

Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team Meeting Agenda & Minutes

July 5, 2021 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Via MS Teams


MS Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting Chair: Michael Burwash, Associate Director, Wildlife


Meeting Organizer: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Policy Specialist

Attendees	
Non-Government Members:	Wildlife and Habitat Branch (FLNRORD) Members:
Jim Turner, United Bow Hunters of BC	Jennifer Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat
Scott Ellis, Guide Outfitters Association of BC	Michael Burwash, Associate Director, Wildlife
Sean Olmstead, Guide Outfitters Association of BC	Pam Martins, Manager, Data and Licensing
Gerry Paille, BC Wildlife Federation	Dennis Paradine, A/Manager, Policy and Legislation
Rob Chipman, BC Wildlife Federation	Tara Szkorupa, Manager, Provincial Operations and Implementation
Jesse Zeman, BC Wildlife Federation	Steve Gordon, Manager, Habitat
Tim Killey, BC Trappers Association	Stephen MacIver, Regulations and Policy Analyst
Bryan Munroe, BC Trappers Association	
David Heitsman, Wild Sheep Society of BC	Cait Nelson, Wildlife Health Biologist
Chris Barker, Wild Sheep Society of BC	Danica Crystal, Wildlife Policy Specialist
John Henderson, Wildlife Stewardship Council	
Dave Fyfe, Wildlife Stewardship Council	
Adam Ford, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia, Okanagan	
Michael Gillingham, Emeritus Professor, University of Northern British Columbia	
Other Provincial Government Members:	
Insp. Joe Caravetta, Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change	
Allen Neal, Senior Ecosystem Restoration Specialist, FLNRORD	
Rory Colwell, Superintendent Fuels Management, FLNRORD	
John DeGagne, Stewardship Officer, FLNRORD	
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Regular Meeting of PHTAT
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ April 2021 PHTAT Meeting Minutes ♦ PHTAT Action Tracker
1. Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks Chair	1:00 – 1:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Will add Blueberry (Yahey) court decision to agenda ♦ Round of introductions ♦ 2-month frequency of meetings has been going well, will continue
2. Minutes Review Chair	1:15 – 1:30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No changes to minutes proposed ♦ April 2021 minutes accepted

<p>3. Data and Licensing – Update Pam Martins</p>	<p>1:30 – 1:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Regulations to introduce new trapping harvest report was passed, will be available in licensing system as of Monday (July 12th). For first year, failure to report will result in ineligibility to apply for F&W system, in second year \$230 fine will be introduced.
<p>4. Wildlife Health – Update Cait Nelson</p>	<p>1:45 – 2:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ AHD detected in blacktail deer on Vancouver and Gulf Islands: Now seen from Metchosin up to Nanoose and on multiple Gulf Islands. T4W has provided some funding for serology work to better understand exposure patterns. ♦ CWD: focussing on high risk areas and working closely with Alberta and Montana. Alberta is seeing a westward expansion. Montana is seeing high prevalence in Northwest, but appears to be clustered. Will again have mandatory submission of hunter harvested deer, now a license condition, will include 4-1 through 4-7 and have added 4-23. Other cervids can be submitted for testing on a voluntary basis. Have some T4W funding for work in the Kootenay and Northeast. Working with Ministry of Agriculture to develop testing capacity within BC. Working on proposed regulatory amendments and will bring to PHTAT when ready. ♦ Bovine TB: continuing sampling in Nicola Valley, will be 3rd year of surveillance in that area. Target samples are cervids, either hunter harvested or roadkill. We have 27/150 samples needed. Working with First Nations and stakeholders to get word out on program. ♦ COVID: list of international wildlife species that can carry and transmit virus being updated frequently. Working with group of trappers in lower mainland to locate and trap susceptible species around mink farms – trapping effort was deemed sufficient to detect. Currently working on a second effort around an infected premise. ♦ Moose health: Program is ongoing, working on compiling and interpreting data from all years. Planning to produce manuscript for publication and present findings at a conference this fall. ♦ Caribou: received samples from 320 caribou that were collared. Working on summarizing that data. ♦ Processed and sent out samples for other species to various labs. Also working with multiple partners to collect samples from trapped wildlife species.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Does work on bighorn include liver fluke in region 4? Question for follow-up. ◆ Discussions are starting with BCCDC on formalizing process for submitting samples of wild game.
5. Together for Wildlife – Update Tara Szkorupa  T4W update for PHTAT - July 2021.pdf	2:00 – 2:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding allocation process: proposals have been prioritized based on identified principles. Other funding sources have also been leveraged. And several projects by partners will be supported through a transfer to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. ◆ Staffing: two new Area Lead positions have been filled (South and Coast). These positions will work on coordinating delivery in regions. Still working on filling four positions in WHB. ◆ Regional staff worked with stakeholders and First Nations to develop proposals, so proposals are submitted internally but money can flow to contractor or partner organizations. Longer-term discussion is to look at how best to deliver funding. The Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council is looking at this. ◆ Provided updates on recent accomplishments and next steps for each Goal – available in attached ppt. ◆ Working on updating the website to have this information available to everybody. Area leads will also be tasked with communicating this to regional groups.
6. Director’s Remarks Jennifer Psyllakis		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Conservation Lands Audit: Have now reported back to committee and provided a detailed action plan for responding to the recommendations of the audit. Plan to have completed within next 5 years, exception being management plans for WMAs, which will take more time to develop. Transcript and detailed action plan are now available on legislature website. ◆ Yahey decision: Not much that can be said at this time, very complex and detailed decision. Government is reviewing the decision and working with Treaty 8 First Nations to determine path forward and next steps. Can commit to providing updates on this as it develops.
7. MWAC – Update Tara Szkorupa	2:15 – 2:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Minister’s Wildlife Advisory Council has been providing oversight on funding allocation. Also involved in discussions with HCTF on how to allocate those funds.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Also providing oversight for implementation, priorities for staff and overseeing development of the first annual Director’s report. ♦ At their meeting next week, MWAC will be talking about options for engagement with stakeholders in the Fall. ♦ Working towards a letter to the Minister in the Fall with specific recommendations on priority areas. ♦ MWAC working groups are: Funding, Objective-Setting, Research & Knowledge, Governance & Reconciliation.
<p>8. First Nations-BC Wildlife Forum – Update Maryam Mofidpoor</p>	<p>2:30 – 2:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ After receiving news about Kamloops residential school, Forum took a pause to determine next steps. June 29th meeting turned into a healing circle and conversation, so some items have not been talked about. ♦ Forum is going into July/August summer hiatus. In meantime, working groups will be meeting as planned (once per month). Indigenous Knowledge WG is planning to meet a couple extra times. ♦ Indigenous Knowledge WG: working on policy and procedure for incorporating IK into Statutory Decision-Making and creating guidance document. ♦ Shared Decision-Making WG: preparing contract to work on principles of shared decision making, and looking at points of entry in different pieces of legislation. Need to figure out boundaries and what acts we will look into. Also works with Reconciliation WG of MWAC, will share results of contract with them. ♦ Communication WG: working on website and branding ♦ Grizzly bear MP: hoping to meet with ESI team in Skeena region because they have already worked on GB management concepts and have a document owned by First Nations in the region. Meeting with that group to make sure we’re aligned. ♦ Forum is getting more involved in management plans (e.g. Sheep). Thinking of holding workshop for provincial staff to share broad perspectives on management planning. ♦ Planning to potentially meet in person, depends on many circumstances but hoping for October. Will include celebration of accomplishments to date.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Reviewing PHTAT terms of reference will be an opportunity to discuss how PHTAT and Forum connect, also MWAC governance WG.
9. PHTAT Website – Update Maryam Mofidpoor	2:45- 3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Structure of website is there, still need to add content in many sections. ♦ If members have high resolution photos, feel free to send to Maryam. It is easy to change photos. ♦ Developer will provide learning workshop so that we can updated website ourselves. ♦ Action: Maryam to put current content in word doc highlighting gaps, will be sent to group to solicit participation in developing and editing content
10. Access Management Jim Turner, Steve Gordon Guest: John DeGagne  2021-06-15 Access Management - Notes_	3:00 – 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Discussion has been around defining scope for access management subgroup. Scope will focus on access management as a regulatory tool to manage footprint of human activity to retain hunting and trapping opportunity. ♦ One recommendation of subgroup was to invite someone from government to provide an overview of legislative opportunities. This is still TBD. ♦ Still need to work on scoping, want to bring in regions that have had some access challenges. ♦ John DeGagne, President for Society of Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC: Topic of access management is very controversial, something we’ve been dealing with in Vanderhoof as we work on land and resource plan over the last 20-25 years. Plan originated in 97, updated in 2008, and had incredible community response – angry phone calls, billboards. Have shifted focus from managing people to managing roads/road rehabilitation. ♦ Research in literature says 0.6 km of road per 10 ha is the threshold for having impacts to moose, caribou, grizzly bears, wolves and other meso carnivores. In example area, have 2km of road per 10 ha. ♦ Used algorithm to Identify which roads were unlikely to be missed if they were rehabilitated. Also used collaborative planning process in certain areas to identify roads that could be rehabilitated.


		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Road rehab also has hydrology implications, improves drainage and reduces runoff. ♦ Large area of province has road densities over that 0.6 threshold ♦ Rehab costs can be high and primarily depend on how much work went into building the road. Can be mitigated by considering early on in road life-cycle, promoting or creating conditions for revegetation. ♦ Regional participation can support buy-in, need provincial structure to support regional processes. ♦ Action: Danica to distribute John’s ppt and Jim’s notes.
11. Action Item Review Danica Crystal	3:30 – 3:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Jen to share updates on BRFN case as they become available.
12. Closing & Next Steps Chair	3:40 – 4:00	

July 6, 2021 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Via MS Teams

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1. Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks Chair/ Jen Psyllakis	1:00 – 1:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Acknowledge the contribution and productivity of this group, reflected in impression across government at executive level
2. Hunting Practices Sub-Committee – Update Steve MacIver	1:15- 1:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Proposed for regulation cycle: (1) use of information on wildlife location obtained from use of aircraft, putting 6 hour limitation on that [Post meeting edit: this is incorrect, the timelines associated with the use of wildlife location information obtained from an aircraft are still being discussed by the members of the Hunting Practices sub-committee]; (2) use of air rifles, permitted for small game, .35 or greater needed for larger, prohibited for moose, bison, elk caribou; (3) dispatching wounded game, still some discussion on that – what criteria an assistant guide should meet. Will provide further updates on that.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Talked about how more input can be provided, after comments from last meeting, may need to schedule more frequent meetings of subcommittee. ♦ Reg proposal in Region 4 on use of dogs for hunting bears during certain times: Happens often that a region will propose something that may need to be considered province-wide. Concern may be about orphaning cubs, which should be a concern in other regions as well. In terms of governance, there's a procedure to give a high-level heads up on proposals from region, and then proposals are screened more thoroughly later on. ♦ Hunting contests, ties into the social license for hunting: This hasn't been discussed at the subcommittee. Subcommittee feels it's out of scope, but should be discussed at PHTAT larger group. Have discussed how a measure could be put in place, and it would require a change to the Act. Have flagged it for the broader Wildlife Act review process. Will be coming back to PHTAT when the scope is more fleshed out. ♦ Review of PHTAT terms of reference may be able to help define how discussions with regions on regulations interact with PHTAT
<p>3. Grizzly Bear Stewardship Plan – Update Steve MacIver</p>	<p>1:30-1:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Not much development since April 2021 meeting ♦ Have met with about 80 different First Nations (out of 203/6), through 60 different meetings. Have been coordinating efforts with federal government. ♦ Early engagement has provided a lot of additional information that can be added to the plan. ♦ Initial engagement is done, contractor has worked through notes to highlight themes. Starting to work on first draft. Nothing tangible to share yet. It will look different from past management plans. Not all about western science, speaks to Indigenous perspectives, cultures, knowledge and ways of knowing. Diversity of viewpoints across Indigenous communities will be represented. ♦ Once first draft is complete, will run past First Nations again, likely not until early fall, followed by wider engagement with this group and others. ♦ FN-BC Wildlife Forum has been supporting the drafting of the plan, and also starting to work on the thinhorn sheep plan.

<p>4. Cultural & Prescribed Fire AI Neal & Rory Colwell, Steve Gordon</p>  <p>PHTAT Rx fire July 6 2021 V2.pdf</p>	<p>1:45 – 2:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Rory & AI are members of cultural and prescribed fire working group, will provide information on use of fire over the past few years, as well as some policy context. ♦ In Northeast, have done an audit of the applications they received, going to be presented to Regional Management Team. Working on collaborating early in the application process to maximize probability of success. Have also done a conflict analysis, reached out to HCTF to coordinate review process. Strengthening First Nations consultation process as well to maximize success. ♦ Presentation on cultural and prescribed fire as a tool to achieve objectives on the land base: Ideally it's collective land managers that collaboratively determine where, when, why and for how long to burn to meet the needs of the area. BCWS supports those decisions. ♦ Monitoring for benefits to wildlife: Looking at number of burn projects in partnership with First Nations, will likely work its way into Ministry service plan. That's the first performance measure being looked at. Monitoring is part of developing the prescription and burn plan. Working group is looking at developing baseline monitoring framework to know that you're meeting the desired objectives. Within ecosystem restoration, there are some monitoring protocols in place. ♦ Operations working group is working on spreading information within government on the benefits and best practices for planning ♦ Cost of a burn depends on complexity, may be some opportunity for volunteer participation but would require training (at least \$100). Complex programs may have limitations. Dealing with it at the planning phase helps. Cost is usually less of a barrier than the time it takes to get through the collaborative planning process. ♦ One of the next steps is working on a delivery model, so that local factors are incorporated.
<p>5. Action Tracker Review Chair</p>	<p>2:00- 2:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Updates were made to action tracker and will be reflected in dated version on Teams site
<p>6. Other Business</p>	<p>2:45 – 3:30</p>	<p><u>BCWF 2021 AGM Resolutions</u></p> <p>(1) banning import of forage from known CWD areas (developed in conjunction with provincial vet team), has been done in other</p>

	<p>jurisdictions, currently no evidence that CWD has been passed to wild animals through hay but there has been evidence of it happening with domestic animals.</p> <p>(2) LEH application requirements, requiring the purchase of a hunting licence before applying for an LEH, about 50% of hunters who apply have purchased a licence beforehand, in the end its 80%. Some people are having their whole family applying on shared hunts. Also concerns about preservationists applying for LEH with no intention of hunting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter revitalization project is still looking at all options, still doing the research and will engage PHTAT members when available. • Action: Pam Martins to provide additional information specifically on shared hunt applications <p>(3) Youth hunter use of LEH authorization of adult hunter, want this extended to initiation hunters</p> <p>(4) Doubling HCTF surcharges on licenses and species licenses, conversation at social license subgroup is looking at hunters' willing to pay surcharges – there is an appetite to look at this, need to be aware of multiple initiatives. Potential connections to MWAC funding working group (Jasper Lament).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Connect with MWAC Funding WG on surcharges. <p>(5) Defeated resolution was for mandatory reporting of big game harvest. Some concern that mandating will incentive lying (not specific to hunting per se, but from a broad survey perspective). SFU study generated concerns around mandatory reporting, may not produce useful information. Need to find ways to make reporting easier so that compliance is easy, while also creating a consequence for not reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: BC to look into whether LEH system, licensing and fees should be reviewed (connect to existing). <p><u>New Paper on Grizzly Bear</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New paper in pre print (not yet peer reviewed) that deals with GB toe in the trap amputation issue. Recommendations will focus on how trapping can be done better that's better for bears and trappers both. Don't expect researches to promote this in media because it's not peer reviewed yet. Study was in region 4,
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		<p>where the condition on the trapping license came from. Not sure why this only seems to be happening in one region, may be that there are just fewer reports in other areas or research is focused in Kootenays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Adam Ford to share pre-print with Michael Burwash and Danica Crystal for distribution to group (done)
<p>7. Action item Review Danica Crystal</p>	<p>3:30 – 3:40</p>	♦
<p>8. Closing & Next Steps Chair</p>	<p>3:40 – 4:00</p>	♦ Next call will likely be in September, afternoon works well.