

Call for Member Applications

East Kootenay Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee Membership Application Invitation to Apply by December 4, 2023

The Province is accepting applications for membership to the East Kootenay Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee until end of day Monday December 4, 2023. Selection to the committee are for two-year periods. The new committee membership will be announced in winter 2023/24. Members must have a demonstrated commitment to wildlife and habitat conservation, skills for respectfully and effectively collaborating with others, and have the time to be an active and engaged member of the East Kootenay Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee. Please read the membership criteria and expectations below as you consider whether you would like to apply.

Potential members should email fishandwildlife@gov.bc.ca with the subject line East Kootenay Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee membership to learn more about the committee and how to apply for membership.

Standards and Expectations for Members

It is expected that regional wildlife advisory committee members make recommendations and provide advice that is in the best interest of wildlife and habitat stewardship in accordance with the goals and actions of the Together for Wildlife strategy. It is imperative that the members of the East Kootenay Wildlife and Habitat Advisory Committee:

- Acknowledge healthy, resilient ecosystems and biodiversity as essential to all living things
- Strong understanding of the importance and implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- Support the overarching goals and actions of the Together for Wildlife strategy
- Have the ability to commit the necessary time
- Live or spend significant portion of the year in the East Kootenay
- Are accountable to the East Kootenay Wildlife and Habitat Advisory Committee goals and objectives and represent a voice for wildlife and habitat stewardship
- Can participate as non-representative, meaning members are present as individuals, not representing the interests of organizations they may be involved in
- May help facilitate linkages to other regional committees, organizations and provincial advisory bodies where appropriate.

Membership Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on the following membership criteria:

- Ability to foster effective and diverse collaboration (e.g., with the Province of British Columbia, stakeholders, Indigenous Nations), preferably on wildlife and habitat issues;
- Ability to focus on a range of issues as opposed to single issues;
- Ability to work effectively with others, even if opposing views;
- Have experience or interest in natural resource stewardship and passion for wildlife and habitat; and,



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- Commitment to advance the British Columbia’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the province’s reconciliation intentions.

All member selection to the regional wildlife advisory committees will aim to achieve and maintain balance under the following principles:

- Gender, age, and cultural diversity;
- Emerging leaders and underrepresented demographics; and
- Robust regional representation.

Background

In 2020, after extensive engagement with First Nations and British Columbians, the Province released the [Together for Wildlife strategy](#). The strategy contains goals and actions that sets a path to improve wildlife and habitat stewardship in B.C. This strategy includes the Province’s commitment to develop inclusive and cooperative governance structures, and to make existing engagement processes more transparent and effective. Specifically, the strategy commits to the development of regional-scale wildlife and habitat advisory committees that represent a variety of perspectives and provide opportunities for collaboration to improve wildlife stewardship.

Over the past year in the East Kootenay, provincial staff have been engaging with First Nations to explore the formation of an East Kootenay focused Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee that would provide advice to provincial government staff at the local level. In parallel to these government conversations, a diverse group of people with extensive local knowledge of wildlife and Together for Wildlife formed the “East Kootenay interim Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee”. Through this foundational work and engagements, the Province is supporting the call for membership to formally establish a regional Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee for the East Kootenay. As this is a new approach, we heard from many people how important a robust, transparent, and inclusive membership selection process will be for success. Therefore, we are now inviting interested and qualified residents of the East Kootenay to submit their applications to be considered for the East Kootenay Wildlife & Habitat Advisory Committee (EK WHAC) membership.

The committee is an advisor to provincial government staff, namely the Directors of Resource Stewardship Operations and Resource Management, on the regional implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy. In this role, the committee will center its work on providing expert knowledge and advise on priorities and opportunities to improve the stewardship of terrestrial wildlife and habitat. The EK WHAC will be inclusive of diverse perspectives and foster respectful and trust-based collaborations among individuals with various perspectives, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous members. The committee’s scope will be to guide the implementation of [Together for Wildlife strategy](#) in the East Kootenay by providing advice on priorities for wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems; provide opportunities for improved communication, collaboration, and connections among related programs or initiatives; and, promote and contribute to activities that are expected to have meaningful and positive impacts to healthy ecosystems, wildlife, and their habitat.

This committee is not a duplication of the existing Kootenay Wildlife Harvest Advisory Committee which is the venue for conversations and advice related to hunting and trapping regulations. Hunting and trapping regulations are not currently within the scope of this committee.



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