

## Attendees

### Non-Government

Jim Turner, United Bow Hunters of BC  
 Scott Ellis, Guide Outfitters Association of BC  
 Sean Olmstead, Guide Outfitters Association of BC  
 Gerry Paille, BC Wildlife Federation  
 Rob Chipman, BC Wildlife Federation  
 Tim Killey, BC Trappers Association  
 Kyle Stelter, Wild Sheep Society of BC  
 Chris Barker, Wild Sheep Society of BC  
 Michael Gillingham, Emeritus Professor,  
 University of Northern British Columbia

### Government

Michael Burwash, Associate Director, Wildlife  
 Steve Gordon, Manager, Habitat  
 Stephen MacIver, Regulations and Policy Analyst  
 Caeley Thacker, Wildlife Veterinarian  
 Holger Bohm, Ungulate Specialist  
 Annamay Campbell, Administrative Assistant

<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	♦ Follow-up to October 2021 discussion on hunting and trapping regulations	
<b>Handouts provided for the Meeting</b>	♦	
<b>1. Welcome, Agenda Review</b> Chair	9:00 – 9:02	♦ 2 items added: flood impacts and post natural disturbance forest retention guidance document updates
<b>2. Flood impacts</b> Chair	9:02- 9:05	♦ Highway closures impacting hunters.
<b>3. Guidance Document</b> Chair	9:05- 9:15	♦ Work underway updating 2017 post natural disturbance forest retention guidance document. <b>Michael Burwash will share link via email</b> , soliciting comments/feedback within the next month. ♦ Concerns raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resource roads/access points.</li> <li>○ Motor vehicle closures impacting guide outfitters as they don't have a commercial activity exemption (<b>request meeting to discuss this in more detail</b>).</li> <li>○ Potential erosion and wildlife impacts from forestry salvage.</li> <li>○ Lack of prior consultation with stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Follow-up discussion on hunting and trapping regulations</b> Steve MacIver	9:15 – 11:00	♦ Reviewed Region 4 Bighorn sheep LEH reg change document. ♦ Concerns raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Effectiveness of LEH as a management tool questionable. Request for more detailed information about other management actions being taken in addition to <i>Wildlife Act</i> tools like LEH.</li> <li>○ Objectives for management action, and ability to measure success or failure, are not clear. Alignment with Sheep</li> </ul>

		<p>Management Plan not clear. <b>Request for more face time with Region staff to discuss.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LEH in Region 4 could increase pressure in Regions 6 &amp; 7, suggest a more holistic provincial strategy.</li> <li>○ 4/5 curl not generally supported.</li> <li>◆ Requested suggestions for alternative to LEH as other options identified are to do nothing or close hunting entirely for this species in this area. Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weapon restriction.</li> <li>○ Bull only season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Habitat management needs more priority in decision making. <b>Encourage separate discussion about habitat issues specifically.</b> Access roads for industrial activities are a major factor for species management. Don't want these species to get to where caribou are to get to a policy on predator control. Caribou are an example where industrial disturbance is continuing to have an impact despite recovery efforts. <b>Request discussion for future meeting re: predator management for caribou.</b></li> <li>◆ Province wants to build population objectives into plans moving forward. Hopefully will elevate priority of these values in decisions that are made. T4W and MWAC share this interest re: elevating population and habitat objectives. Cumulative effects work could also have an impact.</li> <li>◆ Proposal to close GOS for any bull in 7B and Skeena North. Allowable harvest is being exceeded. Pulled LEH levers throughout Skeena in the past and it's not working. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concern that inventory data is inaccurate due to reliance on bull to cow ratios and easily accessible data collection points. Rationale and data document screenshared by Steve MacIver.</li> <li>○ Concern that quota balance in Skeena South for Resident/non-resident doesn't reflect demand.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Request for follow up on the success of reg change, never seems to happen. Capacity issues raised by Province. Suggest mandating that money is allocated to monitor these reg changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Province working on 5 year species plans to ensure inventory approach and make sure it's funded.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Concern that stakeholders aren't getting enough communication or opportunity to submit proposals for consideration from certain regions. <b>Request for summary of regional proposals for the group</b></li> </ul>
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		<p>to review to see if any would benefit from a provincial scope model. Suggestion: periodic call with regions for heads-up on upcoming proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ T4W wants to get more consistency across regions with how those tables are run and how info is considered.</li><li>◆ Bobcat and lynx CI proposal: concern that this is attempting to address a compliance issue with CR, and will just have the same compliance issue but with more inconvenience for trappers and guide outfitters.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Request for Compulsory Inspection report to the group (learnings, impacts, enforcement statistics) with input from COS.</li></ul></li><li>◆ Region 7B proposal to close caribou season for Pink Mountain herd. Perception that hunting is not the issue for this herd. Concern that hunting is only being closed because predator management is happening for this herd, and that this could extend to other forms of predator management (e.g. for other species) in the future.</li></ul>
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