

2020–2021 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE



A new direction for wildlife and habitat stewardship in British Columbia

**Our province's  
natural abundance  
is a gift and a  
responsibility**

British Columbia is geographically, ecologically and culturally diverse, and our new approach to wildlife stewardship must reflect this diversity.

**Our approach will be adaptive, agile, and inclusive**

## Message from the Director



It is with honour and deep respect that I present the first annual Director's report, on behalf of the full staff team, to support implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy. Over the last year, I was humbled by the passionate commitment so many people demonstrated while working together and volunteering precious time to make a difference for wildlife and habitats in the province.

Despite many challenges and disruptions, including the COVID-19 pandemic, significant accomplishments and foundational work were completed through these efforts.

This report summarizes that work and highlights a small sample of the over 150 Together for Wildlife projects of the past year. The information is intended to provide greater transparency and accountability, which will help to build trust and continuously make improvements to the work that we do.

The projects highlighted provide a window into how embracing and committing to the principles in Together for Wildlife—e.g., collaboration, responsiveness, reconciliation, evidence-based decisions, and innovation—are improving how we do our work and contributing to success.

In reflecting on the challenges of this past year, perhaps the greatest challenge was time. It will take time to witness tangible results towards our shared aspiration to ensure wildlife and their habitat thrive.

I personally appreciate the abilities of so many contributors to embrace this discomfort and demonstrate resilience and leadership to remain unified in our efforts and to work on improvements throughout the province.

This year's report focuses on a subset of the \$9 million of new investment for wildlife and habitat stewardship in British Columbia.

Future reports will present broader summaries of the collective work contributing to the goals of Together for Wildlife including an overview of the budget, work priorities, and the breadth of contributions that are aimed at improved outcomes for wildlife and habitat.

We will also work to broaden our performance measures to show the tangible outcomes of this work, not just for wildlife, also for the health of communities and economies. Feedback on other ways to improve this report is most welcome.

I wish to extend my thanks to the members of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council, First Nations-BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum, Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team, stakeholder associations, industry partners, and staff for their enormous efforts and valued contributions.

I also wish to thank hunters, trappers, and all wildlife and nature enthusiasts for their continued care of wildlife.

Collectively, the work we do together will help ensure **wildlife and their habitat thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians.**

Jennifer Psyllakis  
Director, Wildlife and Habitat Branch

## Message from the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council



**Co-chairs:**  
**Simoogit Hleek**  
**(Chief Harry F. Nyce Sr.)**  
**and Nancy Wilkin**

In 2020, the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development appointed a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council (MWAC), fulfilling Action 1 of the Together for Wildlife strategy. Council members come from throughout British Columbia, with almost half being Indigenous and all having experience, knowledge, and a passion for wildlife.

The MWAC provides the Minister with independent strategic advice on wildlife and habitat stewardship. In fulfilling its role, the MWAC works closely with the First Nations—B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum to ensure progress towards reconciliation and shared decision-making with Indigenous Nations in BC.

Additionally, we are building relationships with the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team, the government's Old Growth Strategy and *Forest and Range Practices Act* teams, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. We look forward to continued input from Indigenous organizations and stakeholders to ensure we are working together on the Together for Wildlife goals.

The MWAC is pleased to comment on the first Wildlife and Habitat Director's report. It is filled with excellent information that is wonderfully displayed and is easily understood. We welcome the progress the Ministry is making towards transparency in reporting budget allocations.

The MWAC cautions that many wildlife populations and their habitats in BC face significant threats as a result of direct and cumulative impacts caused by humans. This jeopardizes ecosystem health and the benefits to humans provided by wildlife, including the vital domestic uses that Indigenous peoples in BC derive from healthy wildlife populations, and the social, environmental, economic, and cultural benefits that support communities throughout the province.

In the first year of the MWAC's creation, our identified priorities included:

- Supporting progress towards shared decision making and co-management of wildlife with Indigenous peoples
- Seeking a substantial increase in dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat stewardship in order to meet the needs of BC's world-class wildlife heritage today and into the future
- Developing a policy and process for setting wildlife and habitat stewardship objectives, backed by legislation capable of ensuring that intended outcomes can be achieved by lessening the risks of direct and cumulative impacts
- Developing a process to elevate BC's wildlife science to a world-leading community of practice that includes accessible and current data on populations and habitats

The MWAC was invited to comment on the potential of a new Lands and Natural Resource Operations Ministry, and our message was clear—regardless of the governing structure, we must change the way business is done on the lands and waters of BC. This means a paradigm shift to prioritize ecosystem health in all resource decision making to ensure a future with healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems.

To review MWAC's work over the past year, please visit our website at: [www.ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca](http://www.ministerswildlifeadvisory.ca). We will continue to provide strategic advice to the Minister and look forward to your response to the first Director's Report and our MWAC website.

## Message from the First Nations-BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum

Since our initiation in late-2018, our work of advising on the implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy and the advancing of its Goal 5 has been immense and founded in ethical space and dedicated to our shared values—wildlife and habitat.

We have agonized alongside all First Nations this past year, which has been a struggle for all Indigenous peoples. The finding of at least 215 children buried on the grounds of Residential Schools has re-surfaced traumas and challenges for survivors, their families, communities, and Nations. When this truth surfaced for the world to see, acknowledge, and build their understanding of the lasting impacts of colonization, our Forum elected to take the necessary time and space to maintain our own well-being and ensure we could be there for our relations.

As we navigate the complexities associated with de-colonizing, now more than ever, it is critical we support the re-establishment of Indigenous communities' role as caretakers of their respective territories. This role is required to advance reconciliation between BC and Indigenous governments, as reconciling Indigenous connections to land, culture, and territory is imperative to meaningful reconciliation between governments.

Meaningfully advancing reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and their territories will require a collective effort from non-Indigenous peoples. Many hands make light work and supporting this connection of Indigenous peoples and territories should remain at the forefront for the various planning of field work, projects, and actions we apply to the landscape.

The Forum's approach seeks to make structural change that drives wildlife and habitat stewardship decision-making to occur at a meaningful, territorial-level to respect the diverse Indigenous governing bodies, their bodies of knowledge, worldviews, and laws. Respecting these structures is critical to effective, informed and evidence-based decision-making.

Our work is shaping itself after collaborative efforts to advance reconciliation in wildlife stewardship, including work to draft an Indigenous Knowledge Policy and

advancing work on shared decision-making. As we undertake this work, we look to aide in breaking down participation barriers that Indigenous Governments face, as rights and title holders over their territories.

Our work can only grow within the confines of existing mandates and legislative confines of our provincial partners until more progressive, substantive *Wildlife Act* amendments occur that go above and beyond the Forum's 2019 Intentions Paper. As legislative amendments occur, we anticipate their alignment with the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) should provide an abundantly clear pathway to co-management.

While the Forum has steadily worked on strategic policy documents, we've also learned plenty about the nature of the challenges ahead. We have contributed to understanding the need for BC's work to enable Indigenous governing bodies to express their own Indigenous laws, worldviews, knowledge, and see recognition of their governance bodies. This engagement with ministry staff is a starting point to operationalize the principles of Together for Wildlife and the work needed to better enable co-management frameworks.

There remain challenges to effective, meaningful capacity building for Nations to capitalize on. Investments in capacity are a high priority for the Forum as we continue to pursue reform and transformation. The Forum's focus on enhancing opportunities for Indigenous wildlife stewardship and enabling shared responsibilities continues to need careful, deliberate steps that require respect and time.

As our strategic policy work nears finalization, it is clear we won't understand its success until there is operationalization of it. As this transformation of the work occurs, guided by our contributions to policy and operationalized by BC with respect for Nations, our sustained success requires investment and capacity-building for all governments to advance engagement with non-Indigenous stakeholders through Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees.

The investments our Forum has made in building mutual understandings of what reconciliation may look like in wildlife and habitat management have been an honour to lead and contribute to the collaborative pathway we must take.

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

## Collaboration and shared decision-making with Indigenous governing bodies

Indigenous peoples' inherent rights, titles and responsibilities to wildlife and habitat are enshrined and recognized in Canada's Constitution, treaties, case law, and government policy.

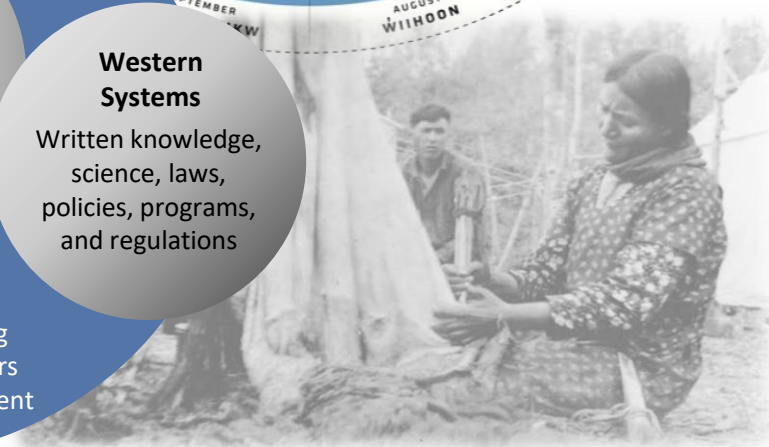
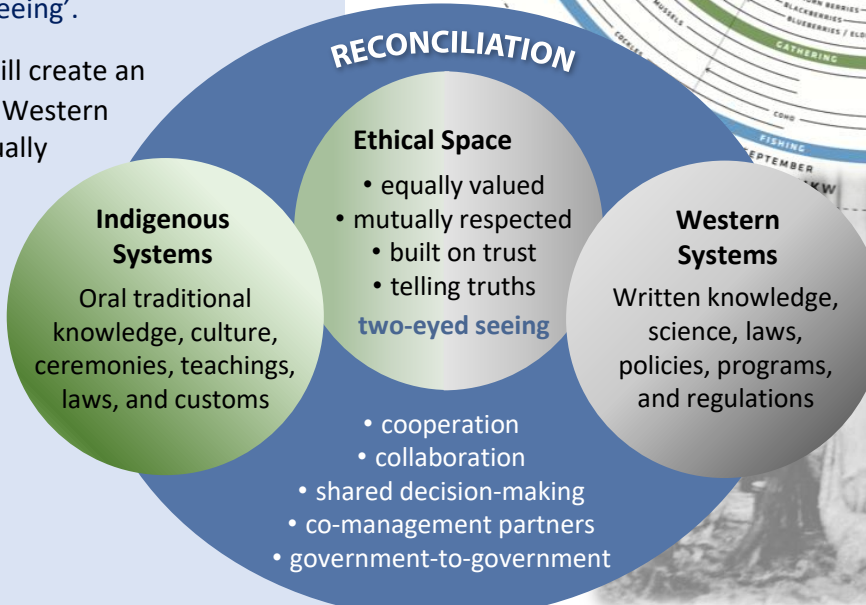
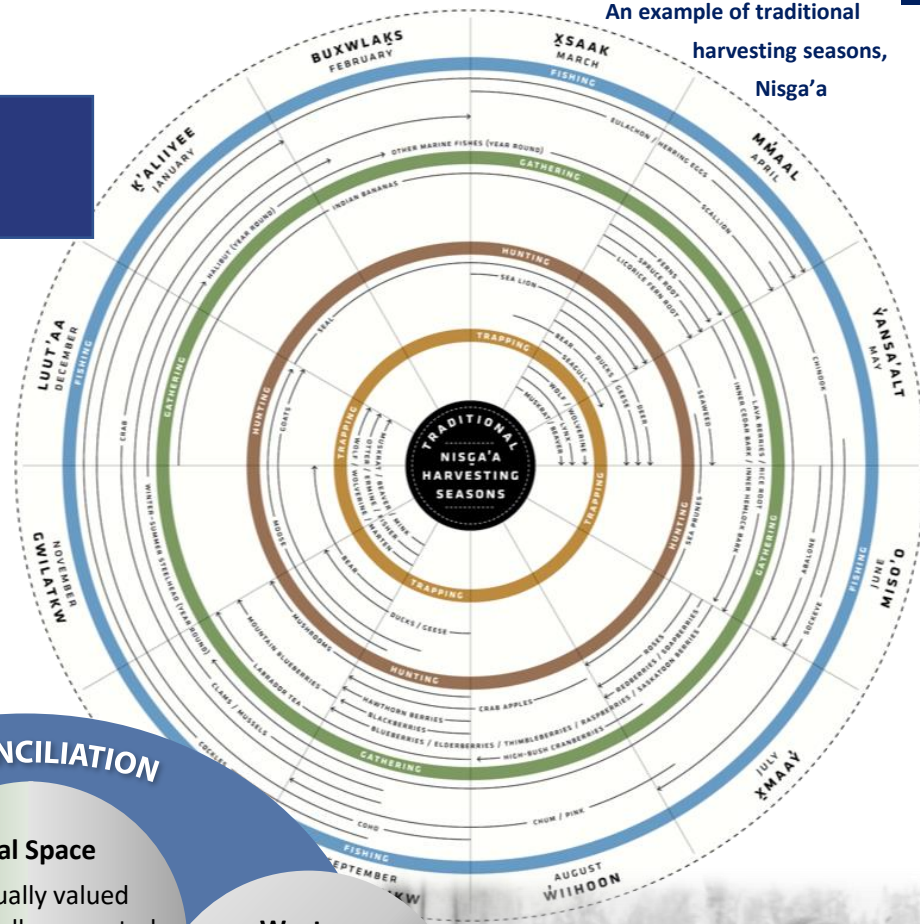
### A path forward

Reconciliation may occur in an 'ethical space' where the confluence of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems meet to foster mutual respect, trust, and truth-telling without inequity or assimilation of one body into the other—this is known as 'two-eyed seeing'.

The Together for Wildlife strategy will create an ethical space where Indigenous and Western systems come together, and are equally valued and mutually respected, for wildlife decision-making and habitat co-management.

In an ethical space, Indigenous laws, legal traditions, traditional governance, and hereditary structures are recognized and embraced through government-to-government relationships.

An example of traditional harvesting seasons, Nisga'a



# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

## Making it happen through stakeholder partnerships

Building the Together for Wildlife strategy was a 21-month journey of discussions, understanding, and coming together among a diverse group of people and partnerships passionate about British Columbia’s wildlife.

Through implementation of the strategy, we have learned wildlife management and habitat stewardship solutions that work in one part of the province may not work in another. One size does not fit all, and different areas and partners may have different needs and goals.



However, British Columbia’s diversity is its strength. We are implementing Together for Wildlife by embracing these diversities and combining the best minds, the best ideas, and the best options—to create the best solutions for wildlife and their habitat.

### We are working together for wildlife.

We will continue to grow and strengthen our partnerships as we further implement and expand Together for Wildlife.

We will also support strategy implementation with sufficient funding, effective legislation, clear objectives, and targeted on-the-ground fieldwork with our partners.

## A diversity of stakeholder perspectives



Together for Wildlife is being implemented collaboratively with Indigenous governments and in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders.

### Together, we are implementing the five goals of Together for Wildlife

<b>Goal 1</b>	All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship.
<b>Goal 2</b>	Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions.
<b>Goal 3</b>	Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife.
<b>Goal 4</b>	Accountability and transparency build trust and confidence.
<b>Goal 5</b>	Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments.

[Download](#) the Together for Wildlife brochure

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

## The importance of wildlife in BC



British Columbia has the greatest diversity of species, ecosystems, and habitats of any province in Canada. Our province's biodiversity is globally significant and includes species not found anywhere else.

### It is special—it is important.

Our rich natural diversity is inextricably linked to our history, our way of life, and our prosperity. Wildlife provides us with social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits.

### It is more than that.

Wildlife and habitat are the cornerstone of many Indigenous cultures and histories and are intrinsic to their identity and their way of being. Because of this, the Province has embraced new ideas, approaches, and priorities for managing BC's wildlife and their habitats.

**Our Vision:** Wildlife and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians.

## This is our path forward: TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

Together for Wildlife is a provincial strategy to improve and coordinate wildlife stewardship and habitat conservation across British Columbia. Its focus is on not-at-risk terrestrial wildlife and their habitats, and we collaborate on other stewardship programs that focus on species-at-risk and fisheries.

Together for Wildlife includes additional investment, proactive objectives, and improved data and knowledge—all supported by new policies, strong partnerships, and dedicated resources.

The Together for Wildlife strategy will shift our current wildlife and habitat management approach to a more coordinated effort, ensuring that investment is strategically allocated where it is most needed across the province.

### TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

#### 5 Goals and 24 Actions

*new approaches – new partnerships – new investments*

WHERE WE ARE AT	WHERE WE ARE GOING
Individual Priorities	Common Agenda
Insufficient Info	Better & Current Data
Outdated Approach	New Policies & Tools
Lack of Confidence	Trust & Transparency
Unsettled Relationships	Shared Governance

our goals and actions are supported by a commitment to dedicated resources

To learn more or become involved visit the Together for Wildlife [website](#).



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

British Columbia's strategy for  
wildlife and habitat stewardship

British Columbia's biodiversity is globally significant and includes species not found anywhere else on earth.

**It is special - it is important.**

Our rich natural diversity is inextricably linked to our history, our way of life, and our prosperity. It provides us with social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits.

Likely **75,000** species  
of animals, plants, and fungi

**16** distinct ecosystems –  
the highest in Canada

**50%**  
of the world's  
mountain goats



## BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS...

The greatest diversity of species, ecosystems, and habitats of any province in Canada.



**3/4** of Canada's  
mammal species

Our province's rich natural abundance  
is a gift and a responsibility



**\$9-10 MILLION**  
generated annually from  
hunting license fees

**\$350 MILLION**  
generated annually by  
hunting activities

**250** licensed guide outfitters  
employing over **2,500** people and  
generating **\$116 million** annually

**95**  
globally  
significant  
species  
populations

**50%**  
OF CANADA'S  
GRIZZLY BEARS



## Implementation – Year 1 (2020–2021)

Together for Wildlife was released in August 2020. During its first year (2020–2021) of implementation, new investments, projects, and programs were initiated across the province.

Approximately \$9 million was spent, and over 150 projects were funded during its first year—and we are just starting.

### Some major accomplishments this year include:

- Established and delivered a process for allocating new investment to priority projects across the province
- Established a Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council and held an inaugural meeting with the Minister
- Enhanced communications by creating a Together for Wildlife website, updating several wildlife and habitat websites, and developing regional communication materials
- Delivered priority wildlife monitoring, inventory, and research projects across the province
- Completed background analyses to support objective-setting and wildlife stewardship planning
- Delivered priority on-the-ground stewardship projects across the province, and tracked outcomes and deliverables

- Completed a comprehensive spatial analysis of land designations and disturbances across the province to inform staff, decision makers, First Nations, and stakeholders about current conditions of designations and surrounding landscapes
- Continued to improve management of conservation lands through additional resources for management planning, policy development, and on-the-ground enhancement
- Developed short-term *Wildlife Act* amendment proposals to support reconciliation, in collaboration with the First Nation–BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum
- In collaboration with the First Nation–BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum, we developed workplans and established working groups for actions under Goal 5 and began to advance this work

### Our trusted advisors:

- The [Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council](#) was established in August 2020, with 18 people from diverse backgrounds
- The [First-Nations-BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum](#) was established in 2018, with over 40 First Nations participating
- The [Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team](#) has six member organizations that advise on game species management

For more information on implementation of Together for Wildlife, please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/togetherforwildlife](http://www.gov.bc.ca/togetherforwildlife) and click on Implementation.



**WILDLIFE MONITORING, INVENTORY, AND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**  
*(80 Projects – \$3.3 million)*

WILDLIFE PROJECTS 2020-2021

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

British Columbia's strategy for wildlife and habitat stewardship

In 2020–2021, the British Columbia government invested \$9 million to implement the five goals and 24 actions of the Together For Wildlife strategy.

Out of this \$9 million, over \$3.3 million was directly invested in wildlife monitoring, inventory, and management projects across British Columbia.

These are some of our initial first steps to ensuring secured and adequate funding for wildlife projects through the Together for Wildlife strategy.



*Wildlife and habitat stewardship is a collaborative effort in British Columbia*  
**We all need to work together for wildlife**



\* Together for Wildlife's primary focus is on not-at-risk terrestrial wildlife and their habitats, and we collaborate on other stewardship programs that focus on species-at-risk and fisheries.

# GOAL 1

All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship

We will strengthen and broaden relationships to make the engagement process more open, transparent, and effective.



Wildlife stewardship is a shared responsibility and requires that everyone has a voice. The Together for Wildlife strategy is the Province's commitment to develop inclusive and cooperative governance structures and to make existing engagement processes more transparent and effective.

## SUPPORTING GOAL 1 in 2020-2021



Total invested: \$137,453  
Total projects: 6

## ACTIONS 1-3

### ACTION 1

Establish a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

### ACTION 2

Create or expand existing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees

### ACTION 3

Increase opportunities for engagement and involvement

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Support for Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council



LOCATION: province-wide

2020-21 INVESTED: \$65,389

FOCUS: Action 1

REASON: To provide public insight, advice, and recommendations to the Minister to help support the implementation of Together for Wildlife.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council was formed to support the implementation of Together for Wildlife. The council consists of 18 individuals from diverse geographic, cultural, and social backgrounds, and provides independent advice to the Minister on wildlife-related issues.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Develop and expand Together for Wildlife strategy websites



LOCATION: province-wide

2020-21 INVESTED: \$47,765

FOCUS: Action 3

REASON: To provide transparency and information to the public about the Together for Wildlife strategy, wildlife management, and habitat branch.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Two projects to develop and update publicly accessible Together for Wildlife webpages and website upgrades to provide British Columbians with up-to-date information on strategy activities, initiatives and projects.

# GOAL 2

Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions

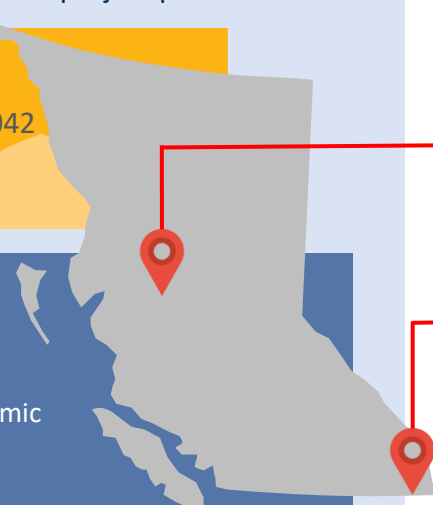
We will make new investments in biological, social, cultural, and economic data collection.



The right data, information, and knowledge are essential for successful wildlife stewardship. Acquiring and sharing the right data, information, and knowledge will require that our data and knowledge systems be modernized in collaboration with Indigenous governments and our project partners.

## SUPPORTING GOAL 2 in 2020–2021

Total invested: \$2,201,042  
Total projects: 45



### ACTIONS 4–7

#### ACTION 4

Expand biological, social, and economic data and information

#### ACTION 5

Support wildlife research

#### ACTION 6

Foster citizen science

#### ACTION 7

Ensure wildlife and habitat data are accessible, reliable and integrated

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Lower Skeena moose stratified random block survey\*



**LOCATION:** Lower Skeena

**2020-21 INVESTED:** \$65,000

**FOCUS:** Action 4

**REASON:** To conduct a stratified random block survey for moose to determine recent population trend and contribute to a long-term monitoring dataset.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Obtained estimates of moose population size, density, and bull and calf ratios to inform population and harvest management. Local conservation officers participated as observers, and a Kitsumkalum First Nation field technician was contracted as an observer to support capacity building.

\* Part of the South Skeena moose project

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Elk Valley elk inventory and West Kootenay composition flight surveys



**LOCATION:** Kootenays

**2020-21 INVESTED:** \$50,000

**FOCUS:** Action 4

**REASON:** To conduct aerial elk surveys in priority areas of the Kootenays to help set appropriate harvesting limits in the 2022-2024 hunting regulation cycle.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Conducted a full elk inventory of Management Unit (MU) 4-23 (Elk Valley) in the East Kootenays and partial composition counts in priority habitats in MU 4-08, 4-09, and 4-15 to 4-17 in the West Kootenays to help support regulation changes and the upcoming Kootenay Elk Stewardship Plan.

# GOAL 3 Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife

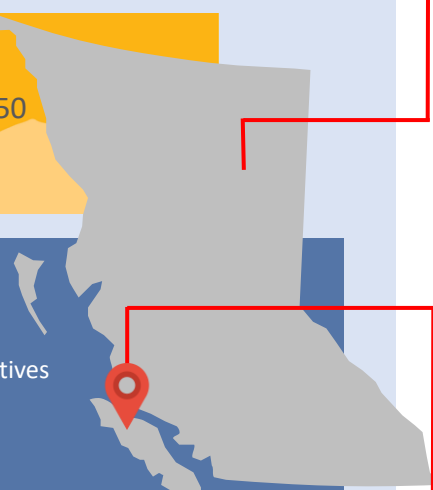
We will develop new policies and tools to meet the needs of British Columbians, shifting priorities, and a changing climate.



To improve wildlife stewardship, we need the right tools to deliver tangible, on-the-ground changes in a timely way. We need to ensure our existing tools—whether policies, legislation, financial mechanisms, land designations, or restoration and enhancement activities—are effective to achieve our goals.

## SUPPORTING GOAL 3 in 2020–2021

Total invested: \$4,326,750  
Total projects: 75



### ACTIONS 8–13

**ACTION 8**  
Establish accountable stewardship objectives

**ACTION 9**  
Deliver on-the-ground stewardship

**ACTION 10**  
Improve the effectiveness of legislated land designations

**ACTION 11**  
Support and expand conservation lands

**ACTION 12**  
Recommend improvements to the *Wildlife Act*

**ACTION 13**  
Explore new funding models for wildlife investments

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Provincial fisher stewardship projects



**LOCATION:** province-wide    **2020-21 INVESTED:** \$230,024    **FOCUS:** Actions 8 & 9

**REASON:** Fisher populations in British Columbia are under pressure and require better data and guidance to improve provincial stewardship.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Five projects across the province are improving our abilities to conserve fishers, including habitat and population modelling, public engagement, management and recovery planning, and hands-on conservation efforts to distribute over 800 fisher exclusion plates to BC marten trappers.

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Quatse (Gwa’dzi) River estuary restoration project



**LOCATION:** Vancouver Island    **2020-21 INVESTED:** \$50,000    **FOCUS:** Action 9

**REASON:** The Quatse River Estuary WMA\* is ranked among the top ten estuaries on Vancouver Island and supports over 60 species of waterfowl and waterbirds.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** The West Coast Conservation Land Management Program, in partnership with the Kwakiutl First Nation, breached a 20 m section of road and constructed a 120 m distributary channel to restore tidal circulation and flow. Over 2000 m<sup>2</sup> of estuary habitat was restored and created.

\* WMA (Wildlife Management Area)

## GOAL 4 Accountability and transparency build trust and confidence

We will create a robust and transparent system for reporting our actions, measures of success, and plans for future investments.



Our success depends on making sure we are on the right path, which means assessing whether we are delivering the actions identified in the strategy and whether the impacts of these actions benefit wildlife. This requires transparent reporting of our actions and measuring the level of our success.

### SUPPORTING GOAL 4 in 2020–2021

**Total invested:** coming soon  
**Total projects:** coming soon



### ACTIONS 14–17

#### ACTION 14

Report out on performance

#### ACTION 15

Share financial reports

#### ACTION 16

Communicate decision rationales

#### ACTION 17

Periodically review and update the strategy

#### ACTION 14 – Starting in 2021

##### Demonstrating transparency and accountability

We will develop and implement a robust performance management framework with goals, actions, and performance measures to monitor and report publicly on the success of the Together for Wildlife strategy to all British Columbians.

#### ACTION 15 – Starting in 2021

##### Demonstrating financial responsibility and prudence

We will produce annual financial reports that document and account for all expenditures made to deliver the Together for Wildlife strategy and ensure these reports are easy to interpret, track and share with all British Columbians.

#### ACTION 16 – Starting in 2021

##### Communicating the reasons for our decisions

We will develop an approach that documents and shares with all British Columbians the rationale for significant decisions related to wildlife stewardship and what science, evidence or reasons were used to inform and make decisions.

#### ACTION 17 – In 2025

##### Improving on our successes and on lessons learned

We will complete a comprehensive review of the Together for Wildlife strategy to better understand the effectiveness of the strategy and to identify how best to revise and improve the strategy so wildlife benefits and prospers.

# GOAL 5

Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments

We will endeavor to improve government-to-government relationships; support training and capacity; inform ourselves about Indigenous worldviews, perspectives, and approaches; and ensure that all British Columbians understand the rights of Indigenous peoples and their integral role in wildlife stewardship.



We will create new opportunities to work collaboratively with Indigenous governments and help build their capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver wildlife stewardship

## SUPPORTING GOAL 5 in 2020–2021

Total invested: \$203,790  
Total projects: 5



### ACTIONS 18–24

**ACTION 18**

Advance co-management and shared decision-making with Indigenous governments

**ACTION 19**

Promote the importance of Indigenous peoples and wildlife

**ACTION 20**

Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into decisions

**ACTION 21**

Support Indigenous guardian and compliance programs

**ACTION 22**

Share wildlife and habitat data and information

**ACTION 23**

Invest in capacity for Indigenous governments

**ACTION 24**

Support the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Conservation Officer Service First Nations guardian training



**LOCATION:** province-wide

**2020-21 INVESTED:** \$75,0000

**FOCUS:** Action 21

**REASON:** To assist First Nations with conservation enforcement and compliance through training and program development to protect their territory resources.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Delivered five guardian training sessions, trained 57 guardians from 12 Nations, signed four enforcement MOUs, finalized enforcement agreements with two First Nations, and signed a letter of expectation to provide enforcement assistance as requested by a Nation on their treaty lands.

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### Produce Together for Wildlife First Nations communications



We will incorporate Indigenous knowledge into statutory and non-statutory wildlife stewardship decision-making through

**LOCATION:** province-wide

**2020-21 INVESTED:** \$37,950

**FOCUS:** Action 19

**REASON:** To improve communications to First Nations on the progress of Together for Wildlife and to promote opportunities to become involved.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Created a First Nations communications plan that resulted in the development of Together for Wildlife [webpages](#) for the First Nations–B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum including comprehensive information about forum working groups, roles and projects.

# TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

British Columbia's strategy for wildlife and habitat stewardship

The provincial government invested \$3.1 million across the province through 95 regional wildlife and habitat projects under the Together for Wildlife strategy.

## TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS BY REGION (95 Projects - \$3.1 million)

### REGIONAL FUNDING

- **\$354K** | Cariboo – 14 Projects
- **\$555K** | Kootenay/Boundary – 23 Projects
- **\$288K** | Northeast – 9 Projects
- **\$426K** | Omineca – 7 Projects
- **\$438K** | Skeena – 14 Projects
- **\$254K** | South Coast – 5 Projects
- **\$493K** | Thompson/Okanagan – 12 Projects
- **\$263K** | West Coast – 11 Projects

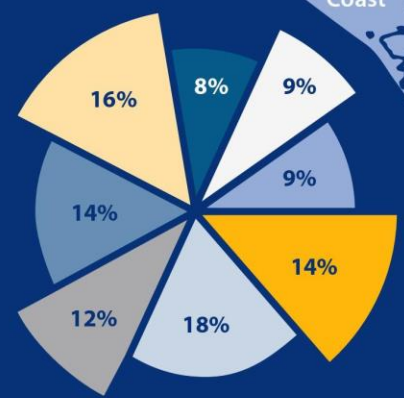


**NO WILDLIFE OR HABITAT PROJECT WAS TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL**

Together for Wildlife funded **\$250,000** for moose habitat restoration in the Omineca and...



**\$3,300** for protecting fishers from incidental trapping in the Northeast



*Wildlife and habitat stewardship is a collaborative effort in British Columbia we all need to work together for wildlife*



## Program investment overview (2020–2021)

Type of Investment	Total Investment	# of Projects	% of Funding
Wildlife Projects	\$3,286,000	80	37%
Communications and Engagement	\$122,000	5	1%
Habitat Projects	\$832,000	32	9%
First Nations Collaboration	\$303,000	9	3%
Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council	\$65,000	2	1%
Data Improvement	\$562,000	3	6%
Transfer to BC HCTF* for wildlife and habitat projects	\$1,700,000	N/A	19%
Program Administration	\$2,130,000	N/A	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>

\* BC HCTF – British Columbia Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	<b>Goal 1: All British Columbians have a voice in wildlife stewardship</b>	<b>\$137,453</b>
	Action 1: Establish a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council	\$65,389
7135453-1	Together for Wildlife (T4W) support for Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council - co-chairs	\$17,253
7135453-2	Support for Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council - facilitation	\$48,136
	Action 2: Create or expand existing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees	N/A
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	Action 3: Increase opportunities for engagement and involvement	\$72,064
7137121	Wildlife health outreach	\$9,299
7137142-1	Wildlife infographic communications	\$15,000
7137142-2	Communicating Together for Wildlife with all British Columbians - contractor support	\$30,125
7137142-3	Webpage development to enhance communication - contractor support	\$17,640
	<b>Goal 2: Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions</b>	<b>\$2,201,042</b>
	Action 4: Expand biological, social, and economic data and information	\$1,663,765
7135451	WildCAM network	\$40,000
7135465	Roosevelt elk inventory and monitoring	\$90,010
7135469	Roosevelt elk habitat selection and supply modelling	\$25,862
7135470	Management unit (MU) 5-02D/5-15D stratified random block (SRB) moose survey	\$103,306
7135471	Fall mule deer aerial inventory (MU 5-14 & 5-02)	\$25,000
7135472	East and West Kootenay moose inventory	\$59,569
7135473	Elk Valley elk inventory, West Kootenay composition flights	\$47,813
7135474	Thompson-Okanagan mule deer composition surveys	\$67,791
7135475	Northeast collaborative wildlife management	\$10,000
7135476	Wood bison - Etthithun Herd - habitat use and range study	\$42,802
7135479	Identifying travel corridors for grizzly bears	\$46,720
7135480	Threshold analysis for moose	\$6,000
7135481	Osilinka mountain goat inventory	\$10,000
7135482	South Skeena moose project	\$244,911
7135483	Skeena Northern Goshawk habitat plan - implementation phase	\$15,000

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	Action 4: Expand biological, social, and economic data and information ( <i>continued</i> )	
7135484	Fisher inventory and extension	\$90,000
7135486	Moose calf research - determine factors affecting calf survival	\$140,900
7135487	Chronic wasting disease surveillance	\$128,202
7137147-1	Entiako calf recruitment survey	\$12,350
7137147-2	Wildlife management unit (WMU) 7-50/41 Stone's sheep, mountain goat, and elk inventory	\$35,501
7137147-3	Stikine Canyon 6-21A mountain goat total count survey	\$4,300
7137147-4	Stikine Canyon 6-22A mountain goat total count survey	\$4,300
7137147-5	Skeena compulsory inspection quality assurance	\$5,000
7137147-6	Nadina (6-09G) mountain goat total count survey	\$3,900
7137147-7	Nanika (6-09D) mountain goat total count survey	\$5,200
7137147-8	Auxiliary Biologist (level 21) wildlife biologist	\$13,023
7137147-9	Comparison of aerial based mule deer inventory and ground transect counts	\$10,000
7137147-10	Lake Revelstoke moose - caribou Interactions	\$20,000
7137147-11	Elk Valley west bighorn sheep population dynamics and habitat condition	\$16,484
7137147-12	Southeast BC white-tailed deer movements and coarse woody debris (CWD) risk assessment	\$20,000
7137147-13	Developing statistical tools for monitoring cougar populations	\$10,000
7137147-14	Effectiveness monitoring of fuel and community safety treatments on mule deer winter range	\$30,000
7137147-15	Factors affecting moose population declines in British Columbia: Big Creek collar maintenance	\$17,600
7137147-16	Fraser River bighorn sheep health	\$8,000
7137147-17	Wetlands of Churn Creek Protected Area: distribution, ecological attributes, and dynamics	\$16,500
7137147-18	West Coast Region mountain goat ungulate winter range (UWR) effectiveness monitoring	\$73,668
7137147-19	Deer inventory in the West Coast Region	\$15,000
7137147-20	Preparing for assessing the sustainability of black bear harvest in the West Coast Region	\$1,885
7137147-21	Improving accuracy of Roosevelt elk inventory via modelling of sightability correction factors	\$65,246
7137147-22	South Coast grizzly bear data verification and database compilation	\$5,000
7137147-23	Moose inventory stratified random block (SRB) and habitat assessment MU 7-50 and 7-48	\$15,000
7135488	Re-allocation to minor Action 4 projects	\$61,922

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	Action 5: Support wildlife research	N/A
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	Action 6: Foster citizen science	\$12,146
7135496	BC Moose Tracker app support	\$12,146
	Action 7: Ensure wildlife and habitat data are accessible, reliable and integrated	\$525,131
7135485	Provincial wildlife data compilation, loading, storage, and access	\$371,398
7137150	Wildlife information and licensing data system: trapping, compulsory reporting, and inspection data	\$153,733
	<b>Goal 3: Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife</b>	<b>\$4,326,750</b>
	Action 8: Establish accountable stewardship objectives	\$319,624
7135457	Provincial grizzly bear management plan and working group support	\$173,221
7137101	Provincial moose habitat account	\$8,700
7137102	Developing management objectives for elk on Haida Gwaii	\$3,000
7137132	Fisher management planning and engagement for Northeast BC	\$94,704
7137137	Forest landscape plan objectives for wildlife and habitat in interior Douglas-fir	\$29,999
7137163	First Nations capacity building	\$10,000
	Action 9: Deliver on-the-ground stewardship	\$3,487,803
7135478	Fisher and furbearer monitoring program	\$40,000
7135488	Fisher landscape planning tool	\$92,000
7135489	Bat conservation / White-nose Syndrome response	\$126,000
7137103	Behaviour of rehabilitated orphan black bears in the South Coast Region	\$51,408
7137104	Grizzly bears in the Stein-Nahatlatch population unit	\$36,499
7137105	Access management for grizzly bear habitat	\$4,708
7137106	Protecting mule deer winter range and other ecosystem/wildlife values	\$19,161
7137107	Improving mule deer habitat stewardship in southern BC	\$60,000
7137108	Reducing respiratory illness in the Fraser River bighorn sheep population	\$26,062
7137109	Wildlife corridor: Alexander overpass	\$5,419

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	Action 9: Deliver on-the-ground stewardship ( <i>continued</i> )	
7137110	Habitat enhancement and threat mitigation for wildlife in the Kootenay-Boundary	\$39,632
7137111	Wildlife habitat enhancement - Galton/Lizards invasive plant treatments	\$27,000
7137112	Wildlife habitat enhancement - Forsyth Creek ecosystem restoration	\$20,000
7137113	Mitigating human–elk conflicts on Vancouver Island	\$26,663
7137114	Mitigating human–bear conflicts in the West Coast Region	\$32,919
7137115	Vancouver Island black bear den management	\$5,400
7137116	Bald Eagle guidelines for urban and rural development near nests: summary fact sheet	\$3,987
7137117	Bear viewing suitability assessment ?'Ski Xoana's Conservancy	\$15,000
7137122	Bovine tuberculosis (TB) sampling	\$5,423
7137123	Implementation of Skeena interior goshawk habitat management strategy	\$25,000
7137124	South Skeena moose mapping	\$24,999
7137125	Southern Skeena mountain goat motorized access planning	\$48,250
7137126	Preventing and responding to human wildlife conflict: conservation officer service (COS) support	\$75,000
7137128	Invasive plant management East Kootenay	\$50,000
7137120	Plains bison grazing in a montane-boreal landscape	\$40,000
7137130	Invasive species Chilcotin Region	\$17,000
7137131	Amphibian and reptile habitat restoration	\$25,677
7137133	Habitat for plains bison in the Pink Mountain area	\$6,898
7137134	Protecting fishers from incidental capture	\$3,320
7137135	Enhancing moose habitat in North-Central BC	\$250,000
7137136	Prioritizing and planning grassland restoration in the Cariboo	\$9,641
7137138	Conservation Lands enhancement - log fence rebuild	\$5,161
7137139	Moose wetland habitat restoration assessments	\$11,014
7137140-1	Conservation Lands enhancement - compliance monitoring flights	\$5,929
7137140-2	Dike restoration - pollinator project at Bummers Flats	\$5,000
7137140-3	Field refurbishment - fertilization at Bull River (Red Barn)	\$5,000
7137140-4	Quatse (Gwa'dzi) River estuary restoration project	\$50,000

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	Action 9: Deliver on-the-ground stewardship ( <i>continued</i> )	
7137140-5	Wetland water control infrastructure replacement (Serpentine Wildlife Management Area)	\$42,000
7137140-6	Understorey tree thinning (Bummers Flats)	\$10,000
7137140-7	Silvicultural Management Plan (SMP) development and understorey thinning (Premier Ridge)	\$20,000
7137140-8	Big Ranch ecosystem enhancement project	\$10,000
7137141-1	Provincial urban deer	\$67,918
7137141-2	Compulsory inspection and <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> surveillance	\$4,000
7137141-3	BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund transfer - funding for non-government organizations, First Nations and other wildlife/habitat organizations to implement Together for Wildlife	\$1,700,000
7137141-4	Wildsafe BC - salary, Conservation Officers	\$150,000
7137141-5	Thompson Okanagan Indigenous provincial stewardship project	\$37,844
7137141-6	Collaborative wildlife with the Okanagan Syilx	\$25,536
7137141-7	Grizzly bear coexistence solutions	\$5,000
7137141-8	Mitigating human-bear conflicts in the West Coast Region – Wuikinuxv landfill electric fencing uplift	\$12,747
7137141-9	Nass Wildlife Area compliance monitoring	\$29,903
7137141-10	Elk Valley ungulate winter range restoration	\$24,999
7137141-11	Re-allocation to minor Action 9 projects	\$2,686
7137144	Wildlife stewardship engagement Cariboo Region	\$50,000
	Action 10: Improve the effectiveness of legislated land designations	\$310,458
7135497	Mule deer winter range government action regulations (GAR) Order support in the Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$25,000
7135498	Amending and developing ungulate winter range (UWR) Orders in the Rocky Mountain Forest District	\$73,012
7135499	Grizzly bear specified area effectiveness monitoring	\$10,850
7137118-1	RESULTS habitat investment tracking	\$50,000
7137118-2	Old growth management area assessment project	\$45,000
7137118-3	Hiring for GeoBC (Salary)	\$36,596
7137119	Ungulate winter range Kootenay-Boundary	\$15,000
7137152	Comprehensive review of land designations/gap analysis and report	\$55,000

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Investment
	<b>Action 11: Support and expand Conservation Lands</b>	<b>\$183,364</b>
7135490	Climate-informed conservation planning for British Columbia	\$14,950
7135491	Identify, prioritize, and secure Conservation Lands	\$25,000
7135492-1	Post-fire recovery planning (McTaggart-Cowan/nsək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area)	\$40,000
7135492-2	East Side Columbia Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) management plan	\$40,000
7135492-3	Invasive plant management plan – Grand Forks Conservation Area	\$5,000
7135492-4	Healthy forest strategy for Wildlife Management Areas	\$25,000
7135493	Swan Lake foreshore inventory and mapping	\$10,000
7135494	Re-allocation to minor Action 11 projects	\$23,414
	<b>Action 12: Recommend improvements to the <i>Wildlife Act</i></b>	<b>\$25,502</b>
7137153	First Nations engagement for <i>Wildlife Act</i> amendments - contractor support	\$25,502
	<b>Action 13: Explore new funding models for wildlife</b>	<b>N/A</b>
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	<b>Goal 4: Accountability and transparency build trust and confidence</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Action 14: Report out on performance</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Action 15: Share financial reports</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Action 16: Communicate decision rationales</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Action 17: Periodically review and update the strategy</b>	<b>N/A</b>
N/A	Projects to support Goal 4 coming soon	N/A

## Program investment summary (2020–2021)

Project #	Project Description	Budget
	<b>Goal 5: Collaboration advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments</b>	<b>\$203,790</b>
	Action 18: Advance co-management and shared decision-making with Indigenous govts	N/A
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	Action 19: Promote the importance of Indigenous peoples and wildlife	\$62,950
7137120-1	Cost share agreement with BC Trappers Association - manual re-write, including Indigenous chapter	\$25,000
7137120-2	Advisory committee website development (First Nation Forum, MWAC, PHTAT)	\$37,950
	Action 20: Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into decisions	N/A
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	Action 21: Support Indigenous guardian and compliance programs	\$75,000
7137127	Hunting, sheltering, and relationship building with Guardian Program support	\$75,000
	Action 22: Share wildlife and habitat data and information	\$50,000
7135495	Reconciliation support and youth training (Wildlife Stewardship Council)	\$50,000
	Action 23: Invest in capacity for Indigenous governments	N/A
N/A	Projects coming soon	N/A
	Action 24: Support the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum	\$15,840
7137143	Support for First Nation-BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum	\$15,840
<b>7135450</b>	<b>Program Administration</b>	<b>\$2,130,092</b>
	<b>Total Together for Wildlife Investment 2020-2021</b>	<b>\$8,999,127</b>

Detailed project deliverables and outcomes are available on the Together for Wildlife website [www.gov.bc.ca/togetherforwildlife](http://www.gov.bc.ca/togetherforwildlife).