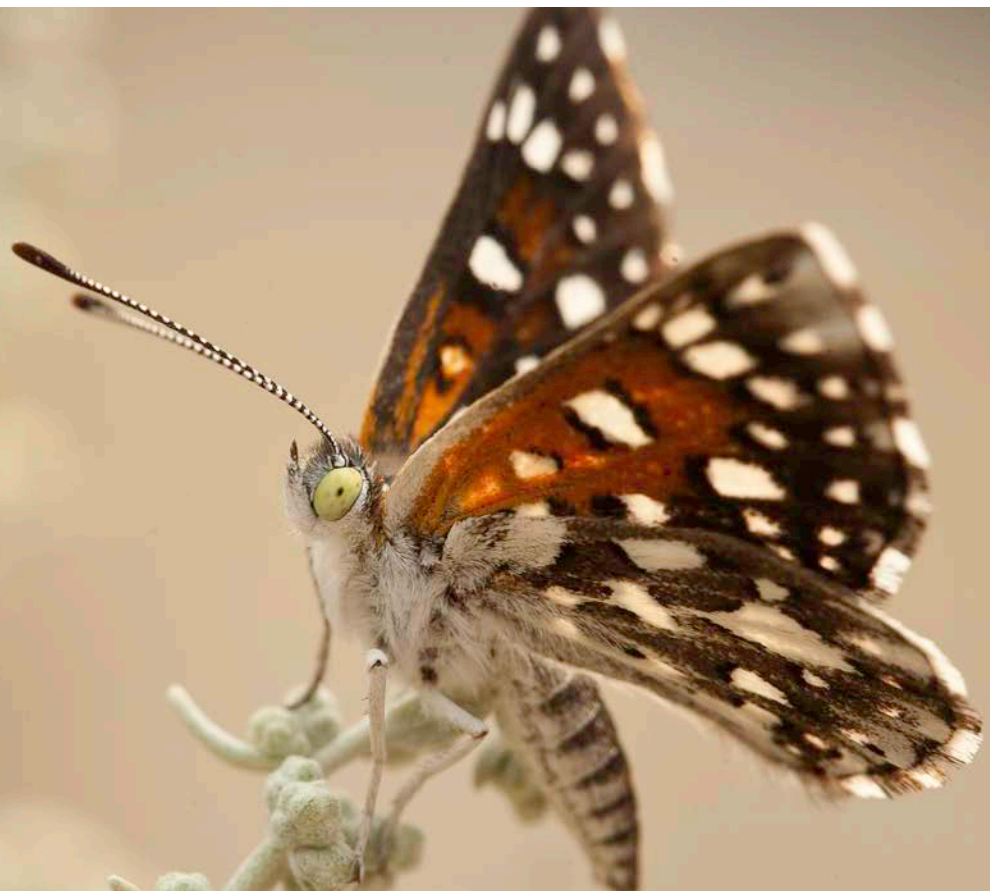
What strategies would promote proactive and voluntary stewardship of species at risk and their habitat in areas where you live or operate on the land?

Several participants stressed the importance of an overarching stewardship program that is flexible, adaptable, and open to strategic innovation. It also needs to be within a clear and enforceable regulatory framework where funding is consistent and reliable.

Many participants spoke of the benefit of working together to make species-at-risk education personal and relatable to help encourage positive, long-term behavioral changes where needed. This could happen through outreach, facilitation, and support for positive actions from communities, industry, businesses, and consumers. Stewardship works best when it revolves around local communities and relationships and follows a collaborative approach of restrictions and incentives (complimentary to legislation).

Image: Mormon Metalmark by Jared Hobbs

We must all make stewardship of species at risk a social norm, including “corporate responsibility” and “recognizing footprint reduction”.



Many participants expressed the importance of education for stewardship activities. For landowners and managers, the presence of species at risk is often seen to be a detriment, as they oftentimes incur costs associated with the avoidance and protection of the species at risk. Some examples include costs associated with inventory and monitoring by industry professionals, or loss of full use of land (e.g., maintaining a wetland or vegetated area where a known species at risk's habitat occurs).

The overall perception needs to be shifted so that species-at-risk are seen to be a benefit as opposed to a detriment. One way to promote proactive and voluntary actions could be to provide a variety of incentives, targeting audiences from private landowners to large corporations. Some examples included awards, financial incentives (e.g., tax relief), accreditation, and acknowledgement through media and signage to recognize species-at-risk work.

What are the greatest barriers, challenges, and concerns that you have about taking stewardship actions for species at risk?

In general, one of the largest barriers for stewardship actions is the current lack of legislation requiring action. Stewardship initiatives currently are **voluntary** which leads to an overall lack of participation. Additionally, a concern was raised that a voluntary approach may not meet the federal Species at Risk Act's requirement for "effective protection".

Many participants said that there is a greater need for provincial and local governments to effectively and transparently communicate priorities for stewardship actions to land users, managers, Indigenous peoples, and the public. There is also a need for additional information, data, and expertise to help balance conflicting priorities. The Province needs to set direction for stewardship actions within a greater framework with clearer objectives and commitments to evaluating their effectiveness and contributions.

Access to funding was also raised as an issue and, under the current scheme, the process is perceived as being bureaucratic, short-sighted, having a resource-intensive application process, and not supportive of a diverse and innovative set of options for beneficial actions for species at risk.

Based on the categories and examples of stewardship tools (e.g., incentives and programs) presented and discussed: which tools most effectively address the needs, challenges, and concerns you have?

In response to this question, participants reiterated the need for a full, comprehensive, and long-term stewardship program with multiple tools and funding available. Essential elements of the program include: education; provincial guidance for informed prioritization of activities; collaboration with organizations, landowners, and managers; and stable funding. Additionally, there is a need to have some requirements for beneficial actions to species at risk included within the legislation.

Participants suggested that employing public education that is well-researched, incentivized, and targeted at shifting people's behavior by creating new "social norms" would be an effective way to address some of the barriers, challenges, and concerns around promoting stewardship actions. Public awareness and behavioural change associated with recycling over the past few decades was highlighted as a useful example.

Some participants suggested taking a regional approach and encouraging local ownership and shared responsibility from multiple stakeholders in decision-making and stewardship activities. One suggestion was to create or provide ongoing support to stewardship committees for industries with shared interests or practices to increase efficiency of stewardship and provide compliance support and expertise.



*Image: Edith's Checkerspot, taylori subspecies
by Jennifer Heron*

Some participants suggested the following:

- use a centralized online database or platform to disseminate information such as provincial and local priorities for species at risk;
- establish a location where specific threats to species within a locality are provided along with actions required to stop and reverse the species decline; and
- a database could potentially provide a central source of information where stewardship successes could be listed, tracked and actions monitored, and where common industry practices or Best Management Practices could be provided and used as a tool to report on stewardship initiatives.

What other tools can be brought in to support the protection of species at risk and their habitat?

Participants suggested additional tools including:

- incentivized non-legal agreements;
- partnerships (private landowners and non-governmental organizations);
- awards, recognition and signage;
- financial incentives (royalty or tax credits, payment for ecological services);
- funding for land purchases, donation and covenant; and
- market-based certification programs.

What tools and strategies can be employed to ensure that no sector, landowner or land manager perceives that they bear an unfair or disproportionate burden for stewardship of species at risk and their habitat?

Many participants suggested tools and strategies mentioned in the previous questions. Education was raised as one of the most effective ways to combat the perceived notion of unfairness. Participants also stated that access to funding and incentives needs to be available to all land users and managers, and promoted with increased awareness of what funding is available and for which activities. There is a need for a set of consistent rules and enforcement across sectors that would complement actions being required within regulations.

Additional considerations included:

- ensuring there is proportional responsibility for those that benefit from using an area;
- being open and transparent about what the perceived burdens of dealing with species at risk are for each sector;
- providing recognition and avenues for landowners and managers to communicate about activities they are a part of;
- using a centralized database or online platform to communicate information; and
- allowing for flexible solutions such as conservation banking, offsetting, reverse auctions, protection of habitat on low quality agricultural lands, and payment for ecological services.

How can previous and current stewardship initiatives by sectors, landowners and land managers be recognized and built upon, so that government does not impede the work currently being done?

Some of the suggestions participants offered on how previous and current stewardship initiatives could be recognized and built upon included:

- creating a recognition program with awards and incentives for positive contributors;
- reinvigorating and supporting monitoring of established stewardship initiatives to ensure original objectives are being adapted and met;
- ensuring new legislation does not impede the conservation work being done by taking away current funding sources or by applying additional levels of bureaucracy or legal requirements to projects that are currently resulting in positive conservation outcomes for species at risk; and
- balancing socio-economic benefits from land use and species-at-risk stewardship.

Some concluded that: “the more you benefit from the land, the more you should support stewardship”.

3.2 EXPLORING ECOSYSTEM/HABITAT APPROACHES


Through previous engagement initiatives respondents indicated that a single-species approach, where management actions are designed around a focal species, is not necessarily effective in recovering species at risk. While some species may benefit from single-species recovery actions, there are complimentary options like ecosystem-based, area-based, or multi-species-based approaches which should be considered.

This session was aimed at exploring options in addition to a single-species approach. A summary of these discussions is provided below.

In your opinion, what should the goals of ecosystem-based or multi-species approaches be when protecting species at risk?

Suggested goals of ecosystem-based approach to protecting species at risk included:

- protecting groups of species at risk as efficiently and effectively as possible;
- conserving collections of rare or threatened species found or associated-with defined ecosystems;
- proactively, not reactively, conserving B.C.'s biodiversity which includes preventing species from becoming threatened;
- conserving rare or threatened ecosystems recognizing their dynamic nature through adaptive management;
- promoting management of species and ecosystems at multiple scales; and
- ensuring connectivity between habitats and landscape features.



“Ecosystem-based approaches are a policy-driver for innovation to improve land-use practices to be more compatible with species at risk protection.”

Participants expressed the importance of considering socio-economic objectives in decision-making when considering alternate approaches, and suggested that using models like regional land-use planning be inclusive of all stakeholders in an area and be considered as early in the planning process as possible.

What do you see as benefits of these approaches when protecting and recovering species at risk?

Participants suggested a wide array of benefits to an ecosystem-based approach which included:

- providing proactive protection or management for species before they become at risk, especially species that more commonly occur in B.C.;
- being more effective at managing threats to species at risk;
- enhancing resiliency to climate change which may result in a better probability of long term success leading to quicker recovery actions such as protection measures because of a planning process that covers multiple species; and
- providing a more effective avenue for incorporating Indigenous knowledge, stewardship, and landscape practices.

Participants also felt that an ecosystem-based approach could:

- enable protection of ecosystem services (i.e., provisioning of clean drinking water, decomposition of waste, or natural pollination of crops and other plants);
- integrate broader ecological connections thereby protecting species at risk;
- help manage species we may not know enough about to develop a single-species based plan for;
- be more effective in managing cumulative effects; and
- be more easily measured than quantifying single-species specific actions and outcomes.

What are your concerns for these approaches?

Participants expressed a variety of concerns with an ecosystem-based approach. The main concern was how an ecosystem-based approach is defined, what its parameters are, and how to define the scale. Concerns raised by participants expanded to discussing multiple models beyond an ecosystem-based approach, including alternatives such as habitat-based, multi-species-based, and area-based approaches.

Concerns included:

- considering socio-economic impacts when establishing an ecosystem-based approach and ensuring the ability to manage and account for multi-species and multiple land uses within an area;

- the significant amount of time and effort it will take to establish;
- introducing expectations for compensation if stopping or changing activities previously authorized within an area of concern;
- if areas of protection and objectives are defined without clear boundaries or by habitat elements or features, it could potentially lead to a lack of certainty and guidance on what is or is not permitted in an area, making enforcement and measuring success more difficult; and
- the scale by which a multi-species approach could be applied: if it is too small it may ignore the larger scale landscape process and context; if it is too large, activities may be too daunting to execute on the landscape.

A discussion regarding meaningful adaptive management strategies raised some concerns about how success on a multi-species/ecosystem-based model would be measured, and how meaningful adaptive management would be applied. Success would be difficult to measure, and ongoing, continuous monitoring, and constant readjustment is needed to ensure overall goals and objectives for the species-at-risk program are being met.

What are your main ideas for what an ecosystem-based or multi-species approach could look like and how it would best function?

Some ideas for specific elements for an ecosystem-based or multi-species approach were:

- using the existing **Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)** in B.C. Species could be assigned BEC units and then be ranked in a variety of ways including site series which have the highest percentage of species at risk. Areas are delineated spatially, and polygon types could be classified by age class, productivity level, subzone variant, or (ideally) site series could be used to help prioritize areas to manage.
- using **other area-based approaches** such as landscape planning units, natural disturbance areas, and/or watersheds. For example, units could be biologically rather than administratively based and could be managed with a specific set of guidelines with the objective of protecting or conserving ecosystem function(s) such as connectivity, sensitive or old habitat types, and maintaining adjacent key habitat types.

In a region in which multiple species at risk have a significant portion of their distribution in B.C., priority areas could be selected where there are overlapping threats and where implementation of recovery actions would benefit multiple species. Outcomes could be prioritized on synergies and efficiencies that are expected to lead to positive trajectories for individual species.

A multi-level model could include three levels of consideration such as:

1. defining and identifying critical habitats, recovery objectives, and guidance for mitigation for each species;
2. listing and protecting 'at-risk' ecosystems or ecological communities, biodiversity hot spots, or species-at-risk hot spots; and
3. landscape-scale planning for longer term resilience and connectivity to reduce the need for other scales.

Some participants suggested clearly identifying geographic areas or specific ecosystems and the species at risk within them to communicate concise expectations for those areas, while others identified that geographic boundaries are constantly shifting (i.e., forest stand age) and therefore should not be identified spatially but include guidance on specific habitat elements and features important to the ecosystem, area, or for multiple species.



Image: Painted Turtle by Jared Hobbs

Participants also suggested additional ideas including:

- moving away from species specific “critical habitat” and shift thinking towards the broader perspective of “critical ecosystems”;
- looking at the regional growth strategy approach used by local governments. The strategy considers the provincial framework and focuses approaches to achieve the greater regional and provincial objective. This method may be beneficial to get land users and managers to the table and establish regional plans; and
- using and enacting tools within existing statutes such as the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA).

How would you measure the success of an ecosystem-based approach in terms of species at risk conservation?

Most comments fell into two themes: measuring outcomes for species at risk and measuring program and process implementation.

Some suggestions on how to measure success for species at risk within an ecosystem-based approach were:

- measuring the number of species at risk with decreased probability of extinction or extirpation achieved over a defined reporting period;
- measuring how well a species is achieving historical distribution and self-sustaining abundance, such that local populations persist over time and space without further human intervention;
- measuring species and/or ecosystems resiliency, redundancy and effects on threat abatement;
- measuring species population numbers against short and long-term targets in accordance with species’ recovery objective; and
- measuring the amount of area [in hectares] protected that is considered an ecological hotspot.

Some suggested the way to measure success of an ecosystem-based approach compared to a single-species approach was to measure the cost effectiveness between the single-species only model and the combination of a single-species and ecosystem-based approach.

Other success indicators included:

- availability for consistent and predictable long-term, cross ministry funding;
- multi-stakeholder regional management and monitoring programs;
- increased public awareness for species at risk; and
- various protection measures employed at different spatial scales, based on science, and involving different management approaches, especially with First Nations.

3.3 FUNDING THE PROGRAMS

This session was focused on exploring funding models for species at risk in British Columbia and was only offered on Day 2 of the workshop. All questions were aimed at exploring different funding needs. Options and possibilities that were discussed are summarized below.

What funding resources are available and what is missing?

Participants in this session brainstormed and provided a list of current and available funding sources. Answers were then categorized into the following funding sources: private, local government, provincial, and federal.

Participants provided examples of where they felt funding options were absent and/or lacking. Answers included:

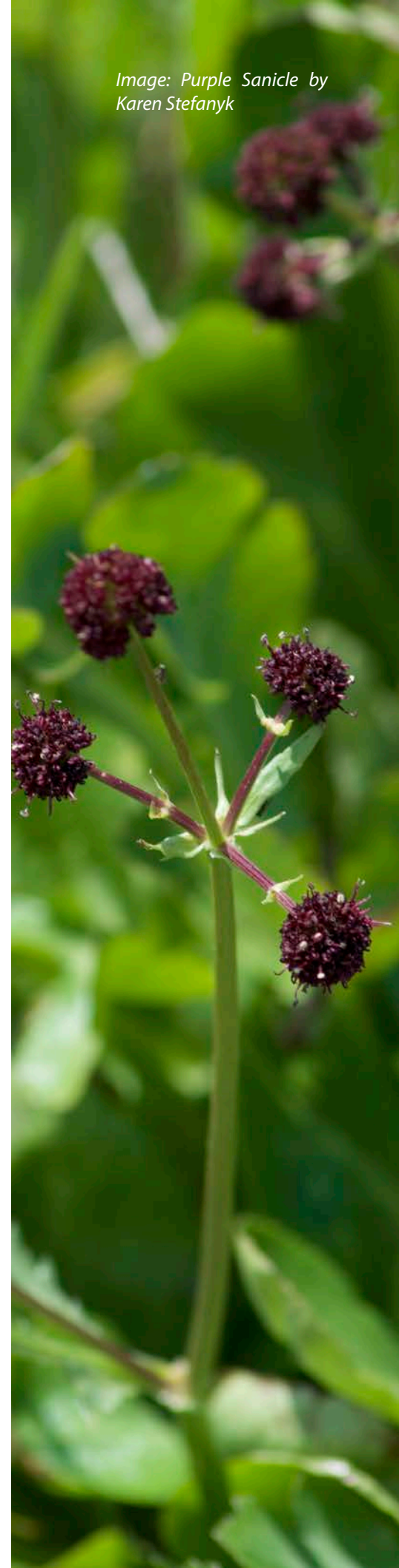
- long-term rather than annual project funding;
- funding for costs such as restoration, long-term or ongoing conservation and stewardship efforts, and legal fees associated with the securement of lands that are considered 'hot spots' for species at risk; and
- funding for resources such as qualified professionals to help train groups working with species at risk or additional B.C. Conservation Data Centre staff to provide up-to-date data.

How can we ensure funding is available on a stable, strong, long-term basis?

Participants suggested the following:

- allocating resources from general revenue to a dedicated fund;
- if a dedicated fund is established, then private funding into species at risk should only be considered to supplement provincial funding;

*Image: Purple Sanicle by
Karen Stefanyk*



- funding should be shared by local and provincial governments, industry, and landowners;
- an overall funding model should have a guiding framework and some elements should be enabled under the Act; and
- funding should align with other sources of funds available.

What other innovative funding models or tools do you think should be explored?

Participants suggested the following:

- providing an opportunity to create more regional conservation funds;
- removing current government practices that create a disincentive for species at risk and re-investing this money towards actions that are beneficial to species and/or ecosystems;
- using income tax for general revenue;
- using taxes or fees associated with
 - recreational activities, equipment and parks access;
 - threats to species at risk; and
 - natural resource extraction and/or surcharges including permits, licenses, and access fees
- offsetting payments and penalties associated with the enactment of the Act;
- procuring donations through programs or a lottery;
- creating an endowment fund; and
- creating a private incentive program that includes tax shifting (relief for some landowners and increase for others), using market-based tools, biodiversity trading, and payment for ecological services.

How can we ensure that actions most likely to result in species recovery (greatest return on investment) are funded?

Ideas included having dedicated, secure funding for a recovery program, and having criteria, based on science and Indigenous knowledge, which inform priority actions.

Some participants recommended using Dr. Tara Martin's "[Priority Threat Management](#)" ([Appendix B](#)) framework which involves shifting to a multi-species, regional focus and prioritizing actions, not species, to ensure the greatest return on investment with collaboration from stakeholders in the area.

Even though the question was not specifically asked, many participants proposed ideas on how funding for the species at risk program should be managed, such as the creation of a framework for managing the funds that is accountable, fair, transparent, inclusive, uses trusted scientific data, and is arms-length from government.

Suggestions for the overall governance and decision-making associated with the management of the fund(s) included the creation of a committee, including government and non-government staff. The committee could oversee all funds and distribute them for priority actions. Priorities could be identified by an independent body such as a scientific advisory panel, multi-stakeholder board, regional or ecological units committee, or a combination. Other participants proposed that the fund be created within the existing [Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation](#) (HCTF) framework.

3.4 IDENTIFYING SPECIES AT RISK

This session was focused on assessing the status of species at risk in British Columbia and was only offered on Day 1 of the workshop. All questions were aimed at exploring how to identify which species are at risk, and are summarized below.

When information on a species is incomplete, how do we balance the risk of failing to protect a species that is apparently at-risk against the importance of only protecting species truly at-risk?

Participants discussed the difference between information that is on hand and information that is a result of additional research and inventory. There was worry amongst some participants that a “data deficient” category could lead to a lack of action to protect or recover a species. Some participants recommended that when species are determined “data deficient” it should trigger a requirement to do an inventory and research trends and threats within a defined timeline.

A key theme was the precautionary principle, wherein the lack of data should not preclude action to conserve a species. Many participants expressed their desire for a transparent, scientifically robust, and internationally accepted method to assess species. Some participants felt species should only be legally listed where robust data supports it.

What values do you feel are most important when assessing the status of species at risk? For example: independent of outside influence; based solely on science; etc.

Discussions on this topic focussed on species assessment being conducted based on science and Indigenous knowledge, in an objective and unbiased fashion. Several participants thought the assessment process should be free of socio-economic considerations, conducted independently, and free from political influences. Where possible, previous data and/or analyses should be incorporated for efficiency, and assumptions and limitations should be acknowledged and specifically stated. Finally, some participants felt that assessment should include a focus on species’ range, distribution, abundance, threats, and should specifically include consideration of climate change and cumulative effects.



Image: Marbled Murrelet by J Cragg

What factors or criteria do you think should be considered when determining which species should be a priority for status assessment or legal listing? For example: amount of range that occurs in British Columbia; severity of threat; etc.

Participants offered several ideas on species attributes that should be considered:

- species listed by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC);
- species thought to be at-risk of extinction or under high levels of threats;
- species that are only (or largely) found in British Columbia;
- species with global or regional significance;
- the role of the species within an ecosystem (e.g., umbrella species); and
- the species' biological and ecological features such as trend, abundance, distribution, habitat rarity, and scarcity relative to original distribution.

When determining which species should be assessed and/or listed, participants recommended considering the likelihood and/or feasibility of recovery, specifically including a cost-benefit analysis and the ability to mitigate threats, and the overall quality of data available.

Some participants felt species should be prioritized for assessment or legal listing based solely on science; while others felt prioritization should also consider values such as Indigenous cultural importance and socio-economic considerations.

Many participants supported having a scientifically robust, open, and transparent process that is free from influence, to conduct species assessment. There were different opinions about the degree to which the precautionary principle should be applied, but there was a general view that assessments should be done using the best data possible.

3.5 PLANNING EFFECTIVE ACTIONS

Planning for the recovery of species plays a central role in most species at risk programs. The purpose of this session was to explore approaches to planning and subsequent decision-making that focused on achieving positive outcomes for species at risk, in a timely, efficient, transparent, and scientifically credible manner. Many of the questions in this session focused on “getting actions on the ground sooner”.

What would give you increased confidence in the scientific and other information needed to support species recovery?

Many participants stressed the importance of transparency and availability of the information and data needed to support species





recovery. They also emphasized the importance of incorporating expert knowledge and minimizing biases. Data systems should be current and consistent, allowing information to be updated regularly and documented easily, and if socio-economics are the basis for not protecting a species at risk, then an analysis of the cost of **not recovering** the species should also be included and made available. Many people expressed support for a clear stakeholder consultation process that allows for input at various stages in the decision-making process. Some people suggested using thresholds that would help acknowledge the point at which species decline will accelerate. Several participants expressed there is a need to clarify legal requirements and the definition for effective recovery early in the process.

What factors or information are important for government and others to consider when making decisions on which recovery actions to implement?

Many stakeholders highlighted the importance of clearly defined survival and recovery goals. Some suggestions for what to consider when making decisions included:

- using the best science-based information available with regards to the species and the threats;
- taking an inventory of all land-users and considering the socio-economic implications of implementing recovery actions on the identified stakeholders and First Nations; and
- considering the feasibility of recovery action implementation, the likelihood of their success in improving outcomes for species at risk, and the time/resources that would be required.

Participants discussed the importance of closing knowledge gaps to help reduce uncertainty around species decline. There were discussions around the indirect and direct effects of recovery actions to other species and the importance of addressing species at risk at the appropriate scale (such as on a regional/local or provincial scale) to achieve positive outcomes. Many participants expressed the need to minimize duplication of recovery efforts by combining initiatives for other species via a multi-species or ecosystem-based approach.

Some stakeholders discussed possible compensation for impacts to businesses caused by decisions to protect and recover species at risk, and/or potential funding available for landowners to implement recovery actions.

What concerns do you have around how government may make decisions on which recovery actions to implement?

Answers to this question included:

- a lack of communication between government departments;
- recovery goals are not high enough;
- the lack of funding and resources needed for recovery;
- a lack of government transparency and accountability; and
- unknown or unforeseen consequences of implementing recovery actions.

Some participants expressed concerns regarding government decisions on which recovery actions to implement, that recovery actions may restrict land use, rather than being adaptive, or that species recovery may be prioritized based upon “perceived values” rather than their value to an ecosystem. It was also noted that implementation of recovery actions should not become equated with completing a process, but rather, recovery should be an ongoing initiative with regular monitoring and adaptive management.

How can we improve the process for getting to “action on the ground” sooner?

Answers to this question included:

- better collaboration between agencies, levels of government and land-users;
- building off existing documents;
- prioritizing recovery actions around human-caused threats;
- being proactive and including legally mandated timelines for recommending and implementing recovery actions;
- having a pool of money for urgent land acquisition;
- clarifying the uses for and implications of submitting data to encourage contribution, and adaptive management;
- initiating recovery actions prior to all the science being gathered when they are known to be effective;
- having one clear set of rules regarding responsibilities for species at risk for both land users and managers under one legislative framework; and
- making sure that the “B.C. species at risk conversation” is transboundary so that we can address issues occurring in neighboring provinces, territories and states.

How might this process differ for different species or circumstances (e.g. species found in very restricted locations, wide-ranging species, or areas which host multiple species at risk)?

It was expressed that regardless of the species or circumstance; the process should remain consistent, but should vary in time and scale, by:

- categorizing species at risk into groups and allocating appropriate resources;
- prioritizing which species at risk and/or threats to address; or
- developing approaches at different spatial scales (local, regional, and international).

Participants also noted that recovery actions should be related to the specific biological processes and needs of the species, such as unique habitat requirements, range/geographic distribution, or the biological/life history of the species, rather than being threat-related. Others stated that landscape-level threat management may be efficient for situations in which shared threats exist beyond critical habitat. Some suggested that there be opportunities to adopt relevant recommendations from the provincial and federal governments or auditor

general. Others suggested there should be pre-negotiated decisions regarding potential protections so that decisions do not have to be made on a case-by-case basis.

What role do you see for yourself and others in contributing to species recovery efforts?

Answers to this question included:

- collecting and contributing data to a central database;
- helping with public outreach and education;
- conducting research;
- completing species inventories; and
- implementing recovery actions in areas where they work.

Although the roles that stakeholders saw themselves playing in recovery varied significantly from sector to sector, participants generally emphasized the importance of direction, guidance, and clarity from the government with regards to which information is needed and how information will be used. Additionally, participants felt that people will be more motivated to help if they are provided with incentives and that providing information or data on species at risk to a central body, such as the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC), should be easy and not time consuming.

How can we increase awareness of opportunities to contribute to species recovery efforts?

Answers to this question included:

- targeting awareness to the local or regional levels of species needs;
- increasing public advertising and using provincial marketing avenues to reach a broader audience; and
- supporting partner forums with collaboration between communities, First Nations, and industry and/or among local governments.

Image: Bear's Foot Sanicle by Louise Blight



3.6 EXPLORING IMMEDIATE PROTECTION MEASURES

Immediate protection measures are often included in species-at-risk legislation and can apply to individual species and their habitat. Immediate protection measures generally include the protection of individuals from physical harm or harassment. In terms of habitat, an immediate protection generally prevents the damage or destruction of a listed species' habitat. The purpose of this session was to explore how British Columbia may consider implementing immediate protections.

When are immediate protections warranted? When they are not warranted?

Some expressed that immediate protection of individuals and their habitat for all species listed as either Endangered or Threatened were warranted. However, some suggested there should be discretion provided for the decision maker rather than automatically "coming into force" when a species is listed, and that there should be discretion if immediate protections are considered for species listed as Special Concern and only on a case-by-case basis.

Perspectives differed on whether immediate habitat protections should occur automatically when a species is legally listed or whether some discretion is needed. Some suggested that protections should be prioritized and based on risk: consider the extent to which a threat will impact a species, how soon a threat will lead to species decline, how vulnerable a species is, and the level of current protection afforded to a species. Immediate protections would only apply when the "risk is high", "at a critical level or threshold", or when "there is evidence of benefit to the species". Immediate protections may not need to be applied when there are no identified habitat threats, where there is incomplete knowledge to inform management, or when "effective protection" has already been demonstrated.

Many participants supported protection of a portion of species' habitat, particularly when there is a demonstrated need and adequate knowledge and direction to support implementation. Participants generally acknowledged that different species have different requirements and need different approaches. Most supported an approach to habitat protection that differed from exiting approaches suggesting that residences or general habitat are too limiting or too broad, respectively, and an intermediate approach would be more appropriate.

"Decisions regarding immediate habitat protections need to be based on robust information provided at the listing stage."

Image: Red-Legged Frog by R Snook



There was a comment that the focus of immediate habitat protections should be on “specific habitat attributes” rather than designating these areas as “no-go zones”. Some supported the idea of flexible management approaches as they could permit tailored land-use so that business can adapt; however, others felt flexibility could result in habitat loss or decline. Some cautioned that certain activities may be beneficial to species at risk and that immediate protections should consider these activities and not prevent them from occurring as this could end up harming them. Another theme that emerged was on the fair application of protections – commenters suggested that any protection measures must be applied fairly across industrial activities.

In general, participants provided support for some type of immediate habitat protections in the interim until they could be refined as part of the recovery planning process.

For what types of species should immediate protections apply?

There were conflicting opinions on whether immediate habitat protections should apply to wide-ranging species or “mobile species with large habitats” due to the “large socio-economic implications”. Some expressed that all types of species (vertebrates, invertebrates, plants) should be eligible to receive protections both to individuals as well as some form of immediate habitat protection. However, others thought it should be based on risk (e.g., Endangered and Threatened), species with high rates of population or habitat decline or limiting habitat, sub-populations at-risk of extirpation, and where short-term population objectives still need to be met, while another suggested only species with small or defined habitat or with known range of occurrence should be protected.

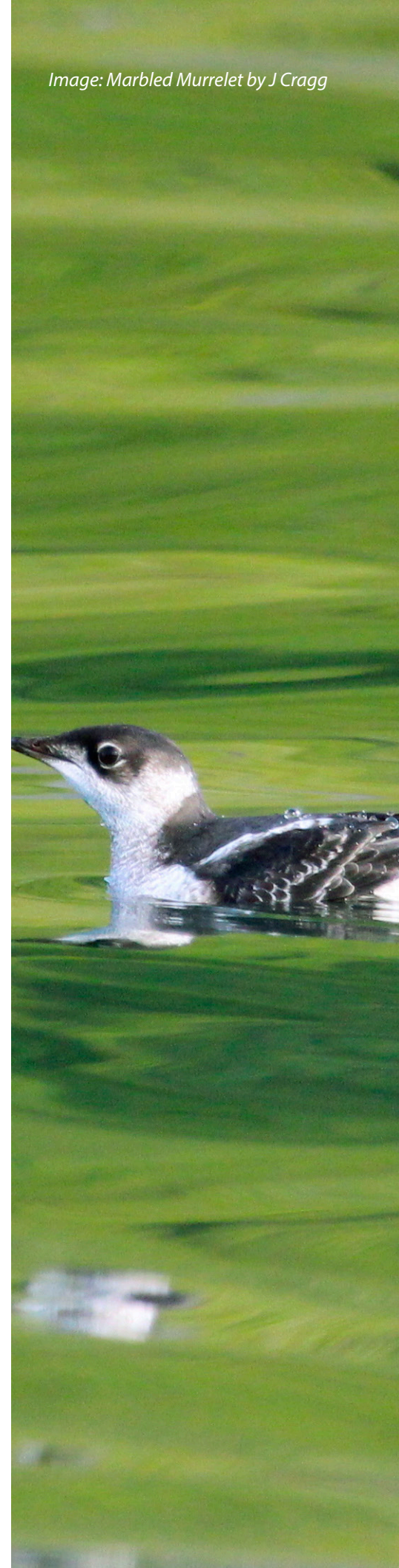
It was also suggested that only species for which there is good information be considered for immediate habitat protections. One comment stated that the “best available knowledge” was not good enough while other comments suggested expert or science advice should be used.

When should immediate habitat protections be considered for species of Special Concern?

Factors that would push a species towards being categorized as Threatened were discussed including significant population declines or rates of decline, reproductive failure, very low recruitment rates, and natural disturbances that have affected significant portions of a species range.

What information is required to implement immediate protections?

A key theme was the need for comprehensive information particularly for describing habitat and providing clear management guidance, and



that where it does not exist to support implementation, gathering this information should be prioritized. The importance of spatial information was mentioned as was the need for good habitat and management information at the time of listing to support any immediate habitat protections.

Participants identified several information requirements needed to implement immediate protections including: good location information, habitat attributes, habitat mapping, threats, and clear management objectives and direction. It was suggested that a consistent local contact person and a readily available synthesis of species information in a central location would be helpful. There was also discussion on the science and knowledge of life history and disturbance information for a species at risk (e.g. critical habitat, population and distribution, disturbances and buffers, etc.).

What can government do to support people affected by immediate protections?

Answers to this question included:

- communicate early;
- provide information to enable planning and adjusting activities early;
- consult with those involved;
- be regionally informed (place-based, local input);
- provide training, outreach and education;
- provide timelines for protections;
- apply fairly; and
- provide support for implementation of protections through Best Management Practices.

In addition, the importance of providing special support to local governments, small businesses or individuals in implementing protections for species at risk was also communicated.

A final key theme emerging from the discussion centered on financial assistance, compensation, and incentives. Some of the ideas brought up included: incentives for effective action, supporting the purchase of private land, compensation for impacts of immediate protections, and support through added capacity or staff.

3.7 PROTECTING HABITAT

This portion of the workshop introduced participants to the concept of longer term habitat protection. These protections could come into place following an established recovery planning process and could be informed by population and habitat objectives, science advice (assessment and recovery plans), Indigenous knowledge, stakeholder consultation, and socio-economic information.

Examples of long-term habitat protections were discussed with the idea that they typically are permanent (more than a year) and can be a fixed area (polygon) or flexible protections based on specific measurable objectives within a larger defined area (population unit, landscape, watershed, etc).

What should the objectives of habitat protections be? What are we trying to achieve through long term habitat protections?

Participants identified objectives that ranged from recovering species over the entire range to designing long-term habitat protections to be precautionary (in the absence of full suite of information). Many participants focused on the need for species recovery with some reflecting back to the ecosystem-based approach and the need to prevent more species from becoming at-risk.

What approaches for habitat protections for species at risk would meet these objectives? What concerns do you have with these different approaches?

The need to clearly define terms to ensure a common understanding was discussed, as concepts such as habitat protection, can have multiple definitions.

Many participants echoed the need for clear and transparent objectives which would include specific measurable habitat attributes resulting in a clear understanding of how they would be applied to the land base. Habitat protection needs to be applied at the appropriate scale for the species, which might include multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Participants discussed the need for species assessments that include a supporting rationale with criteria for designation and the nature of threats (direct vs. proximal). Additionally, the need for status assessments to be strengthened to include specific habitat requirements necessary to achieve the species objectives.

It was suggested that data collected as part of baseline surveys, environmental assessment and monitoring conducted by professionals (foresters, biologists, agrologists) should be submitted to a central database.

How might we consider climate change and natural disturbance in these approaches?

The uncertainty associated with climate change and natural disturbance requires ongoing information and a willingness to adapt. The focus of this discussion centered on the need to monitor both species and their habitats with the ability to adapt to achieve the overall species objectives.

“After assessing the probability of success, while recognizing the adaptive nature of SAR habitat, we must invest in areas where success is likely”

Image: Pallid Bat by Jared Hobbs





How do we ensure that habitat protection is effective?

Concerns were raised that without a definition of habitat protection and clear objectives for a specific species, this term could potentially be interpreted in multiple ways. Participants emphasized that objectives and habitat protection needed to be science based, designed for the species, and done at the appropriate spatial scale. There was also discussion that long-term habitat protection might need to be implemented at multiple scales (landscape, stand, site) to be effective. If more of this design work can be done early and involve multiple stakeholders, it will be more likely that habitat protection would be secure and resilient.

Participants cautioned that the risks need to be fully understood to commit to a species-first approach that prioritizes species at risk over socio-economic considerations. An approach articulated to address this concern was to define the habitat elements that are understood as critical and then design a surrounding flexible matrix system. Flexibility was discussed as resulting from an adaptive framework which needed to be founded on science (inventory, research, and monitoring).

There was also some discussion regarding accounting for the full cost of habitat protection such as any goods and services related to socio-economics like clean water, air, and soil. The idea was to make these decisions transparent, so all stakeholders understand how their values have been accounted for.

What other ideas do you have for improving habitat management for species at risk in British Columbia?

Many asked for emails and participant lists from these meetings and expressed their desire for government to coordinate yearly meetings to engage stakeholders on how to improve the Act and regulations once they are in place. A few said that the Act needs to be flexible and adaptable, and include consultation requirements.

Incentives such as monetary and non-monetary awards and certification are needed for British Columbians (and Canadians) to feel invested in species at risk.

Resourcing was discussed as a need and the BC CDC was used as an example, many felt the BC CDC needs to be better resourced to ensure new data is available quickly and in the appropriate forms (e.g. maps) to support conservation actions and resource planning.

Participants suggested immediate protections need to be linked to known threats which are being used as part of the assessment process, and that assessments need to include more information about the actions, including habitat that is needed, to reduce delays in action.

3.8 MITIGATING IMPACTS (MITIGATION AND OFFSETS)

The use of the mitigation hierarchy, which includes the steps of avoidance, minimization, restoration on-site, and offsets is used globally to reduce the environmental effects of development. All development projects should move through the steps in the hierarchy and make all reasonable attempts to reduce their environmental impacts. This session aimed to explore the potential use of offsets in British Columbia, which are seen by many as critical to some projects moving forward. There was concern how any of these steps account for climate change, and how can we incorporate that into offset planning.

Under which circumstances would offsetting impacts to species at risk or their habitat be appropriate? Not appropriate? For example: conservation status of species, severity of impact, feasibility of an offset, etc.

Participants expressed that offsets are only appropriate when the [Environmental Mitigation Policy](#) and hierarchy have been followed and exhausted, and when the trade-off is “like-for-like” or better. Participants also expressed that mitigating impacts should be approached on a case-by-case basis, and offsets used only where they present a significant public benefit and may be a way to ensure “no-net-loss” of certain types of habitat.

When offsets are considered, they need to be designed to fit into a larger strategic plan, recovery strategy, or an offset framework. Stakeholders emphasized the need for clear triggers, thresholds, parameters, monitoring and reporting requirements, as well as public access to information and data.

It was also suggested that offsets are only appropriate when there is sufficient understanding on how to restore or replicate the candidate habitat, as well as subsequent protection of the area that has been offset. To most participants this meant that there should be a high probability of the offset meeting its conservation goal(s) within a reasonable timeframe.

There were differing perspectives on where offsets should occur. Some participants felt that they should only exist on private land, while others suggested they should only be located on conservation lands with a high degree of protection. When considering where to place offsets, participants expressed the need to acknowledge existing tenures and activities on the land.

Some stakeholders felt that offsets are inappropriate for species at risk, under any circumstances, particularly for Endangered and/or Threatened species and those that are vulnerable, near the brink of extinction, globally at-risk, or have a limited range.

Offsets were also considered inappropriate in situations where the habitat that is being offset requires long timeframes to re-establish and/or cannot be adequately created or restored with the same function as intact systems (e.g., old growth), and in cases where information is lacking, and it is not possible to quantify the impacts of a project on environmental values. Offsets were considered inadequate in cases where the full mitigation hierarchy has not been exhausted, such as when a development project moves straight to offsets without fully exploring the “avoid, minimize, mitigate” steps. Additional concerns were raised by participants that if offsets are approved, the process under which they have been approved needs to be clear, transparent, and publicly available to reduce the risk of offsets being used to bypass the hierarchy to fast-track a project.

“Offsets should only be used when the habitat to be offset is actually able to help the species at risk whose habitat has been destroyed in the same area.”

What are the risks of an offsetting scheme for species at risk? For example: time lags, implementation failures, benefits of restoration opportunities, etc.

Concerns were expressed around equivalency and ecological complexity: if offsetting schemes are not designed to be ‘like-for-like’ they will likely lead to the extinction or faster decline of the species, which may be difficult to implement. Some participants emphasized natural options as better than engineered ones, as the latter may fail over time, while others expressed concern about the cumulative effects and unintended impacts of an offset scheme.

Risks around protection (or lack thereof) of an offset area were identified, as there is a lack of regulation protecting offsets and a potential for them to be destroyed by future development or by use of tenures. Others were concerned that offsets may provide a lower level of protection than may be appropriate for a species at risk. Participants also identified risks associated with costs and long-term management of offsets. Noting mitigation plans cost money, which some private landowners may not have, and if offsets for habitat are implemented, this may affect the operator’s ability to function economically. Additionally, participants identified cost of long-term administration that offsets require in relation with monitoring of effectiveness and enforcement.

Others were concerned by how difficult it is to measure the success of an offset and by the lack of consistent performance monitoring to inform adaptation. Some people suggested establishing a well-functioning central coordinating body to oversee offset design, implementation, and monitoring/reporting of conservation outcomes.

What are the benefits of an offsetting scheme for species at risk?

Participants suggested the following benefits:

- positive conservation outcomes such as net gains and increased proactive thinking early within project design;
- opportunities for creativity and collaboration among the private sector, NGOs, government, and Indigenous peoples;
- adaptive management and continuous improvement on offsetting options and projects, if effective, can meet full public interest in terms of social, economic, and environmental needs; and
- ability to provide certainty to project proponents and could potentially transfer the risk of offset failure to the proponent.

What would an effective offset model look like? How can we maximize benefits? How can we reduce the risks?

Participants suggested the following as ideas for what an effective offset model would look like:

- clear objectives, oversight, long-term planning and coordination; and include ways for individuals and companies to learn about potential offset opportunities and overall priorities for management;
- communicate the limits to offsetting and enable the regulator to refuse a mitigation plan if it is too risky for a species;
- be consistent: offset ratios should be at least like-for-like and consistent across provinces;
- be flexible: providing proponents space for creativity, innovation, and addressing offsets on a case-by-case basis; and
- allowing or enabling a combination of offset types, including averted loss, restoration, and in-lieu payments.

Participants suggested the following as ways to maximize the benefits of offset schemes:

- develop clear policy and guidelines that set out a framework for expected outcomes and uses;
- provide offsets as an option for existing projects;
- develop transparent process to determine why an offset is required as opposed to other mitigation measures; and
- rely on professional expertise, experience, and third-party or independent review to ensure ongoing monitoring, compliance, and enforcement.



Image: Howell's Triteleia by Brenda Costanzo

Should an in-lieu payment be considered for offsets?

The following are some examples of when participants felt in-lieu payments should be considered:

- when they result in a greater possible benefit than via other mitigation measures;
- when the proponent is unable to carry out the action deemed most beneficial;
- when they are used as part of a combined approach, for example, securing a certain amount of habitat and funding a caribou maternal penning program;
- when they adhere to guidelines that are established prior and apply to all offsets; and
- when they are a result of a punitive action by authority.

Some stated that the in-lieu payments must not account for only the single project but be considered in combination with other threats, and others suggested that the administrative burden should be covered by the proponent.

Participants offered the following as examples of circumstances in which in-lieu payments should not be considered:

- when money will not benefit the species at risk;
- when the proponent of a development project has not explicitly proven in-lieu payment as a last resort; and
- when the overall payment framework may become a tax approach to fund or implement core government programs.

Key concerns identified regarding in-lieu payments:

- transparency around who receives the payments and who benefits from the payment;
- regulation and overall objectives of the “receiving” or “responsible authority”; and
- perception that government is relying on ongoing developments to fund conservation actions not related to the project.

3.9 POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Summaries of the three poster topics that were available for the duration of the workshop are provided below. In general, the posters were not as well-considered as organizers had hoped, likely due to the lack of dedicated time in the workshop agenda for adequate review and reflection of the poster topics.

3.9.1 AUTHORIZATIONS

EXEMPTIONS

This poster listed several examples of groups that might be considered for exemption from provisions under species-at-risk legislation, including wildlife rehabilitation facilities, zoos, aquariums, vets, commercial nurseries, emergency responders, and Indigenous peoples. Participants were asked to add examples and express their concerns about exemptions.

Additional examples: people who possess historical taxidermy; researchers/academic institutions; and restoration activities conducted by non-government organizations.

Concerns: exemptions being too easy to get or taking too long to get; exemption decisions supporting socio-economic benefits over conservation and recovery; the need to include mitigation conditions to exemptions;



Image: Grizzly Bear
by Geert Pieters

and exempting zoos and aquariums unless conservation is the sole purpose of their permitted activities.

PERMITS

Permits may be granted on a case-by-case basis, subject to conditions requiring mitigation of impacts to species at risk. This poster asked participants to express their concerns about permits, to add to a short list of criteria that a decision-maker might consider when reviewing an application, and to identify criteria that could help determine the “level of risk” of an activity proposed for a permit.

Suggestions for a permit framework: authority to deny a permit when warranted; offsetting, if allowed, clearly described and authorized in the Act or regulation; and consideration of risks such as uniqueness or irreplaceability of the site, landscape footprint, and impact on the species recovery.

Suggestions for permit conditions: application of the mitigation hierarchy; timely completion of operational and maintenance activities ensured through notification requirement; and permit fees, especially for commercial ventures, should be paid into a conservation fund.

Concerns included:

- who makes permit decisions: decisions should be reviewed and informed by a third-party expert body;
- the permit process: too many permits will be granted, the process will take too long, or not take enough time for a thorough review;
- program capacity: additional compliance and enforcement staff, and expertise will be needed; permit fees need to reflect value impacted; and
- conservation outcome: risk of extinction or prioritizing industry over recovery.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS (Other Instruments)

On this poster, participants were asked to identify the many ways in which people and businesses are working to protect species at risk through existing laws and policies that may meet the objectives of legislation. This poster question was not effective at drawing out the thoughts and comments we had hoped for about integration of specific species-at-risk legislation with existing laws and policies.

Comments supported integration of elements of existing acts and policy/program areas that support species-at-risk protection (conservation partnerships; Forest and Range Practices Act and Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) monitoring)

Participants focused on existing laws, but not on how to integrate them. Some suggestions included clarity about whether conservation trumps other activities; clarity about which land species-at-risk legislation applies to; including environmental non-government organizations in the development of legislation; avoiding weaknesses of the federal SARA (i.e., lack of strict timelines for listing and action planning; no protection for Special Concern species); and synchronizing with concurrent initiatives (e.g. [Wildlife and Habitat, Professional Reliance Review](#)).

Key Insights from these posters highlighted the importance of building transparency into the decision-making framework for permits and exemptions so public will trust the authorizations scheme. Additionally, opinions reiterated the purpose of the legislation is to protect species at risk, therefore rigorous assessment, consideration, screening, review, and conditions must be in place to prevent impacts of various authorizations.

3.9.2 MONITORING

Gathering information on trends, effectiveness of conservation actions, and compliance is foundational to our ability to recover species at risk.

Successful monitoring programs can:

- demonstrate performance and compliance;
- improve conservation actions and outcomes;
- encourage accountability;
- facilitate evidence-based management and decision-making; and
- supplement subsequent conservation status assessments.

Image: Greater Sage-Grouse by Jared Hobbs





What would encourage you to report conservation actions and share data on species at risk and their habitats?

The responses on the poster can be divided into two main themes. Make data easily available and make it a requirement to share data. Most of the comments on improving data availability related to ease of access such as web-based tools and more “user friendly” interfaces. With respect to making data submission a requirement there were several comments associated with having incentives for data submission, but no specifics were provided.

What needs to be included in species-at-risk legislation or supporting policy to facilitate inventory, monitoring, and data sharing?

Funding and an independent body were the most common suggestions. People indicated that the legislation needs to be funded in a way that supports monitoring; and that innovative funding sources should be considered, such as money from outdoor users or organizations. The use of an outside group for monitoring was also suggested with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) used as an example.

What are some specific elements of program design that should be encouraged (e.g., citizen science)?

Participants encouraged the Province to have a program with standards for quality assurance and quality control and to utilize systems for data sharing and analysis.

Are there innovative data gathering and storage techniques that should be considered?

Participants suggested the use of mobile applications to involve citizens and gather data. They also suggested that through funding partnerships with universities a species-at-risk program could make better use of graduate students to gather data and improve our understanding of management strategies.

3.9.3 NON-HABITAT THREATS

Traditionally, when addressing threats to species at risk, legislation has focused on threats to habitat, but in many cases, species face threats not just to their habitat, but to individuals and populations. With our new legislation, we have an opportunity to deal with non-habitat threats. Some examples of how to address this included contaminants, disease, and feral species (e.g., cats are a major contributor to the decline of native song birds).

What are some ways to address non-habitat threats?

The need to involve stakeholders who are currently working on invasive species management was emphasized, as was a ban the sale of invasive species and plants. Specifically, one suggestion included prohibiting and prosecuting the transport of invasive mammals to seabird breeding islands. Other suggestions included: banning the sale of market products that are harmful to species (such as micro-plastics), increasing education around non-habitat threats, and making legislative changes (including laws and bylaws) to abate these threats.

Some jurisdictions have listed non-habitat threats under their species-at-risk legislation, following a similar process to how they list species at risk. What actions might this trigger?

Some noted that this may increase the probability of addressing and/or stopping the non-habitat threat and therefore increase the probability of the species persistence. One participant noted that there is a need to allow the right amount of focus on non-habitat threats in terms of implementing recovery measures if they are significant drivers of decline, and that we need to apportion non-habitat and habitat action over time.

What are your concerns about dealing with non-habitat threats?

A concern was raised about the fact that tools for non-habitat threats are often divisive or not politically feasible, and that if stakeholders are taking tools off the table they must offer alternatives that they help to implement. Another concern was about the level of support that is required for wildlife rehabilitation. Others highlighted the fact that with a purely ecosystem-based approach, species that are not threatened by habitat-related issues may be lost.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The workshop held in June was a critical step in creating guiding directions for legislation, policy, and programs. The information gathered from this workshop, along with feedback received from other concurrent engagement sessions with Indigenous peoples, the public, and other levels of government will help inform a Discussion Paper.

We thank you for your continued engagement and dedication to helping create species-at-risk legislation. We encourage written submissions to be sent to: Species.at.Risk.BC@gov.bc.ca



APPENDIX A - WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Tori Ball	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-BC)
Kathy MacRae	Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBV)
Tanya Bettles	Abbotsford, City of
Brad Harrison	Adventure Tourism Coalition
Sara Huber	Agriculture Land Commission
Andrea Inness	Ancient Forest Alliance
Paul Nuttall	Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP)
Geoff Hughes-Games	BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCorp)
Denise Mullen	BC Business Council
Cora Schouten	BC Dairy Farmers
Elizabeth Schouten	BC Dairy Farmers
Doug Wahl	BC Forest Practices Board
Astrid van Woudenberg	BC Forest Practices Board
Susan Pinkus	BC Hydro
Greg Ferguson	BC Nature
Scott Wagner	BC Oil and Gas Commission
Erin Ryan	BC SPCA
Al Martin	BC Wildlife Federation
David Bradley	Bird Studies Canada
Janice Walton	Blake, Cassels & Gaydon LLP
Sherry Sian	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)
Selena Shay	Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
Steve Clegg	Chilliwack, City of
James Wilkinson	Clean Energy BC (Innergex)
Shawn Hilton	Clean Energy BC (SNC Lavalin)
Johnny Mikes	Coast to Cascades -Grizzly Bear Initiative
Derek Marcoux	College of Applied Biology
Scott Grindal	ConocoPhillips
Michelle Connolly	Conservation North
Amanda Rodewald	Cornell University
Les Kiss	Council of Forest Industries
Archie MacDonald	Council of Forest Industries (COFI)
Erin Clement	Delta, City of
Adriane Pollard	District of Saanich
Sean Nixon	EcoJustice
Jennifer Ezekial	EnCana
Scott Ellis	Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Joanne Neilson	Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC)
Laurie Bates-Frymel	Metro Vancouver
Robyn Worchester	Metro Vancouver

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Diana Walls	Mining Association of BC
Steve Hilts	Mining Association of BC
Andrea Shaw	Ministry of Agriculture
Brennan Hutchison	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Scott Mitchell	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Andrew Vesely	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Donna Olsen	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Lisa Matthaus	Organizing for Change - Tides Canada
Megan Hanacek	Private Forest Landowners Association
Taryn Hesketh	Richmond, City of
Kristine Koster	Richmond, City of
Ken Lertzman	Simon Fraser University
John Reynolds	Simon Fraser University
Pamela Zevit	South Coast Conservation Program
Bryn White	South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
Genevieve Martin	The B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Jasper Lament	The Nature Trust of BC
Leanna Warman	The Nature Trust of BC
Murray Wilson	Tolko Industries
Walt Judas	Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC)
Dolph Schluter	UBC Vancouver
Marylyn Chiang	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Dr. Jeannette Whitton	University of British Columbia
Dr. Kai Chan	University of British Columbia
Dr. Peter Arcese	University of British Columbia
Dr. Sally Otto	University of British Columbia
Cole Burton	University of British Columbia
Dr. Tara Martin	University of British Columbia
Chris Johnson	University of Northern British Columbia
Charlotte Dawe	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Alana Westwood	Yellowstone to Yukon

INVITED ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND

1. Association of Mineral Exploration
2. BC Cattleman's Association
3. BC Community Forest Association
4. BC Fruit Growers Association
5. BC Institute of Agrologists
6. BC Snowmobile Federation / Tourism Industry Association of BC
7. BC Trappers Association
8. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association
9. Ducks Unlimited Canada
10. Federation of BC Woodlot Association
11. Harmony Foundation of Canada
12. Helicat Canada
13. Nature Conservancy of Canada
14. Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
15. Sierra Club BC
16. The Real Estate Foundation of BC
17. Wildlife Conservation Society
18. Wildlife Stewardship Council

APPENDIX B - WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Charting a New Path along the Environmental Policy Tightrope by Kai Chan (IRES, UBC)

Identifying and Conserving Priority Landscapes by Peter Arcese (Forestry, UBC)

Prioritizing timely recovery actions for endangered species (Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC)

WORKSHOP POSTERS

Image: Sea Otter by Jared Hobbs



SPECIES AT RISK WORKSHOP
Engagement Report

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Cover Image: Photograph of a Blotched Tiger Salamander by Jared Hobbs

