

TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE



A New Direction for Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship in BC

British Columbia has the greatest diversity of species, ecosystems and habitats of any province in Canada.

The Province'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.

Wildlife provides us with social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits.

But it is more than that.

For many of us, wildlife and habitat are intrinsic to our identity and our way of being.

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- *BC occupies only 10% of Canada's landmass, yet is home to nearly 40% of the country's wildlife and plant species.*
 - *BC likely has over 75,000 species of animals, plants and fungi.*

Photo: Can Stock Photo / kamchatka

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

New ideas, approaches and priorities have been embraced by the Province for managing our wildlife and their habitats. Our path forward is clear.

Our new direction for wildlife and habitat stewardship includes additional funding, proactive objectives, and improved data and knowledge - all supported by new policies, strong partnerships, and dedicated resources.

For Indigenous peoples, wildlife not only provides food, medicine and spiritual connections – but it is also the cultural link to their past, present and future.

We are committed to advancing and fostering reconciliation with Indigenous peoples with our new approach through shared governance and mutual respect.

***This is our path forward,
Together for Wildlife.***

Photo: Dexter Hodder



TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

Our New Path Ahead

OUR VISION

Wildlife and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians

To Achieve our Vision, We Commit To **5 GOALS AND 24 ACTIONS**

WHERE WE CAME FROM | *Our Challenges*

- Stakeholders and the general public want to be involved
- Better information and science are required for decision-making
- Clear, measurable objectives are required for effective wildlife stewardship
- Tools, funding and legislation need to support stewardship objectives
- Investments in wildlife need to be adequately tracked and reported
- Rationales for decisions need to be shared with those affected
- Indigenous governments need to be true partners with adequate capacity and support
- Indigenous Knowledge needs to be included in decisions and policies
- The rights of Indigenous people and their role in wildlife stewardship need to be promoted and fostered

WHERE WE ARE GOING | *Our Five Goals*

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.

GOAL 2:

Data, information, and knowledge drive better decisions

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

GOAL 3:

Stewardship actions achieve tangible benefits for wildlife

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

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.

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.

HOW WE GET THERE | *Our 24 Actions*

1. Establish a Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council
2. Create or expand Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees
3. Increase opportunities for engagement and involvement
4. Enhance biological, social, and economic data
5. Support wildlife research
6. Foster citizen science
7. Ensure data are accessible, reliable and integrated
8. Establish accountable stewardship objectives
9. Deliver on-the-ground stewardship
10. Improve legislated land designations
11. Support and expand Conservation Lands
12. Recommend improvements to the Wildlife Act
13. Explore new funding models for wildlife
14. Report out on performance
15. Share financial reports
16. Communicate decision rationales
17. Periodically review and update our strategy
18. Advance co-management and shared decision-making
19. Promote the importance of Indigenous peoples and wildlife
20. Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into decisions
21. Support Indigenous guardian and compliance programs
22. Share wildlife and habitat data and information
23. Invest in capacity for Indigenous governments
24. Support the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum





Photo: Roy V. Rea

Implementation of Together for Wildlife will require strong partnerships with Indigenous peoples, rural communities, academic institutions and a wide range of industry, conservation, hunter, trapper, guide, recreation and tourism stakeholders

A NEW WAY FORWARD

Building the Together for Wildlife strategy was a 21-month journey of discussions, understanding and coming together among a diverse group of people passionate about BC’s wildlife. Together we developed and agreed upon a new approach for managing wildlife and habitat in our province.

Our diverse group continues their shared journey together through the Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council and the First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum. Along the way we are each discovering our own paths and experiencing our own truths, but collectively we have a common endpoint, because we all are Together for Wildlife.

To learn more or become involved visit: www.gov.bc.ca/togetherforwildlife.

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	Trusted & Respected
Unsettled Relationships	Shared Governance

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

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.

The Province has a special constitutional relationship with Indigenous peoples. The Constitution Act in 1982 recognized and affirmed existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. Indigenous governments are not stakeholders. It is the Province’s intention to shift our relationship with Indigenous governments to ensure our work is based on recognition and respect for the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to govern themselves and play an integral role in the stewardship of our shared natural resources .