



2022/23 Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program: A Program and Application Guide

**British Columbia Ministry of Forests
Resource Stewardship Division
Wildlife and Habitat Branch**

September 30, 2022

1. Introduction

In some cities and towns, increasing deer numbers have become a safety concern. Aggressive deer have attacked people and pets, and vehicle accidents involving deer in urban areas are on the rise. Deer also attract potentially dangerous predators, like cougars.

While the Province manages deer in the wild, and is currently reviewing its responsibility for population management activities in urban areas, to date urban deer are primarily managed by municipalities. Urban deer can be difficult to manage because some conventional wildlife management methods, such as hunting deer, are not appropriate.

Since 2016, the Province has made \$100,000 in cost-share funding available to be administered by Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee (PUDAC) annually to help local governments and First Nations manage conflicts between humans and deer in urban areas. To be considered for funding, applicants submit a project proposal to the Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share (PUDOCS) program. All materials provided by applicants that relate to the PUDOCS Program may be released to the public.

The PUDAC includes representatives from the Province, local governments, Union of BC Municipalities and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. PUDAC was created to support to local governments dealing with urban deer issues.

This Program and Application Guide describes the program structure, criteria and schedule for the 2022 application year. For further information please contact Holger Bohm by e-mail at Holger.Bohm@gov.bc.ca.

2. Purpose

The PUDOCs program is intended to provide local governments or First Nations with funds to help manage urban deer issues through operational or research projects. The program encourages local governments and First Nations to partner with the Province and other organizations to learn more about and manage urban deer issues.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the PUDOCs program are to:

- encourage effective community-based urban deer planning and communications,
- support high-value projects that will effectively manage urban deer,
- provide learning opportunities through scientifically rigorous research trials,
- partner effectively with local governments and First Nations in the delivery of urban deer management actions,
- foster a standardized and structured approach to management actions, reporting and monitoring in order to continuously improve 'best practices',
- encourage effective communications and information transfer between the provincial and local governments and First Nations,
- develop effective information and education materials, and
- acquire and loan specialized deer management equipment to local governments and First Nations.

4. Eligibility Criteria, Funding Formulas and Caps

Any local government or First Nation that meets the following criteria is eligible for funding under this program.

To be eligible, a project proposal must:

- address human-deer conflict in areas where the use of traditional (e.g. hunting) deer management techniques are not appropriate;
- be consistent with objectives that have been developed through a community-based planning process;
- have a resolution of support from the local government's council or board or First Nation's chief and council;
- be compliant with all applicable laws and by-laws and adequately manage all human safety, environmental and animal welfare risks;
- be in accordance with a permit issued under the *Wildlife Act* (or any other statute);
- be technically sound and feasible;
- be scientifically rigorous (if a research project);

- commit to reporting; and
- provide matching funds (from the local government or First Nation or any partners).

The PUDOCs program will provide financial support to approved projects that are undertaken from the fall of 2022 to March 14, 2023.

Eligible activities will fall into two categories: operational projects and research projects.

4.1. Operational Projects

Operational projects are projects intended to directly manage or deter deer populations using methods known to be effective in achieving immediate objectives while managing all associated risks. Operational projects include: 1) fencing or cattle guards that block access to, or from, attractants or green belt corridors and 2) culling projects (capture and bolt gun).

Funding support for deterrents will be at discretion of the PUDAC; however, the local government or First Nations and any partners are expected to contribute at least 50% of the project's total budget.

Cost-share funding support for operational projects will be capped at \$21,000 per year.*

* Funding caps may be adjusted depending on program uptake.

4.2 Research Projects

Research projects are trial-based applied research that is intended to directly or indirectly manage or deter deer populations. Trial-based projects are those with methods that are not yet known to be effective in achieving objectives or managing associated risks in B.C. For example, hazing, translocation and immuno-contraception are considered research projects.

Funding support for research projects will not be predetermined. Funding amounts will be based on the value of the research activity, other objectives and the associated funding commitments. All research projects must be scientifically rigorous and will be evaluated according to separate criteria. Cost-share funding support for individual research projects will *generally* be capped at \$20,000/ year; however, funding levels will be at the discretion of the PUDAC.*

* Funding caps may be adjusted depending on program uptake.

5. The Application

All applications for Operational or Research Projects must be submitted using the application form. Additional documents are not accepted and will not be counted towards project evaluation.

6. Project Evaluation

All proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria (Section 4) and provide the information in the requested format (Section 5).

Operational Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The value of project's objectives, current level of impact/risks and the immediate need for action (weight: 20 Points)
 - Human safety (motor vehicle collisions, direct aggression, predator interactions, human health)
 - Environmental impacts (e.g. over-browsing in valuable ecosystems)
 - Domestic animal conflict
- The expected impact of the project and its cost-effectiveness (weight: 20 points)
- Contributions from funding partners (weight: 5 points)

Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The scientific value of the project and its potential to innovate practices in B.C. (weight: 20 points)
- The associated objectives - impact of the project and its cost effectiveness (weight: 20 points)
 - Human safety (motor vehicle collisions, direct aggression, predator interactions, human health)
 - Environmental impacts (e.g. over-browsing in valuable ecosystems)
 - Domestic animal conflict
- Contributions from funding partners (weight: 5 points)

7. Payments, Records and Accounts for Approved Projects

The Province will receive all project proposals and will be responsible for the final funding prioritizations and allocations. Project proposals will be evaluated by the PUDAC.

Funding allotments, general conditions and timelines will be communicated through 'agreements in principle' (via-email). By agreeing, the successful applicant will confirm that it can meet the expressed expectations and will accept the funding.



The BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) under the direction of the PUDAC Technical lead will work with the local government or First Nation (or lead entity-in the case of a multi-jurisdictional project) to develop and enter into a shared cost agreement. Once the works specified in the contract's 'Schedule A' have been completed, and a project completion report has been finalized, the local government will submit the report to the PUDAC for approval and an invoice the BC Conservation Foundation for payment.

A statement from the local government's or First Nation's Chief Financial Officer that verifies the total cost of the project must be attached to the project completion report. When applicable, this statement will also identify other contributions such as in-kind, matching funding, and other revenue sources required in order to complete the project.

The local government's or First Nation's Chief Financial Officers will maintain acceptable accounting records that clearly disclose the nature and amounts of the different items of cost pertaining to the project's activities. The Program Officer for the PUDACS Program will require applicants to provide details of the types and amounts of all fees and costs (including 'in-kind') associated with contractors, consultants and in-house staff.

If any changes to a project are contemplated, the Program Officer's written approval is required to ensure the project remains consistent with the shared cost agreement.

8. Application Process

8.1 How to Apply

Use the Application Form provided. Additional documents will not be accepted towards project evaluations.

8.2 Where to Apply

Apply via e-mail to:

Holger Bohm (Program Officer for the PUDACS Program)

Wildlife and Habitat Branch

Ministry of Forests

Holger.Bohm@gov.bc.ca

8.3 When to Apply

Applications should be received on or before **October 31st, 2022**. Depending on program uptake, late applications may be accepted. Approvals 'in principle' may be arranged if elements of the proposal are in progress but not available at the time of application.

9. Timelines:

- **September 30, 2022:** PUDOCs Program's call for proposals goes out (for 2022/2023 application year).
- **October 31, 2022:** Deadline for local governments or First Nations to submit their project proposals.
- **November 17, 2022:** PUDAC review of proposals completed.
- **November 21, 2022:** The Province notifies local governments or First Nations of their available funding allotments (through emails which will serve as 'agreements in principle').
- **December 2, 2022:** BCCF enters into cost-share agreements with successful local governments or First Nations.
- **March 14, 2023:** Deadline for local governments or First Nations to submit invoices and Annual Project Report to BCCF and the PUDAC.

*Late application may be accepted depending on program uptake. If late applications are submitted, PUDAC will review them and will inform applicants as soon as possible whether their application is successful.

Appendix 1: Report Outlines

The following formats are to be used when preparing Annual Project Reports for projects that are funded by the PUDOCs Program.

Operational Projects:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction/Background
3. Purpose/Objectives
4. Project Area/Area of Influence
 - a. Methods/Techniques (including risk management actions)
5. Results
6. Summary/Lessons Learned
7. Literature Cited (if applicable)

Research Projects:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
 - a. Background
 - b. Research Question
3. Study Area (and Area of Influence if operational goals are also involved)
4. Methods/Techniques (including risk management actions)
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Summary/Management Implications
8. Literature Cited