

Together for Wildlife Strategy, Action 2

Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees



“We will create or expand existing regional wildlife advisory committees to represent a variety of perspectives and provide opportunities for collaboration to improve wildlife stewardship”.

The commitment to Action 2 is founded on a principle that **wildlife stewardship is a shared responsibility** and requires that a diversity of voices is heard. Through inclusive and cooperative governance structures, improved transparency, and new relationships we expect to **build new partnerships and work more effectively together** (e.g., coordinate funding and resources, align jurisdictions and authorities, reduce competing or conflicting activities). The enhanced collaboration will **improve outcomes for wildlife stewardship** and build trust and confidence that we are developing optimal strategies to ensure wildlife and their habitats thrive and are resilient.

Vision

Structures developed to meet the intent of Action 2 represent a **unified voice for wildlife and their habitat**. They are focused on promoting **healthy ecosystems** (e.g., biodiversity, wildlife and their habitat, ecosystem function), with the vision of achieving thriving and resilient wildlife and highly effective habitat stewardship in British Columbia through *Ethical Space* dialogue.



Why

- To foster dialogue between people with diverse perspectives and knowledge systems to represent a unified voice for wildlife at a regional level with an inclusive governance framework.
- An interconnected and holistic approach will increase the capacity to act on complex issues by clearly identifying opportunities and improving alignment and coordination among different levels of government, many organizations, and facilitate partnerships.
- To create more opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives to be braided for operational and technical collaborations on shared wildlife and habitat stewardship priorities at a regional scale.



Bring communities together for dialogue, strengthen relationships with each other and the land, and work collaboratively towards **common goals and shared objectives**.

What

- Structures developed to meet the intent of Action 2 have an advisory role and will support respectful and trust-based collaborations. They will review and discuss a breadth of information sources to collaboratively identify regional shared priorities and goals, including opportunities to improve information, objectives, activities, and actions, reporting and communication.
- Structures will provide a venue for a variety of perspectives to be represented and heard to build and extend knowledge aimed at reducing negative impacts to ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife;



improve how people interact with and use nature and natural resources; and accelerate work on identified priorities.

- They will support and advise regional planning to guide the implementation of the Together for Wildlife strategy in both the short and long term and measure effectiveness and performance, as well as actions driven through other initiatives that directly contribute to the vision and goals for Together for Wildlife.
- There are four model structures for regions to choose from to meet the intent of Action 2 (structure and membership will be developed through regional engagement):
 1. Develop **new committees** (regional wildlife advisory committees),
 2. Leverage **existing tables/committees** (e.g., wildlife and habitat engagement tables or Indigenous-led tables, topic-based and issue-based tables, etc.),
 3. Use a **network model** (i.e., existing regional structures collectively and functionally achieve the intent of Action 2), and
 4. Create punctuated **events and/or engagements** for gathering input (e.g., workshops).

Who

- Participants act on the best interest of wildlife and habitat stewardship. They bring their knowledge and experience to discuss complex issues and provide advice on actions and objectives that will support achieving the vision of healthy ecosystems and thriving wildlife.
- They support and are accountable to the shared goals of the Action 2 structures and overarching goals and actions of the Together for Wildlife strategy, and other related goals and actions that may be identified in the Terms of Reference or work plan.
- They have the ability to commit the necessary time, are collaborative, have ties in the region that ensure they contribute local insights.
- They have a sincere interest in *Ethical Space* and are committed to creating bridges between western science and Indigenous ways of being and knowing.
- They may facilitate linkages to other regional and provincial tables.
- Membership may be representative or non-representative but must be inclusive and seek to include a diversity of perspectives, including Indigenous knowledge and culture, wildlife science, and environmental stewardship.
- First Nations are supported/given opportunity to become part and/or co-lead this initiative.
- Participants are expected to build recommendations, not advocate for a position or their individual/organization interests; and the advisory group does not replace relationships or any formal duties of the members (e.g., consultation).

How

- Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship regional staff with support from Ministry of Forests will engage with First Nations and interest holders to create a regional working group who will lead the scope and design an initial implementation plan for Action 2.
- When readiness is identified, an information session will occur.
- Structures developed to meet the intent of Action 2 will build connections to existing planning and resource management initiatives (e.g., Forest Landscape Planning, Modernized Land Use Planning, Watershed planning, Old Growth review, Regional Management Committees) by sharing relationships and knowledge, and by creating pathways to improve information flow.
- For decision-making tables such as the Regional Management Committees, the regional wildlife advisory committees (or alternate Action 2 structure) will act in an advisory capacity with a focus on regional priorities.