

# MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

## INFORMATION NOTE

Date: February 14, 2013  
File: 280/20 – BN  
CLIFF/tracking #: 195301

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

**ISSUE:** A review of the public comment period for the Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia.

### BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Ministry of Environment has a mandate to develop species management plans for species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which includes the Grey Wolf. A species management plan summarizes the best available science-based information on biology and threats to inform the development of a management framework. Management plans set goals and objectives, and recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation.

The Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia was developed between 2011-2012.

<sup>s.12</sup> The management plan was posted on the Ministry's website on November 14, 2012 and was available for review and comment for a three week period, until December 5, 2012. The Government Communications and Public Engagement section released an Information Bulletin on November 14, 2012 (Appendix I) regarding the issue.

### DISCUSSION

<sup>s.13</sup>

Pages 2 through 3 redacted for the following reasons:

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**Attachments:** Appendix I: Information Bulletin

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**Alternate Contact**

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	DK.	Feb 25/13
DMO	JG	Feb 22/13
ADM	TE	Feb 20/13
Exec. Dir.	DN	Feb 18/13
Director	AW	Feb 14/13
Manager	GH	Jan 25/13
Author	KC	Jan 25/13

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
2012FOR0210-001774  
Nov. 14, 2012

### **Wolf management plan released for public comment**

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations today released the province's draft wolf management plan, inviting public comment on its contents until Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012.

The plan proposes a balanced approach to wolf management in B.C., which ensures a self-sustaining population where wolves can fulfil their ecological role, and meet the cultural, recreational, and economic needs of society.

The B.C. government is committed to ensuring sustainable wildlife populations and healthy predator-prey relationships throughout the province. The government is also committed to helping stakeholders, ranchers and First Nations manage the impacts of wolves on livestock and protecting endangered species.

The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

Species management plans, such as the wolf management plan, summarize the best available science-based information on the biology and threats to the species and inform the development of a management framework. They set goals and objectives, and recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The wolf is a highly adaptive, intelligent carnivore that inhabits most of British Columbia. Most wolves weigh between 30 and 50 kg with coloration varying from nearly pure white to a mixture of grey, brown, black and white.
- Wolves feed primarily on large ungulates, supplementing their diet with smaller prey.
- Wolf populations in the Thompson, Kootenay and Okanagan regions appear to be increasing. Populations in the Cariboo, Skeena, Omineca and Peace appear to be stable.

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS**  
**INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: November 12, 2013

File: 280/20 BN

CLIFF/tracking #: 202139

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**ISSUE:** Finalization of wolf management plan

**BACKGROUND**

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- The Ministry posted the plan on its website from Nov. 14, 2012 to Dec. 5, 2012 (3 weeks) for public comment.
- Over 3000 comments, emails and pieces of correspondence regarding the plan were received during the comment period.

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- The two-zone management strategy is intended to provide a balanced approach with the need to address livestock depredation and/or recovery objectives for woodland caribou in specific areas while managing wolves elsewhere in the province primarily for conservation as well as sustainable hunting and trapping.

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ADM		
Director	AW	Nov 13/13
Manager	IH	Nov 13/13
Author	IH	Nov 13/13

# MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

## INFORMATION NOTE

Date: December 10, 2013  
File: 280/20 BN  
CLIFF/tracking #: 202611  
xr: 195301, 202139

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**ISSUE:** Potential management tools to reduce wolf predation within agriculture and caribou recovery areas.

### BACKGROUND

The draft wolf management plan recommends formally adopting a two-zone management strategy for managing wolves in BC. The background to this issue is covered in BN's #195301 and #202139 and the s.12, s.13 The purpose of the note is to identify potential management tools that could be used to reduce s.12, s.13

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### DEFINITIONS:

Regulated Harvest – refers to licensed hunting and trapping in accordance with Ministry regulations.

Predator Control – refers to government-sanctioned activities to limit or reduce a wolf population through means other than regulated harvest.

“Wildlife Threatened by Wolf Predation” – refers to any wildlife population that is at risk of becoming extirpated, either now or in the near future due to wolf predation.

### DISCUSSION:

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Pages 10 through 13 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.12, s.13, s.17

## NEXT STEPS

s.12, s.13

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Director	AW	December 10, 2013
Manager	IH	December 10, 2013
Author	IH	December 10, 2013

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: January 23, 2013

File:

CLIFF/tracking #:

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**ISSUE:** A review of the public comment period for the Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia.

**BACKGROUND**

The Ministry has a mandate to develop species management plans for species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which includes the Grey Wolf. A species management plan summarizes the best available science-based information on biology and threats to inform the development of a management framework. Management plans set goals and objectives, and recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation.

The Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia was developed between 2011-2012.

s.12

The management plan was posted on the Ministry's website on November 14, 2012 and was available for review and comment for a three week period, until December 5, 2012. The Government Communications and Public Engagement section released an Information Bulletin on November 14, 2012 (Appendix I) regarding the issue.

**DISCUSSION**

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Pages 16 through 17 redacted for the following reasons:

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**Attachments:** Appendix I: Information Bulletin

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
2012FOR0210-001774  
Nov. 14, 2012

### **Wolf management plan released for public comment**

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations today released the province's draft wolf management plan, inviting public comment on its contents until Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012.

The plan proposes a balanced approach to wolf management in B.C., which ensures a self-sustaining population where wolves can fulfil their ecological role, and meet the cultural, recreational, and economic needs of society.

The B.C. government is committed to ensuring sustainable wildlife populations and healthy predator-prey relationships throughout the province. The government is also committed to helping stakeholders, ranchers and First Nations manage the impacts of wolves on livestock and protecting endangered species.

The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

Species management plans, such as the wolf management plan, summarize the best available science-based information on the biology and threats to the species and inform the development of a management framework. They set goals and objectives, and recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The wolf is a highly adaptive, intelligent carnivore that inhabits most of British Columbia. Most wolves weigh between 30 and 50 kg with coloration varying from nearly pure white to a mixture of grey, brown, black and white.
- Wolves feed primarily on large ungulates, supplementing their diet with smaller prey.
- Wolf populations in the Thompson, Kootenay and Okanagan regions appear to be increasing. Populations in the Cariboo, Skeena, Omineca and Peace appear to be stable.

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: January 23, 2013

File:

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Pages 21 through 22 redacted for the following reasons:

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**NEXT STEPS**

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**Attachments:** Appendix I: Information Bulletin

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The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

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# MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

## INFORMATION NOTE

Date: January 24, 2013

File:

CLIFF/tracking #:

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**ISSUE:** A review of the public comment period for the Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia.

### BACKGROUND

The Ministry has a mandate to develop species management plans for species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which includes the Grey Wolf. A species management plan summarizes the best available science-based information on biology and threats to inform the development of a management framework. Management plans set goals and objectives, and recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation.

The Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in British Columbia was developed between 2011-2012

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The management plan was posted on the Ministry's website on November 14, 2012 and was available for review and comment for a three week period, until December 5, 2012. The Government Communications and Public Engagement section released an Information Bulletin on November 14, 2012 (Appendix I) regarding the issue.

### DISCUSSION

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Pages 26 through 27 redacted for the following reasons:

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**Attachments:** Appendix I: Information Bulletin

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
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The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

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# MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

## INFORMATION NOTE

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### DISCUSSION

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**Attachments:** Appendix I: Information Bulletin

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The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

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## MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS INFORMATION NOTE

Date: January 24, 2013

File:

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### DISCUSSION

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
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Nov. 14, 2012

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The B.C. government is committed to ensuring sustainable wildlife populations and healthy predator-prey relationships throughout the province. The government is also committed to helping stakeholders, ranchers and First Nations manage the impacts of wolves on livestock and protecting endangered species.

The plan indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species. The current wolf population estimate is approximately 8,500 which is similar to an earlier estimate of 8,100 in 1991.

The draft plan will be open to public comment until Dec. 5 at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/public-consultation/grey-wolf/>. After public comment has been reviewed, the wolf management plan will be finalized.

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Pages 40 through 41 redacted for the following reasons:

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## **DECISION REQUIRED**

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ADM Responsible: Tom Ethier



**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS  
TRANSITION NOTE**

Date: March 18, 2013

**ISSUE: DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GREY WOLF IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**BACKGROUND:**

The goal of wolf management in British Columbia is to ensure a self-sustaining population throughout the species' range and to ensure that within the biological limits of the species, wolves are available in sufficient abundance to fulfill their ecological role and to meet the cultural, recreational, and economic needs of society. The draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf in British Columbia (hereafter referred to as "the plan") indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an 'at-risk' species.

While there are strong differing beliefs and values on the management of wolf populations, it is important that decisions are informed by sound science. Wildlife management plans summarize the best available science-based information on biology and threats to inform the development of a management framework. They set goals and objectives, recommend approaches appropriate for species or ecosystem conservation, and provide strategic advice. While the proposed plan does offer some recommended management actions, it does not advocate any particular action with respect to wolf management. Any future wildlife management decisions will be made with conservation of all species, including wolves, as the foremost priority.

The plan is also a requirement under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). For species to be traded under CITES, the government must show that they have a management plan in place that ensures the species is being properly managed and protected.

The plan was developed by a contractor, with input from staff, between 2011 and 2012 and released for public comment between November 14 and December 5, 2012. During that period, the Ministry received over 3,000 comments from individuals, organizations and stakeholders.

**SUMMARY:**

Page 44 redacted for the following reason:

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## DECISION REQUIRED

s.13, s.17

ADM Responsible: Tom Ethier



May 2013

## ISSUE NOTE

**Issue:** Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf in British Columbia

**Background:**

- The Draft Management Plan for Grey Wolf in British Columbia (hereafter referred to as “the plan”) indicates wolf populations are likely stable or increasing across the province and are not considered an ‘at-risk’ species.
- While the proposed plan does offer some recommended management actions, it does not advocate any particular action with respect to wolf management. The plan is also a requirement under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). For species to be traded under CITES, the government must show that they have a management plan in place that ensures the species is being properly managed and protected.
- The plan was developed by a contractor, with input from staff, between 2011 and 2012 and released for public comment between November 14 and December 5, 2012. During that period, the Ministry received over 3,000 comments from individuals, organizations and stakeholders.

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**Decision required:**

- **90 day issue:** Minister to decide whether to release an updated Wolf Management Plan