

Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team Meeting Agenda & Minutes

October 19, 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	Kaitlyn Schurmann, A/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	Danica Crystal, Wildlife Policy Specialist
Bryan Munroe, BC Trappers Association	Stephen MacIver, Regulations and Policy Analyst
David Heitsman, Wild Sheep Society of BC	Caeley Thacker, Wildlife Veterinarian
Chris Barker, Wild Sheep Society of BC	Garth Mowat, Large Carnivore Specialist
John Henderson, Wildlife Stewardship Council	Bill Jex, Sheep and Goat Specialist
Dave Fyfe, Wildlife Stewardship Council	Cait Nelson, Wildlife Health Biologist
Adam Ford, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia, Okanagan	Gerad Hales, Small Game and Birds Specialist
Michael Gillingham, Emeritus Professor, University of Northern British Columbia	Maryam Mofidpoor, Senior Project Manager
Other Provincial Government Members:	
Insp. Joe Caravetta, Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy	
Insp. Shawn Brinsky, Conservation Officer Service, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy	
Lyle Knight, Manager of Policy & Legislation, Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division, FLNRORD	
Wayne Hagel, Policy Analyst, Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division, FLNRORD	

Purpose of Meeting	♦ Regular Meeting of PHTAT	
Handouts provided for the Meeting	♦ July 2021 PHTAT Meeting Minutes ♦ PHTAT Action Tracker	
1. Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks Chair/Jen Psyllakis	1:00 – 1:15	Welcome & territorial acknowledgement Director's update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Busy time at branch right now as it is a regulation year as well as allocation decision-making. ♦ Min. Conroy has had several meetings with many stakeholders as well as the FWH Coalition, will be at wildlife dialogues, as will Min. Cullen.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Wildfire recovery is in the spotlight, working to move information collaboratively with Office of the Chief Forester to decision-makers. ♦ <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> (FRPA) bill will be tabled in the house, looking forward to that in the context of improving wildlife and wildlife habitat. ♦ Blueberry River First Nation/Yahey decision – wildlife is a top priority in implementation.
2. Minutes Review Chair	1:15 – 1:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ One edit proposed, accepted.
3. Data and Licensing – Update Kaitlyn Schurmann	1:25 – 1:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Trapping report has been incorporated into WILD system. Data and Licensing section is working with BC Trappers Association (BCTA) on communication, including some training sessions. ♦ Compulsory reporting program in online system – finalizing system requirements, implementation targeted for April 1 (start of licence year). ♦ Following compulsory reporting, will be looking at transforming compulsory inspection. Hoping it will be in WILD system in summer 2022. ♦ Operational enhancements in WILD going in in November (small improvements and minor updates). No change to public experience expected. ♦ Data and Licensing section is also working on improving the branch’s website. A number of data sets have been made available to public, including hunting and licence sales statistics, which continue to be updated. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Duplicate reporting (compulsory & trapper harvest) remains an issue for some trappers. ♦ A contractor reviewed the hunter survey and did a jurisdictional scan on modernizing, presented results about a month ago. Recommendation was that there are social science questions that could be added and, in terms of software, the best option is to put it into the WILD system – will likely be a phased approach over the next few years. Working on getting a formal decision and direction from executive to make those changes. ♦ Action: Include presentation of branch’s website updates on next agenda, for feedback from PHTAT.
4. Wildlife Health – Update Cait Nelson	1:35 – 1:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD): Since Sept 2020, had this confirmed in several black tailed deer. There have been over 300 reports, increasing over the summer months. Seems to be affecting fawn survival. We are prioritising tests from areas where AHD has not been confirmed. ♦ Blue Tongue in Grand Forks area: Virus has been affecting bighorn sheep and white tailed deer in the area. Affected 50% of Granby bighorn herd. It

		<p>is transmitted by tiny biting flies - sustained temperatures below zero are required to break life cycle and stop transmission. Received results from CFIA this week that blue tongue virus is type 11, same type affecting wildlife in Washington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ COVID: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is finalizing wildlife handling guidelines. Conducting surveillance on behalf of ECCC on deer. ◆ Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) surveillance is ongoing in Nicola Valley. Slow start to the season, hearing that there aren't a lot of animals being harvested in the target area, so pivoting to access roadkill to make sure we get enough samples. ◆ Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): surveillance is ongoing, focused on high-risk areas. Trying to get samples from other areas in BC where we haven't seen many occurrences, so it doesn't go undetected. Samples are low despite new licence condition in high-risk areas. ◆ Proposed regulation change around CWD: currently have two CWD regulations, proposing to merge into one regulation and expand the prohibited items to reduce risk of material coming in. Import of feed isn't being addressed through this change.
<p>5. Together for Wildlife – Update Tara Szkorupa</p>	<p>1:45 – 1:55</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ T4W Website has been updated with more information on implementation and work underway for each action. ◆ Launched advisory body websites (MWAC, FN Forum, PHTAT) ◆ Director's report is in progress, will summarize work that was done in first year of implementation. Will look for feedback on how it could be improved in the future. ◆ Pulling together information to provide more detail on each project that was funded last year. Will be able to post a spreadsheet on website, by region and with a map for spatial representation. ◆ Implementation update for Fall 2021 is in progress and will be posted to website. ◆ Discussions underway with regions on the establishment of regional wildlife advisory committees and potential models and implications. Need to consider regional context and existing structures. Some regions have funding to hire contractors to develop options. Discussions with Indigenous Nations, stakeholders, and internally expected this Fall/Winter. ◆ Project delivery 2021-22: Work underway on 73 projects. Initial reporting will be required in next few weeks. Approx. \$9 million allocated across projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regions and branches are starting to plan for next fiscal, engaging with Indigenous Nations and stakeholders to identify priorities. Regions will be starting to collaboratively develop regional action plans. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest is to move towards First Nations and stakeholders participating at regional committees together, will depend on First Nations' interest and capacity. Variation among regions on how stakeholders have been involved.
6. First Nations-BC Wildlife Forum – Update Maryam Mofidpoor	1:55 – 2:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum has its October meeting tomorrow morning, discussing: (1) working with BCTA on trapper's manual to add Indigenous perspective, (2) incorporating Indigenous knowledge into decision-making, and enabling shared decision-making. Communications working group is looking into developing logo for the Forum. Next meeting will be November 23rd, and there will be no meeting in December, will pick things up in January. Bringing on interns from a couple First Nation offices to tackle projects and so we can grow and learn from each other. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum doesn't post minutes, but posts work of working group. Updates aren't instantaneous. All websites are updated quarterly.
7. PHTAT Website Chair, Maryam Mofidpoor	2:05 – 2:25	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One addition to website will be to post meeting minutes. Include contact information, and information/bio on the individual reps on website. Consider including a link to the webpage in the next regulation synopsis. Include descriptions of sub-committees and the organizations participating in those. Introduction video is also an option if there is funding to produce one. Action: All organizations identify which representative they would like as a contact on the website, and include a short bio if preferred. Action: Ensure Branch website has a link to PHTAT's webpage
8. MWAC – Wildlife Dialogues Nancy Wilkin	2:25 – 2:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to PHTAT to participate in dialogues, and to give a presentation on who PHTAT is and its role.


 <p>MWAC Presentation to PHTAT 2021-10-19.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would also appreciate feedback on breakout questions for session ♦ Overview of format – hoping either Min. Cullen or Min. Conroy will be available for the opening and closing. ♦ Breakout sessions will tackle 2 questions (see ppt.) <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Will ensure save the date goes to FWH Coalition. ♦ Recommendation to clarify land use and that resource extraction is a large component impacting wildlife. ♦ Action: Scott to share Wildlife Dialogue Save-the-Date with FWH Coalition (Complete) ♦ Action: Sub-group of PHTAT to create 5-minute presentation for Wildlife Dialogues
<p>9. Other Business</p>	<p>2:55 – 3:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No other business
<p>10. Action Item Review Danica Crystal</p>	<p>3:45 – 3:55</p>	<p>No additions</p>
<p>11. Closing & Next Steps Chair</p>	<p>3:55 – 4:00</p>	


October 20, 2021 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Via MS Teams

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<p>1. Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks Chair</p>	<p>9:00 – 9:10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Welcome and territorial acknowledgement. ♦ Welcome to Shawn Brinsky, and thanks and farewell to Joe Caravetta.
<p>2. Hunting Practices Sub-Committee – Update Steve Maclver</p>	<p>9:10 – 9:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pursuing two changes: (1) regulating use of air rifles, restricting use for some big game and prohibiting less than .35 caliber, (2) dispatching dangerous wildlife – if someone wants to dispatch a dangerous animal on behalf of a client or youth, that individual must have a BC hunting license (resident or non-resident alien). ♦ Use of aircraft: prohibiting use of any information obtained from aircraft, leaves discretion to the CO. Will leave regulation as is. <p>Discussion:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Possession of drone while hunting is in violation of regulations. ◆ No definition of “hunting expedition” in regulations. ◆ Action: Steve M. to look into defining “hunting expedition” in regulation
<p>3. Hunting & Trapping Regulation Update Steve MacIver</p>	<p>9:20 – 10:00</p>	<p>Provincial proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase information collection: Looking to make changes to CI, will ask for weapon type used. Also looking for idea of effort, will ask for number of days a person hunted before harvesting an animal. Also ask the class of the animal harvested. Also want more information through CR, same types of information, whether it was an LEH or not. ◆ Remove requirement to take carcass in for CI - regional staff really only need to see the pelt. This change is for animals harvested in open season, but want the pelt and carcass if it’s harvested outside the open season because the harvester does not get ownership of that animal. ◆ Prohibition on altering or tampering of horns and antlers until the person has met all reporting requirements. COS has seen occurrences in regions, both in sheep and other species, of people altering horns and antlers. Regulation was changed this summer that antlers need to be naturally attached to the skull. <p>Regional proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Region 4: Requirement to retain beard from a bearded turkey, so that evidence of sex is retained. ◆ Region 1: change to regulation prohibiting the use of wireless trail cameras for the purpose of hunting - want prohibition to be year-round because of cougar season in the spring. ◆ Region 5: Prohibition on feeding ungulates (for any reason) within 200m of certain places including private property, schools, etc. ◆ Yesterday, Minister Conroy signed off on a regulation restricting use of motor vehicles for large areas in Thompson and Okanagan region – for all activities, not just hunting. This is in response to wildfire impacts, emergency responses to unique conditions, don’t know how long it will be in place. Idea is that over time we will take a closer look at these prohibitions for finer-scale modifications. Restrictions don’t follow WMUs, used nearest landmark/height of land. Will have georeferenced maps online. Highways are exempt as are roads that people need to access private property and resource roads that are thoroughfares. ◆ Modernizing the motor vehicle prohibition maps: Working on 250 new maps and having them approved by the Minister to make them legal. Spatial data will be in the warehouse and georeferenced maps will be online.

		<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Reporting harvest at scale at which we manage – LEH zones or sub-zones when relevant ♦ Interest in clarifying what state the pelt of an animal needs to be in for trapper CI. ♦ Process for regulations with provincial connotations/implications. ♦ Region 4: Bighorn sheep going to LEH or not. Contentious issue in the past. Need to consider trigger for going to LEH and the linkage between LEH and quota. Has been an ongoing discussion in the region. ♦ Region 6: Changes to 3-day moose GOS. Concerns around harvest exceeding AAH. ♦ Region 7B: Pink Mountain caribou – proposal to close caribou season. Wolf removal happening. BRFN court decision has affected process for reg proposals in region 7B. ♦ Action: Steve M to look into whether the pelt should be dried, and whether evidence of sex needs to be retained (Complete, more discussion needed on evidence of sex) ♦ Action: Michael to follow up with Gerad on fisher closure implications for BCTA – what is expected on license for trappers? ♦ Action: Michael/Steve to pull together information on regional regulation proposals and set up follow-up PHTAT discussion.
<p>4. Access Management Jim Turner, Steve Gordon</p>  <p>PHTAT-on-Access-20 21-08-V7.2.pdf</p>	<p>10:00 – 10:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Objectives of Access Sub-Committee: (1) Retain hunting opportunity and sustain wildlife populations, (2) Review access management current state, (3) Support regional discussions and decisions, (4) Enable identification of priority areas for strategic access management, (5) support communications upward to MWAC. ♦ Roads and road density are a focus of discussions. Secondary impacts of roads to wildlife, wildlife movement patterns, hunting opportunity, and quality of hunts ♦ Main regulatory framework includes Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) under FRPA, Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation under Wildlife Act, Off-Road Vehicle Act, Mines Act ♦ Recommendations: (1) Forest Landscape Planning, (2) Forest Operations Planning, (3) Raise access management as a tool to support wildlife and maintain hunting opportunity early in the process, (4) continue cataloguing FLP direction specific to access, (5) Assess current state/identify opportunities, (6) Develop outreach strategy.
<p>5. Resource Road Management in BC</p>	<p>10:30 – 11:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Presentation on regulatory framework for resource roads – creation, closure, deactivation. <p>Discussion:</p>

<p>Lyle Knight, Wayne Hagel</p>  <p>PHTAT - October 20, 2021.pdf</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Very few roads are deactivated ♦ Not aware of any legal requirements to consult on the deactivation of roads. ♦ Opportunity to have an access management plan in certain areas – how do we pursue that, and should we? ♦ Forest Operational Planning process can be an opportunity to engage, not everywhere. ♦ Some examples of successful consultation, deactivation work, often led by First Nations. ♦ Would be useful to communicate work done by sub-committee to MWAC and Forum.
<p>6. Action item Review Danica Crystal</p>	<p>11:30 – 11:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No additions
<p>7. Closing & Next Steps Chair</p>	<p>11:45 – 12:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next meeting date and agenda items: FRPA updates, Control of Species Policy, PHTAT Terms of Reference, Grizzly Bear Plan Update ♦ Follow-up regulation discussion will happen week of Nov. 15th ♦ Next meeting early December – will send out proposed dates.