

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #32 Minutes

November 13, 2024 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees		
Council Members:	Staff:	
Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.)	Jen Psyllakis, A/ADM, Resource Stewardship Division, WLRS	
Nancy Wilkin	Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation, WLRS	
Adam Ford	Michael Burwash, Associate Director Wildlife, Wildlife Branch, WLRS	
<i>Alyssa Lepka (regrets)</i>		
Andrea Barnett	Guests:	
Cailyn Glasser	Jake Bradshaw, Manager, Caribou Planning Initiatives, WLRS	
Jason Northcott	Maryam Mofidpoor, Tripartite Agreement Coordination Sr Project Manager WLRS	
John Bergenske		
Kari Stuart-Smith	Nyssa Temmel, Manager, Strategic Investments, WLRS	
Megan Hanacek	Michael Bloomfield, Harmony Foundation	
<i>Naomi Owens-Beek (regrets)</i>		
Shaun Hollingsworth	Consultants:	
	Derek Thompson	
	Judith Cullington	
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Discussion regarding Mountain Caribou ◆ Information on indicators and reporting for Tripartite Agreement and T4W ◆ Confirmation of approach to next Wildlife Dialogues sessions (January 2025) ◆ Hear updates from working groups 	
Action items (November meeting)	Lead	Status
Send a thank you note to Michael Bloomfield	Judith Cullington	Complete
Seek an update on 30X30/IPCAs at a future MWAC meeting	Avril Nagel	March?
Provide Council with updates on the research paper via email	Avril Nagel	
Add Dialogues to the Strategies agenda	Judith Cullington	Complete
Minutes		
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) provided a welcome prayer and noted with sadness the passing of former Premier John Horgan. ◆ Jen Psyllakis provided an update on the transition process to the new government. Transition materials have been prepared, and include T4W and Council priorities. Cabinet announcements are planned for November 18th. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council will prepare a letter to the new Minister.
<p>2. Approval of August 2024 meeting minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed or in progress. <p><i>Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by John Bergenske, to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Approved.</i></p>
<p>3. Co-chairs report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Nancy Wilkin noted that the MWAC, Forum and PHTAT chairs will be meeting together with the RWAC co-chairs in early December. ♦ She noted the Strategies Working Group is still looking for a co-lead.
<p>4. Staff updates</p>	<p>Avril Nagel provided staff updates.</p>
<p>5. Mountain Caribou</p>	<p>PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION</p> <p>Michael Bloomfield, Harmony Foundation, provided a presentation on his proposal for protecting mountain caribou.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He outlined a long career working with caribou in B.C., Alberta, and elsewhere. He feels there is need for a coordinated approach to saving caribou. ♦ He outlined his proposal for a “Great Caribou Rainforest Conservation Area”, 1.84 million ha based around existing protected areas (Wells Gray, Cariboo Mountains, and Bowron Lakes parks) with extensions to the north, west and south. ♦ Harmony Foundation are looking for support for this work. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council noted that hunting is already banned for Southern Mountain and Boreal Caribou. Last year, 78 caribou were taken in the northern group. ♦ Nancy Wilkin reminded the group that Council does not deal with hunting regulations, this is the purview of PHTAT. Council will consider the information provided as part of strategic advice they will be providing to the new Minister. ♦ Jake Bradshaw and Michael Burwash noted that there are ongoing discussions regarding the limited entry hunt for northern mountain caribou—only 7 of the 17 herds are hunted. Habitat loss is a significant reason for population decline. The Province has been reaching out to First Nations to work on caribou discussions on a government-to-government basis (prior to reaching out to NGOs). <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Judith to send a thank you note to Michael Bloomfield.
<p>6. Indicators and Reporting: Tripartite Framework Agreement on</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Maryam Mofidpoor and Nyssa Temmel provided background on the indicators and reporting work.</p>

<p>Nature Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor has been working on the Tripartite Nature Agreement, and is leading the Secretariat and the Indicators Subcommittee. They are currently preparing an annual report for release in January. ♦ Indicators will link to those of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Tripartite Nature Agreement. Aim is for increased transparency and accountability. ♦ Starting with the available trusted sources of data; aim is to enhance and increase these over time (adjusting as necessary). As it takes time to observe changes in wildlife population and habitats, they will use proximate short-term measures (e.g., spending, habitat restoration) to begin. ♦ Have developed a set of supporting principles and a logic model. ♦ Ultimate aim is to have meaningful indicators (e.g., healthy wildlife population, biodiversity levels, ecosystem health). ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor outlined some of the initial data including hectares under restoration, \$ spent on restoration and inventory/monitoring, and replanting of some tree species at risk. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ These early data have been influenced by COVID funding, and changing Ministry responsibilities. ♦ The data will be stored in the Provincial Results Database. There is an ability to drill down and see the types of project included. They are being very careful because the summary of work reflects the work of many organizations and individuals (need to make sure they are aware and involved). ♦ Measuring progress on 30X30 will be crucial. A challenge for B.C. is that IPCAs do not currently meet the IUCN definitions for inclusion (but area very important for B.C.) <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avril Nagel to seek an update on 30X30/IPCAs for a future MWAC meeting.
<p>7. Working Group reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Deferred to a future meeting. <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Avril Nagel to provide Council with updates on the research paper via email.
<p>8. Wildlife Dialogues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To be discussed at the November Strategies Working Group meeting. <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Judith Cullington to add Dialogues to the Strategies agenda.
<p>9. Council Only Time</p>	<p>Council continued discussions in closed session.</p>
<p>10. Closing</p>	<p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next MWAC meeting January 8th

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Strategies WG meeting: November 20th♦ Wildlife Dialogues January 24th 9 – 11 am (Indigenous), January 28th 12:30 – 2:30 pm (stakeholders)♦ Future topics: Grizzly Bear Foundation partnership, Updates on Declaration Act, 30x30/conservation financing, connectivity corridors.
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