

# **MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS**

## **BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2014 UBCM CONVENTION**

### **I PREPARED FOR:**

**Minister Thomson's Meeting with the District of Oak Bay**

### **II ISSUE:**

Oak Bay Urban Deer Pilot Project

### **III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

The District of Oak Bay is participating in the Capital Regional District Deer Management Strategy process. The municipality is planning to initiate an Urban Deer Pilot Project, consisting of a proposed deer cull to begin in January of 2015. They have not yet applied for a permit to carry out the cull.

Planning for the cull has involved Oak Bay requesting the use of FLNR owned Modified Clover Traps to capture deer. There are only 10 traps in the province and these traps are in the Kootenay Boundary Region. Clover traps cost approximately \$1200 each including hardware and netting. They must be fabricated and weigh about 80-100 lbs. Set up dimension is 2m x 1.2m x 1.3m, and collapsed for shipping is 3.5m x 1.2m. The traps are expensive to transport and are required for operations in that region during the same time period. Recommended traps for use in a population reduction are not present within Region 1. The Capital Regional District (CRD) has recently written (Aug. 29) the Minister requesting the Province provide 5 clover traps to Oak Bay by Sept 2014.

### **IV SPEAKING/RESPONSE POINTS**

s.13

Jeff Morgan, Fish and Wildlife Policy Manager  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Making a difference...together  
August 29, 2014

Capital Regional District  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3000  
F: 250.360.3234  
www.crd.bc.ca

File: 0400-20  
0110-20

The Honorable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Thomson:

**FOLLOW UP REQUEST: MODIFIED CLOVER TRAPS FOR DISTRICT OF OAK BAY DEER MANAGEMENT**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is in the process of implementing a four year Regional Deer Management Strategy. We are working in partnership with the District of Oak Bay on an urban deer management pilot project. Despite the management options implemented to date, deer conflicts remain at levels that are unacceptable to Oak Bay residents. On August 13, 2014 the CRD Board supported a six month extension to the pilot project so that Oak Bay could complete the final proposed management option—capture and euthanize. Oak Bay intends to seek Provincial sign-off on a general permit for population reduction. The request will be to initiate deer population reduction in January 2015.

On April 28, 2014, the District of Oak Bay wrote (Attachment 1) to formally request that the Province provide traps for Oak Bay's use in its deer management capture and euthanize program, and to request that the Province make available the communications support of Dr. Helen Schwantje. In a letter dated June 10, 2014 (Attachment 2), the Province indicated its role in this program would be to administer permits, loan equipment and provide advice.

Recent correspondence from Acting Director of the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch (Attachment 3) indicated that the Province "does not have suitable traps that can be made available on loan to the District of Oak Bay in January of 2015". In addition, recent follow up between Oak Bay and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff identified challenges with obtaining provincial input on factual details outlining the rationale for the cull.

Deer management is a province-wide issue. It is a growing issue for many communities in the CRD. It is for this reason that as Chair of the Capital Regional District Board, I am writing to respectfully request Provincial support toward completion of this program, which would benefit not only Oak Bay, but also the broader region.

The region and local governments have committed significant resources to deer management and, based on previous correspondence from the Province, are relying on the Province for provision of equipment and advice to ensure a successful conclusion. Neither Oak Bay nor the CRD made budgetary allowances for the construction of traps. Not having access to the traps and the necessary factual information presents significant barriers for moving forward on deer management and may jeopardize the ability to complete the project.

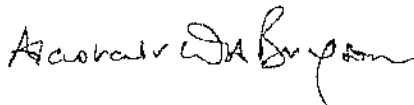


The CRD respectfully requests that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations provide five modified clover traps for Oak Bay's use in January, 2015. It is our understanding that other regions (such as Resource Management Region 4, Kootenay) have been provided with this level of service. Alternatively, if this request is unable to be fulfilled, perhaps there are other ways in which the Province can provide support? To be able to deliver a January cull, the CRD requires certainty on how the traps will be provided no later than September 2014.

I appreciate your timely consideration of our request and look forward to your response. The CRD would be happy to meet with you at your convenience, including at the UBCM September conference, if you will be attending.

Should you wish clarification or further discussion on this matter please contact the CRD's Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning, Signe Bagh at sbagh@crd.bc.ca or 250-360-3244.

Yours truly,



Alastair Bryson  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

Attachments: 3

cc:

J. A. Morgan, Fish and Wildlife Policy Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
A. Nussbaum Acting Director - Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch, Ministry of Forests,  
Lands and Natural Resource Op  
M. Stalberg, Section Head, Fish and Wildlife, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
S. Pendergast, Senior Biologist, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
H. Schwantje, Wildlife Veterinarian, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
N. Jensen, Mayor, District of Oak Bay  
H. Koning, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Oak Bay  
R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District  
K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, Capital Regional District  
S. Bagh, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning, Capital Regional District





THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY  
MUNICIPAL HALL - 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE - VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1G2  
PHONE 250-598-3311 FAX 250-598-9108 WEBSITE: [www.oakbay.ca](http://www.oakbay.ca)

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Steve Thomson, Minister  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

COPY

Dear Minister Thomson:

#### REQUEST FOR POPULATION REDUCTION RESOURCES

Deer management is a provincial issue affecting many British Columbia communities, including Oak Bay. Oak Bay has responded to the growing deer issue by, late in 2013, joining a one-year Capital Regional District (CRD)-led pilot project to implement recommendations of the Regional Deer Management Strategy (RDMS). The RDMS was developed with extensive input from a Citizen's Advisory Group and Expert Resource Working Group. Emerging from the consultation process, were recommendations pertaining to: conflict reduction, deer vehicle collision mitigation, and public education/administrative measures.

Oak Bay has increased fines for deer feeding bylaw violations. Council continues to review speed limits and signage on its roads, particularly in high collision areas, and public education on conflict reduction and deer vehicle collisions is an ongoing priority. Oak Bay has, to this point, proceeded with action on all fronts except population reduction.

Deer conflicts remain high and are of concern to many Oak Bay residents. Our community appears to be moving closer towards seeking Provincial sign-off on a general permit for population reduction via a capture and euthanize program later in 2014 or early 2015.

Should the requested permit be approved, Oak Bay will be needing access to subject matter expert, provincial wildlife veterinarian Dr. Helen Schwantje, to assist us with the important positioning and delivery of information to our community. At a recent meeting with Dr. Helen Schwantje, we requested her support in helping communicate the sensitive factual details that will inform and define any population reduction measures in Oak Bay. As the subject matter expert, her professional specialization, wisdom and knowledge form the important credibility that we, as elected officials, are lacking. I formally request that Dr. Helen Schwantje be available on a limited basis to speak publicly as our subject matter expert in support of our public education commitments to our residents.

Oak Bay will also be needing access to clover traps. In earlier discussions, Oak Bay was informed that the Province (the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) would provide such traps for Oak Bay's use. These traps were, on the advice from Ministry staff, to be the main provincial contribution to responding to the provincial deer management issue. We are now being advised by the Province that these traps will no longer be made available. The reason cited is that the traps intended to

2014

be used were destroyed by vandals while deployed in Kimberly. Not having access to these traps presents a significant barrier for moving forward on deer management.

Please accept this letter as Oak Bay's formal request that the Province make available the communications support of Dr. Helen Schwantje, and the promised five clover traps. Oak Bay is the first urban community attempting to employ an urban deer population management strategy. As we are located in the provincial capital, this controversial issue will likely draw heightened attention. Dr. Schwantje's voice and professional credentials bring articulate, reasoned and factual intelligence to an emotionally charged issue for communities around the province, and the commitment to provide traps would benefit not just Oak Bay, but many other British Columbia communities struggling to respond to this entrenched and growing issue.

I appreciate your consideration of our requests. I look forward to your response.

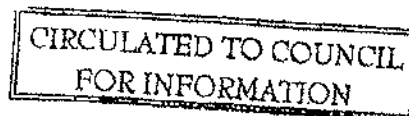
Should you wish clarification or further discussion on this matter please contact our Chief Administrator Office, Helen Koning at 250.598.3311 or [hkoning@oakbaybc.ca](mailto:hkoning@oakbaybc.ca).

Sincerely,  
original signed by

Nils Jensen  
Mayor  
District of Oak Bay

cc

Mike Stalberg, Section Head, Fish and Wildlife, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
Sean Pendergast, Senior Biologist, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
Helen Schwantje, Wildlife Veterinarian, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Op  
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District  
Kevin Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, Capital Regional District  
✓ Signe Bagh, Senior Manager, Regional Planning, Capital Regional District



Ref: 205980

June 10, 2014

His Worship Mayor Nils Jensen  
The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay  
Municipal Hall  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8R 1G2

Dear Mayor Jensen:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2014, to Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia and me, regarding financial responsibilities for urban deer management. As this falls under the purview of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, I am pleased to take this opportunity to respond.

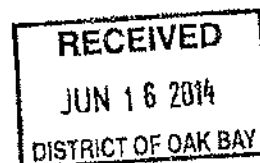
I understand that the ministry is engaged with your district and I recognize your leadership in attempting to resolve urban deer issues within the District of Oak Bay. However, the province cannot agree to the sharing of operational costs. As previously communicated, while the province will provide advice, administer permits and loan equipment, it cannot assume responsibility for urban deer management activities.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Albert Nussbaum, Acting Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch by phone at 250 387- 3637 or by email at [albert.nussbaum@gov.bc.ca](mailto:albert.nussbaum@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you again for continuing your efforts to work with this ministry and communicating your concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister



Page 1 of 2

Ministry of Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9049 Stn. Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9F2

Tel: 250-387-6240  
Fax: 250-387-1040  
Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/for](http://www.gov.bc.ca/for)



Ref: 210260

November 13, 2014

His Worship Mayor Nils Jensen  
District of Oak Bay  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8R 1G2

Dear Mayor Jensen:

Thank you for meeting with me on Wednesday, September 24 at the 2014 UBCM Convention to discuss urban deer management and for your follow up letters of September 29.

Our government recognizes that this issue continues to challenge a number of communities, and we remain committed to engaging with local governments and working towards permanent solutions. As announced at the Urban Deer Clinic at this year's convention, the ministry and UBCM have agreed to collaborate in the delivery of a two-day workshop for local governments. Based on timing with respect to municipal elections and the holiday season, I expect this workshop to be delivered in Richmond in January 2015. Participants will be provided with the latest legal, policy, administrative and communications information available as well as advice on best practices, thus providing a structured opportunity for local governments to determine priorities and recommend improvements. I also expect this workshop to address the formation of an Urban Deer Task Team, which would convene at least annually.

As we discussed, I have asked regional staff to follow up directly with local officials on other issues raised during our meeting, including an update on the availability of deer traps and on the capacity of provincial experts to provide guidance to local governments. With regard to the prospect of additional provincial resources, we will consider future opportunities as funding becomes available.

Again, thank you for the constructive discussion.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister

Page 1 of 2

pc: Linda Larson, MLA (Boundary-Similkameen)

His Worship Mayor Nils Jensen

Craig Sutherland, Assistant Deputy Minister, Coast Area  
Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division  
Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, West Coast Region  
Dan Peterson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch  
Ian Hatter, Manager, Wildlife Management, Fish and Wildlife Branch  
Jeff Morgan, Manager, Fish and Wildlife Policy, Fish and Wildlife Branch

From: [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#)  
To: [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
Cc: [Hatter, Ian FLNR:EX](#); [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project  
Date: Monday, December 1, 2014 4:35:35 PM

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If think you're going to run into a time crunch please let me know with as much time to spare as you're able

Dan

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2014, at 4:27 PM, Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
<[Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Time may be an issue but will do my best. There is additional equipment to be made available – 2 bolt guns – region has one but another should be purchased. I can do next week. Thanks for letting me know.

Helen

---

**From:** Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX

**Sent:** Monday, December 1, 2014 4:07 PM

**To:** Hatter, Ian FLNR:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Fwd: Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project

Hi Helen / Jeff,

For your info. Please let me know if you have any concerns. I have asked for some clarification around time commitments.

Thanks

Dan

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX" <[Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca)>

**Date:** December 1, 2014 at 3:53:28 PM PST

**To:** "Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX" <[Dan.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dan.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** "Nicholls, Diane R FLNR:EX" <[Diane.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Diane.Nicholls@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject: FW: Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project**

FYI. I have committed Helen S to be available to support Oak Bay in their deliberations around a deer cull this winter.

---

**From:** Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX

**Sent:** Monday, December 1, 2014 3:52 PM

**To:** Helen Koning

**Cc:** 'Jeff Weightman'; Mike S. Webb; 'kathi springer'; 'bob lapham'; Pendergast,

Sean FLNR:EX; Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project

Good afternoon Helen.

Regarding #1 – I heard from Sean that he did send you an email that confirmed we are having traps built and will loan them to Oak Bay. The traps will be ready by the end of the month.

Regarding #2 - I've confirmed with Tom Ethier that Dr. Helen Schwantje can provide support for this initiative, if required. Please contact her directly.

Thanks,

Craig Sutherland

Assistant Deputy Minister - Coast Area

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations -

British Columbia - Canada

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**From:** Helen Koning [<mailto:hkoning@oakbay.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:21 PM

**To:** Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX; Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX

**Cc:** 'Jeff Weightman'; Mike S. Webb; 'kathi springer'; 'bob lapham'; Helen Koning

**Subject:** Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project

Thanks Gentlemen for taking the time to meet together this afternoon.

This is my understanding of the “take aways” from the meeting today:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]--> Sean will provide written confirmation of the modified clover traps being made available to the municipality by mid – December
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->Craig you were going to confirm that Dr. Helen Schwantje could be contacted and would be prepared to speak if required in a public setting with the Mayor (and our council), that she would be available in the early days of the cull, and that she could be the signature to literature to better educate the public.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->That the RFP proponents (before final selection) will be required to have Dr. Schwantje to vet them first before a final decision is made by the municipality.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->That the province will be part of the communication strategy with the contact person being Logan Wenhem. ( Bob Lapham will connect Andy Orr (CRD)and Logan to work with our communications specialist Kathi Springer.)
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->The upcoming provincial ministry/municipality meetings in January are not much value to the District t of Oak Bay but that staff could access support information from Jeff Morgan.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->Relocation – is not considered to be an approved pilot yet in Cranbrook but is still at the stage

of putting a proposal together with no confirmation yet that this  
could or would be undertaken until some time in 2016.

If I have missed or misunderstood anything let me know.

Helen

Helen M. Koning

Chief Administrative Officer

District of Oak Bay

2167 Oak Bay Avenue

Victoria BC V8R 1G2

Tel: 250-598-3311



**From:** [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#); [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#); [Hatter, Ian FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project  
**Date:** Monday, December 1, 2014 4:38:42 PM

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No issues from my perspective. Can appreciate that this could be a real time suck for Helen if there are operational expectations....." ...that she would be available in the early days of the cull..."?

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**From:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, December 1, 2014 4:27 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX; Hatter, Ian FLNR:EX; Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project  
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**To:** Helen Koning  
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provide support for this initiative, if required. Please contact her directly.

Thanks,

Craig Sutherland

Assistant Deputy Minister - Coast Area

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - British Columbia -  
Canada

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**From:** Helen Koning [<mailto:hkoning@oakbay.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:21 PM

**To:** Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX; Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX

**Cc:** 'Jeff Weightman'; Mike S. Webb; 'kathi springer'; 'bob lapham'; Helen Koning

**Subject:** Follow up to our meeting today re: Deer Management Pilot project

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If I have missed or misunderstood anything let me know.

Helen

Helen M. Koning

Chief Administrative Officer

District of Oak Bay

2167 Oak Bay Avenue

Victoria BC V8R 1G2

Tel: 250-598-3311

From: [kathi.springer](#)  
To: [Schwantje, Helen.FLNR:EX](#)  
Subject: Request to speak with you  
Date: Saturday, December 6, 2014 8:43:24 AM  
Attachments: [FAQ-DMS.pdf](#)

---

Hello Dr. Schwantje – My name is Kathi and we have communicated earlier in the spring on behalf of the District of Oak Bay with whom I am on contract. I understand from Helen Koning, CAO at Oak Bay, that Oak Bay has received permission from the provincial government to seek your assistance in helping inform the public on the facts around the 2015 deer cull. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or connect by phone at minimum to get your input into a draft communications plan that I have crafted. Oak Bay is starting to get letters from people who claim to have been speaking with you and by creating an opportunity for you to present/claim the facts in a controlled public way, this I hope will help everyone gain some greater understanding of this complex situation. Let me know what might work best for you and I thank you in advance for your support. Attached is the FAQ document that we are using that has been prepared by the CRD in conjunction with the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resources.

Sincere best,

Kathi Springer

Communications consultant, District of Oak Bay

s.22

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Deer Management Strategy

### CRD | Planning & Protective Services

#### Why is population reduction an important component of a deer management strategy?

Public education, outreach, bylaw enforcement, street signage and traffic calming measures, fencing, landscape design and deer repellent utilization are all components of a successful deer management strategy. Population reduction is *only one* component of a deer management strategy. When dealing with an overabundance of deer in an area where there are no natural predators, there needs to be a mechanism to reduce the population to more manageable numbers.

#### What is the Regional Deer Management Strategy?

The CRD Board provided direction to move forward with a Regional Deer Management Strategy in 2011. The CRD utilized a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) consisting of eleven members of the public, chosen from applicants by the CRD Board, to guide the development of a Regional Deer Management Strategy (RDMS). The Strategy is designed to be action based using the Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis (Hesse 2010) as a foundation to address the deer-human conflicts within the Capital Region.

In April of 2012 the CRD assembled an Expert Resources Working Group (ERWG), which included provincial wildlife biologists, the provincial wildlife vet and experts from the private sector, to advise and clarify information for the Citizens Advisory Group. In December of 2012 the CRD Board adopted the Regional Deer Management Strategy. A “terms of reference” was drafted to give the framework for both an urban and an agriculture pilot project. The Oak Bay council voted to work with the CRD initiative in June of 2013.  
[www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf](http://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf)

#### Why did Oak Bay agree to participate in the Pilot Program?

Like the municipalities throughout the CRD, the District of Oak Bay has, over the past several years, been hearing concerns and growing complaints from residents throughout the municipality regarding the growing population of blacktail deer in Oak Bay and the risk to public safety. We were asked to take action.

Public safety is our primary concern. In the absence of any natural predators, the deer population is on the rise, and as a consequence so are the incidents of deer-human conflict throughout our streets and neighbourhoods. 40 deer died in 2013 in Oak Bay due to human-deer conflict and these deaths were not humane – they were long and painful and most often the result of vehicle collisions, failed attempts to jump fences, and illness. We are expected to surpass these numbers in 2014.

The Provincial Government, who has the authority for wildlife management in BC, has reviewed the CRD’s Regional Deer Management Strategy and requires the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to issue permits authorizing population reduction. After the Strategy was released Oak Bay residents urged council to step forward and participate in the urban pilot project.

Please see the following link for more information: [www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf](http://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Deer Management Strategy

### CRD | Planning & Protective Services

#### What does the Oak Bay Urban Pilot Project include?

- Public Education and Communication
- Deer Vehicle Collision mitigation:
  - » Signage
  - » Speed limit considerations
- Bylaws that include:
  - » Fencing (higher back and side fencing allowances for home owners)
  - » Feeding the deer is prohibited and fines have increased to \$300.00
- CRD Database design and compilation: Deer count to better understand the size of the population throughout the community
- Data Analysis: CRD Count + ICBC deer vehicle collisions + Oak Bay carcass removal + Oak Bay resident complaints
- Population reduction – if necessary
- CRD evaluation of Pilot Project
- Determination of next steps

#### What can residents do to help address the risks associated with deer-human conflict?

For more information, the following brochures are available at [www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement](http://www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement)

- Deer in the Capital Region
- Reducing Deer-Human Conflict
- Ministry of Environment - Discouraging Ungulate Conflicts

#### Be Deer Aware:

- Use caution when in the proximity of the deer. When driving, slow down and be very aware.
- Deer are most aggressive when they have young to protect (spring and early summer) and in the fall during mating season (end of October through early December.)
- Educate your children, neighbours and friends, and prevent your pets from chasing or confronting deer.
- Do not feed the deer! A fine can be levied for feeding deer in Oak Bay.

#### When are deer most aggressive?

Deer are most aggressive during the spring birthing period as well as the fall/winter mating season (rut). The does' instinct to protect their fawns from a perceived threat could provoke defensive reactions. The rutting season is another sensitive time to be aware of potential conflict because the bucks are looking for females to mate with. Due to elevated testosterone levels, the bucks become very focused on the does and can become very aggressive towards pets, and in rare cases, children.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Deer Management Strategy

### CRD | Planning & Protective Services

What considerations and options were explored with the Province of BC and the CRD to address population reduction in Oak Bay?

**If there is a population reduction, will other deer move into neighbourhoods to fill the void?**

Wildlife experts in the provincial government have informed us that the void will not be filled right away with deer from other areas. Blacktail does do not migrate very far from where they were born. They generally don't cover more than a few square blocks. Home range in urban areas is estimated to be about 2.5 square kms. Bucks, however, will cover slightly more ground looking for females during the rut and for prime food. Deer generally will not move to a new area unless they are pushed because of predation (animal or people), dense populations and/or a lack of desirable habitat.

**Capture and Relocate**

This method is not currently supported by the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations for blacktail deer in this region. The Ministry Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations stated that it will not authorize the capture and relocation of blacktail deer due to the transportation stress and resulting high mortality rate. Deer habituated to urban and suburban environments do not fare well when introduced into wild environments. [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/UrbanUngulatesConflictAnalysisFINALJuly5-2010.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/UrbanUngulatesConflictAnalysisFINALJuly5-2010.pdf)

**Tranquilize and Relocate** The Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations has stated that it will not authorize the use of tranquilizers to aid in relocation due to the high risk of the deer reacting poorly to the tranquilizer. Risks range from no reaction to the deer succumbing to the tranquilizer causing death. Deer habituated to urban and suburban environments do not fare well when introduced into wild environments. Residual tranquilizers can impact other animals that consume deer that have been tranquilized.

**Immunocontraceptives**

This method involves trapping a deer in a clover trap, releasing the males, marking the females and injecting them with a contraceptive. This is currently only possible and legal as part of a research project and the contraceptive application must be supervised by Provincial staff. The cost per doe is approximately \$1000.00 including the contraceptive. It is necessary to trap the deer in order to give the inoculation and manage any appropriate tagging or radio collaring for tracking. The inoculation not only sterilizes the doe, it also makes the meat unfit for human consumption. If the animal dies, scavengers that feed on the inoculated carcass could become contaminated. Approximately 70-90% of the doe population must be treated in order to start slowing population growth. Best results occur in geographically isolated populations. The contraceptives are not currently licenced or approved by Health Canada for use except when being used for experimental scientific research and by permit only. Immunocontraceptive treatment needs to be ongoing in order to be effective over the long term. Treated deer will live out the remainder of their natural life.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Deer Management Strategy

### CRD | Planning & Protective Services

#### **The farming of blacktail deer has not been supported as a deer management option by the government of BC.**

The Province has never permitted the farming of blacktail deer. This is to reduce the risk of transferring diseases between wild populations and domesticated, farmed big game animals. According to the Provincial Big Game Farm Act, the only big game animals that can be legally farmed in the province are Fallow Deer, Reindeer and Bison.

#### **Capture and Euthanize**

Under the direction of professional wildlife experts, deer are baited into modified clover traps. The wildlife experts use the trap to constrain the deer and employ a bolt gun to euthanize the deer. The deer dies quickly, and the meat, uncontaminated by tranquilizers or contraceptives, can be consumed rather than wasted. Talks are underway with First Nations to receive the deer meat along with the hides, antlers and hooves which can be used for ceremonial purposes.

*This issue of managing the growing population of blacktail deer in our community is a very emotional one for all of us. We will continue to listen to our residents, work to ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information available and we remain committed to act responsibly to protect the safety of our residents and the well-being of the deer.*

From: [kathi.springer](#)  
To: [Schwantje, Helen.FLNR:EX; Helen.Koning](#)  
Subject: request to speak  
Date: Monday, December 8, 2014 2:33:05 PM  
Attachments: [FAQ-DMS.pdf](#)

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Hello Dr. Schwantje – Thank you for getting back to me on the weekend. Helen Koning (CAO, Oak Bay) and I were hoping you might be able to identify a time in the coming days (Tuesday or Wednesday morning) when we can connect with you by phone or in person. A few things we would like to cover include:

- Review of the FAQ document that the CRD has prepared based on input from you and your colleagues (attached)
- Share communications planning approach with you and explore ways to include you as the subject matter expert as we prepare to move forward (suggest meeting with Editorial board and management of media outlets with you and the Mayor in order to provide them with factual information and to get agreement on how best to work together respecting that we would like them to stay true to the facts in their coverage. This could be any time now depending on your availability should you deem this appropriate.)
- Determine how best to deal with people who are contacting you directly.

Thank you Dr. Schwantje! We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kathi Springer

s.22



**From:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Cottam, Nick ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION: Permit for consideration-District of Oak Bay NA14-158682  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2015 12:06:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [DISTRICT OF OAK BAY-158682-Application.pdf](#)  
[DISTRICT OF OAK BAY-NA14-158682.doc](#)

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And this

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**From:** Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014 12:26 PM  
**To:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION: Permit for consideration-District of Oak Bay NA14-158682

For your review – not the best document but most of the information is in there. I have to reread after talking to you.

Sean Pendergast RPBio  
Senior Wildlife Biologist | Fish & Wildlife Section

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**From:** LaBoucane, Tanya L FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:11 PM  
**To:** Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** ACTION: Permit for consideration-District of Oak Bay NA14-158682

Hi Sean,

Please find attached a nuisance deer permit for consideration.

**Supporting Documents:**

1. Draft Permit (attached);
2. Application (attached);
3. COORS – No history.

Thank you.

Tanya LaBoucane  
F&W Permit Officer, FrontCounter BC  
West Coast Region  
(250) 751-3139

# RECEIVED

ATS 149711 AUTH 158682



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
West Coast Region

OCT 21 2014

## Wildlife Act of British Columbia GENERAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Please complete all sections of this form. Type or print legibly. Attach additional sheets as needed.

**NOTE:** For Import/Export, Accompany to Hunt, Rainbow Trout Pond or Scientific Collection (Fish) permits, do not use the General Application form. See the Permit & Authorization Service Bureau website for the appropriate application form instead.

**This is an application for: (check the appropriate box)**

New Permit (you have never had a permit for this activity) ☐  
Renewal (you have had a permit for this activity before) ☐

Previous Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICANT:

Legal Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ s.19 Legal First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization (if applicable): District of Oak Bay  
Name of Contact Person (if different from Applicant): \_\_\_\_\_ s.19  
Street or PO Box: 2167 Oak Bay Ave  
City or Town: Victoria Postal Code: V8R 1G2 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ s.19  
Phone (day): s.19,s.22 Fax: s.19,s.22 Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

Wildlife species (common & scientific names): Columbian black-tailed deer/Odocoileus hemionus columbianus

Location of Activity: District of Oak Bay

Start Date of Activity: January 2015 End Date of Activity: March 2015

Provide a **detailed description** of the activity you require a permit for. Include methods and equipment to be used. If your activity involves the capture, transport, possession, release or export of live animals or viable eggs, you must also include a detailed safety plan that explains the measures you will take to ensure that public safety will be protected. (For example, how would you prevent escapes?) In your own words, also describe the purpose of this activity and any special circumstances the Ministry should be aware of.  
Please see attached documentation

### ADDITIONAL PERMIT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION (SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS):

### FEES AND PERMIT TYPE:

Permit Type: (list all permit activity codes that apply - see website for list) 2(c)(iii)

Fee enclosed: \$ NA If choosing multiple permit codes, enclose payment for the highest priced permit activity.

Method of Payment: Cheque/Money Order  
Credit Card (Visa/MasterCard)  
Cash/Debit

☐ Payable to Minister of Finance  
☐ (attach credit card authorization sheet)  
☐ at Service BC - Government Agent Only  
☐ at FrontCounter BC office

**NOTE:** Permits cannot be issued for activities that are contrary to the proper management of wildlife in B.C. (Permit Regulation, B.C. Reg. 253/2000, s. 5)

For further information:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/>

Victoria 387-2928; Elsewhere in B.C. 1-866-433-7272

01-21-2013



Ministry of  
Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations

## Wildlife Act of British Columbia GENERAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Please complete all sections of this form. Type or print legibly. Attach additional sheets as needed.

The information required by this form and any documents you provide with it are collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to process your permit application under the Wildlife Act. This information will be used to verify your eligibility for the permit you are seeking and for other purposes related to the administration of the Wildlife Act. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, contact the Director of Wildlife.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

By signing below, I acknowledge that the information I have provided is true and I am 19 years of age or older.  
s.19

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

October 20, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application

It is an offence to knowingly make a false statement in order to obtain a permit. Violations may result in prosecution under the Wildlife Act and/or refusal of future permit requests. Any permit obtained using false information is invalid.

For adequate processing time, please allow a minimum of 30 days for turnaround.

**Incomplete applications may delay processing time for a permit. Resubmitted applications are processed in resubmitted date order.**

### PLEASE FORWARD MY PERMIT TO:

Address: (as above): or

Mail to: District of Oak Bay 2167 Oak Bay Avenue Victoria BC V8R 1G2

or Fax: 250-598-9108

or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(your e-mail address or location of Government Agent/FrontCounter BC office to be picked up at)

Please send completed application, fees and any supporting documents to the **Permit and Authorization Service Bureau** at one of the following:

**By Mail:** PO Box 9372 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC, V8W 9M3

**By Courier:** 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria BC, V8W 9M3

**By Fax:** (250) 387-1814 or through any Service BC - Government Agent Office  
or through any FrontCounter BC Office

### WARNING

#### Failure to pay fine

65 (1) This section applies if a person

- a) fails to pay, within the time required by law, a fine imposed as a result of the person's conviction for an offence under this Act or the *Firearm Act*, and
- b) has been served with notice of this section.

(2) In the circumstances referred to in subsection (1),

- a) the person's right to apply for or obtain a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is suspended immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine,
- b) all licences, permits and limited entry hunting authorizations issued to that person under this Act are cancelled immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine, and
- c) the person commits an offence if, before that fine is paid, the person
  - (i) applies for, or in any way obtains, a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act, or
  - (ii) does anything for which a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is required.

NOTE: Permits cannot be issued for activities that are contrary to the proper management of wildlife in B.C. (Permit Regulation, B.C. Reg. 253/2000, s. 5)

For further information:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/>

Victoria 387-2928; Elsewhere in B.C. 1-866-433-7272

01-21-2013

## **Application for General Permit**

### **Background:**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) initiated work to address human/deer conflicts in 2011. After researching the ICBC deer vehicle collision database, Ministry of Environment Blacktail deer population trends, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure highway clean up data and other communities experiencing similar deer human conflicts the CRD launched a dedicated email address to receive human/deer conflict related complaints concerns and input from residents and non-residents. The CRD received 827 emails, between August 2011 and October 2014, with 202 of them being from residents of Oak Bay (note that not all complainants included addresses).

In response to well-established and ongoing community concerns, the CRD Board directed preparation of an action-oriented management strategy in 2012. An 11-member Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was set up to guide preparation of the Regional Deer Management Strategy (RDMS) (Appendix 1), which was based on recommendations from Hesse's (2010) Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis. An Expert Resources Working Group (ERWG), consisting of provincial wildlife biologists, the provincial wildlife veterinarian, an agrologist, and the wildlife manager of the SPCA provided information and advice to the CAG. The CRD Board adopted the RDMS in December 2012 and in 2013 a consultant biologist developed a pilot project Terms of Reference to provide a framework for implementing the RDMS recommendations. The recommendation included conflict reduction, population reduction, deer vehicle collision mitigation, and administrative/public education management options. The Terms of Reference (implementation framework) involved a one year initiative which would include one urban pilot project and one rural pilot project (Appendix 2).

In November of 2013, Oak Bay Council voted to participate in the urban pilot project. In implementing the pilot project, Oak Bay completed actions such as:

- increased fines to \$300 for contravention of the anti-feeding bylaw;
- considered speed limits in high impact areas;
- reviewed fence height bylaw;
- provided information brochures on the use of chemical repellants on plants to deter feeding;
- and

- distributed public education materials in a local paper, which were produced by CRD staff, to all of its residents this spring.

The CRD produced a communications strategy (Appendix 4) that outlines the communications roles and responsibilities through a collaborative approach by local, regional and provincial governments to address regional human-deer conflicts. A communications strategy was a requirement suggested by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff.

The CRD conducted an Oak Bay deer count, employing a methodology developed in collaboration with biologists at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Appendix 5). The count constitutes one measure in the baseline population index, which is also informed by metrics such as ICBC collisions, resident complaints and carcass removal by Oak Bay public works. A map of all the metrics has been created to identify the areas of greatest concern (Appendix 6). The information collected shows an increase in the number of deer human conflicts in the municipality of Oak Bay.

The focus of this project is to reduce deer human conflicts within the municipality and therefore increase public safety. The municipality recognizes that deer are a natural part of the environment. Despite the above-noted efforts, Oak Bay residents continue to express frustration with a range of deer issues from deer vehicle collisions, aggressive or negative interactions with both pets and humans and property damage. The number of deer euthanized by authorities or are injured or killed by cars within Oak Bay has been steadily climbing every year since 2008 (Appendix 3).

Conflict reduction, deer vehicle collision mitigation, and administrative/public education management options have been implemented, yet conflicts continue to increase. Only one management option remains in the RDMS and pilot project terms of reference: population reduction. Given implementation of other management options and increasing complaints, Oak Bay is now seeking permission to implement a capture and euthanize program, as set out in the next section. The goal is to reduce deer human conflicts.

### **Proposed Approach:**

The municipality of Oak Bay formally requests permission to implement capture and euthanize population reduction similar to the approaches that have been taken in Helena Montana, Kimberly, Cranbrook and Invermere, British Columbia.

Implementation of the program would focus on the neighbourhoods with the highest number of deer-human conflicts. Up to 25 black-tail deer would be captured in baited modified clover traps and then euthanized using a captive bolt gun. The modified clover traps would be provided by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and the bolt gun would, as previously committed, be provided by FLNRO. The municipality of Oak Bay would, through an RFP process, select (a) contractor(s) that meets the contractor qualification requirements in Appendix 8. CRD staff will provide assistance with the RFP process. The successful contractor(s) would be required to be proficient in the use of all equipment involved (as determined by the Provincial wildlife veterinarian), or be willing to be trained to become proficient by Provincial staff. Training and guidance, if needed, would be provided by the Provincial wildlife veterinarian.

The capture and euthanize activity would take place in the early morning before most residents are active. The process consists of the contractors remotely monitoring the traps via data transmitting game cameras. Once an animal is caught, the contractor will quickly collapse the trap with the deer inside and dispatch the animal immediately and humanely using a captive bolt gun. Contractors promptly re-establish the trap from its collapsed state, open the gate and move the deer to a waiting covered truck. The deer would be bled within 5 minutes of euthanasia, into a container, to reduce meat spoilage and maintain a clean worksite. The contractors will be made up of two teams. Once the deer has been bled, one team would remove the deer from the location and take it to a facility out of public view to be dressed and prepared for butchering. The other team would continue to the next locations to check on and, if needed, empty the remaining traps. The deer would be sexed, aged and examined by the contracted butcher at the processing facility. Cleaned deer would have their hides left on and would be transported to a butcher in a refrigerated vehicle. The modified clover trap sites would, with the permission of the property owner, be placed on privately owned property throughout the municipality. As all of the traps are checked and emptied, they would be locked open for day storage and not reset until after sunset when the contractor would reset them. There is a contingency protocol that has been

designed to work hand in hand with the population reduction strategy (Appendix 7) and could address any issues that may arise during the course of the population reduction. Deer meat or carcasses will be distributed to First Nations. A protocol for receiving the meat is being co-produced with First Nations. If there is excess meat it would be distributed to food banks/charities. Deer that are determined by either the contractor or First Nations as being unhealthy would not be processed for human consumption. The contractor would notify the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian or Provincial Wildlife Biologist of deer that are found to be unhealthy.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Regional Deer Management Strategy**

**Appendix 2: Terms of Reference**



**Appendix 3: List of deer carcasses removed by Oak Bay Public Works**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
			<u>al</u>		
<b><u>125</u></b>					
<u>3</u>	<u>January 1, 2007</u>				
<u>0</u>	<u>January 1, 2008</u>				
<u>7</u>	<u>January 1, 2009</u>				
<u>8</u>	<u>January 1, 2010</u>				
<u>14</u>	<u>January 1, 2011</u>				
<u>23</u>	<u>January 1, 2012</u>				
<u>55</u>	<b><u>2007 to 2012 totals</u></b>				
<u>40</u>	<b><u>2013 Total</u></b>				
<u>1</u>	<u>January 1, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>February 1, 2013</u>				
<u>2</u>	<u>March 1, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>April 1, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>April 24, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>May 2, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>May 5, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>May 26, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>May 30, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>June 8, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>June 16, 2013</u>				
<u>2</u>	<u>July 2, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>July 7, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>July 16, 2013</u>				

<u>1</u>	<u>July 31, 2013</u>				
<u>4</u>	<u>Aug</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>September 3, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>September 6, 2013</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>September 9, 2013</u>	s.15	F	<u>fawn</u>	<u>hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>September 14, 2013</u>		F	<u>young</u>	<u>impaled on fence</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>September 23, 2013</u>		M	<u>big</u>	<u>struck by car / shot by police</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>September 26, 2013</u>		M	<u>young</u>	<u>struck by car / shot by police</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>October 4, 2013</u>		M		<u>struck by car / shot by police</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>October 20, 2013</u>		F		<u>hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>October 28, 2013</u>		M		<u>hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>October 28, 2013</u>		M		<u>impaled on fence</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>October 31, 2013</u>		M		<u>unknown in back yard</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>November 2, 2013</u>		F	<u>young</u>	<u>unknown</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>November 12, 2013</u>		F	<u>young</u>	<u>hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>November 14 2013</u>		F	<u>Young</u>	<u>hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>November 25 2013</u>		M	<u>4 to 5 yrs</u>	<u>Sick ?</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>December 3 2013</u>		F	<u>2 to 3</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>December 4 2013</u>		M	<u>3 +/-</u>	<u>Fell off rocks??</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>December 27 2013</u>		M	<u>4 point</u>	<u>Police dropped in yard</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>December 31 2013</u>		F	<u>2 to 3</u>	<u>Caught in bushes beat itself to death</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>2014 Total</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>January 12 2014</u>	s.15	F	<u>Big</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>

<u>1</u>	<u>January 13 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>January 18 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>February 5 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>February 7 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>February 11 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>February 25 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>March 4 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>March 18 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>March 21 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>April 13 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>April 30 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>May 7 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>May 9 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>May 30 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>June 23 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>June 30 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>July 7 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>July 7 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>July 7 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>July 14 2014</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Aug 1 2014</u>

s.15

<u>F</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Presume car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Shot while stuck on fence</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Shot with an arrow</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Car / Shot by police</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>In the ocean. No trauma visible</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>In back yard demise unknown</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Shot by police/ hit by car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>young</u>	<u>Unknown death</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>average</u>	<u>Laid down in yard and died</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>average</u>	<u>Hit by Car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>average</u>	<u>In yard dead. Demise unknown</u>
<u>?</u>	<u>very young</u>	<u>Demise unknown</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>1 year</u>	<u>Dead in back yard</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Big</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>?</u>	<u>fawn</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Mom</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>?</u>	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Demise unknown very rotten</u>

<u>1</u>	<u>Aug 5 2014</u>	s.15
<u>1</u>	<u>August 7 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>August 13 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>August 15 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>August 15 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>August 27 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>Sept 9 2014</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>October 19, 2014</u>	

	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Stuck in picket fence</u>
<u>E</u>	<u>Big</u>	<u>Dead in back yard</u>
	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>? Police dropped off overnight in yard.</u>
	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Hit by car / shot by police</u>
	<u>fawn</u>	<u>Hit by car</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>3 year old</u>	<u>In back yard Garden</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>1 year old</u>	<u>Hit by car / shot by police</u>

#### Appendix 4: CRD Communications Strategy

This strategy was designed for the pilot project as a whole. The information noted includes both what has been completed and what is planned for the duration of the project.

##### **Purpose**

To increase public awareness of deer-human conflicts in the CRD and provide a range of options for reducing these conflicts, thereby, increasing public health and safety, minimizing crop damage, property damage, and providing a baseline for positive deer-human cohabitation in the Capital Region.

To facilitate a collaborative approach to deer-human conflicts amongst local, regional and provincial government.

##### **Timeline**

The tactics outlined in this communications strategy will be implemented from November 2013 to spring, 2015, subject to permits from the Ministry, in support of implementation of the Capital Regional District Regional Deer Management Strategy Pilot Project.

##### **Background**

In December 2012, the CRD Board supported the RDMS developed by the Citizen's Advisory Group and started implementing its recommendations. In 2013, residents in the CRD were invited to participate in the development of the RDMS and management options. In the implementation phase, residents will have opportunities to increase their understanding of deer-human conflict and management options, to participate in best practices for conflict reduction, to minimize deer intrusion on their property and to understand the rationale for a pilot project as one step in an adaptive deer management strategy; "a formal process of 'learning by doing' for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from their outcomes".

RDMS recommendations within the scope of this communications plan

- ›Region-wide, establish a public education program to support the management options in addressing deer-human conflicts in the CRD:
- ›Creating realistic expectations for achievable results
- ›Increasing appreciation for wildlife in appropriate settings
- ›Reducing undesirable human activity
- ›Broadening the public's knowledge of the range of concerns of all affected by deer habituation
- ›Increasing public understanding of deer management measures
- ›Ongoing monitoring of availability of fertility control (Immuncontraception) for wide-scale use

Oak Bay Urban Deer Population Reduction Pilot Project Terms of Reference recommendations within the scope of this communications plan

- ›Expand public education regarding:
- ›General awareness of deer-human interactions
- ›Desirable behavioral changes to minimize the occurrence of deer-human or deer-pet conflict
- ›Expand garden and landscaping public education regarding use of deer repellents, deer resistant plantings and other conflict reduction measures noted in the RDMS
- ›Produce timely website updates throughout the pilot program to inform participating land owners, advisory committee members, politicians and the general public of pertinent information.
- ›Produce population reduction educational material.

Target Audiences

Primary	Secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>»CRD Board of Directors</li> <li>»Senior Government</li> <li>»Municipal Councilors</li> <li>»Provincial Permitting Officers, Ministry of Forest, Land and Natural Operations (MFLNO)</li> <li>»Oak Bay residents</li> <li>»First Nations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>»Media</li> <li>»CRD urban and rural residents and landowners</li> <li>»Agricultural producers</li> <li>»Special Interest Groups (SIG)</li> <li>»Animal rights groups (i.e. DeerSafe)</li> <li>»First Nations Hunters</li> <li>»Nurseline/ medical clinics</li> </ul>

#### Communication and Outreach Objectives

##### For Primary Audiences

- »Promote awareness of the deer management strategy process, tactics and jurisdictional roles
- »Show a preparedness for addressing key concerns regarding deer population control tactics such as public health and safety, humane treatment of animals, and overall program and cost effectiveness

##### For Secondary Audiences

- »Provide open, transparent and timely information sharing on deer-related matter
- »Build awareness and understanding of the issues that exist in the deer population in the CRD
- »Educate the public, staff, stakeholders (general to specific audience) about how to reduce deer-human conflict on their personal property and on roadways.
- »Encourage balanced media reporting by providing timely content to media (i.e. Media Releases)

##### Strategic Approach

- »Be factual, clear, scientifically-supported and provide links to in-depth information sources
- »Communicate the specific, clear and transparent points of the RDMS process and results
- »Provide consistent website messaging throughout the region
- »Be proactive in media relations, wherever possible

#### Key Messages

##### For Primary Audiences

- »Current and timely deer management information and resources (FAQs, Brochures, Progress Reports) will be available on the CRD website at: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement>.
- »Deer management is a collaborative, multi-governmental effort, with the CRD supporting the deer management choices of each municipality and streamlining communications with the Province.

##### For Secondary Audiences

- »Increased deer populations in the CRD threaten the health and safety of both humans and deer (deer-vehicle collisions, aggression towards pets and people, deer borne diseases, property damage)
- »The RDMS provides deer management strategies for a range of geographic areas (agricultural, rural, urban) and will be implemented according to the needs of individual property owners and local governments.
- »Regional public education is focused on actions individuals can take to protect themselves and their property from deer: local bylaws may vary (fencing, frightening, landscape choices), partnerships with First Nations deer harvesters for cultural purposes, general public education campaigns, building partnerships, coordinating the implementation of municipal efforts and establishing monitoring and reporting programs. A primary goal in all interactions with the media and the public across the region will be to provide

consistent, objective and solutions-based messaging.

CRD Spokespeople	Oak Bay Spokespeople
›Jeff Weightman ›Mike Webb	Oak Bay Mayor

#### Opportunities

There is an opportunity within the Pilot Project for the CRD and the District of Oak Bay to demonstrate a commitment to:

- ›Regional cooperation, by increasing our level of effective and transparent partnership in the shared distribution of public deer management education resources.
- ›A healthy region, by increasing collaboration with all levels of government, the public, and other organizations to increase facilitation and delivery of mutually beneficial public information around deer borne diseases.
- ›A dedicated email address that allows the public to comment on the RDMS
- ›Objectivity through the creation of informative, fact-based public education pieces

#### Challenges

The delivery of the RDMS regionally and in Oak Bay will likely occur in a context that includes:

- ›Initially strong emotional responses from the public to the thought of a cull
- ›Highly vocal and organized special interest groups (Deer Safe, BC SPCA)
- ›Demonstrations, petitions and the potential for earned media that doesn't show both sides of the issue

#### Strategies & Tactics

##### Primary

Tactic		Timing	Responsibility
Communications Plan	Issues Management planning and a component of the Provincial Nuisance Wildlife Permit application	Nov. 2013 (mld)	Paula Steele/ Sophie Wood
FAQ sheet	A document outlining key messages in relation to the RDMS and related projects	Nov. 2013	Paula Steele
Updates	Regular updates to the CRD Board of Directors, Senior levels of government	TBD	Sophie Wood/ Jeff Weightman

##### Secondary

Tactic	Description	Distribution	Responsibility
3 Brochures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>Deer in the Capital Region</i>, general information about the diet and life cycle of the Mule deer</li> <li>2 <i>Reducing Urban Deer-Human Conflict</i>, specific actions urban citizens can take to protect their property.</li> <li>3 <i>Reducing Rural Deer-Human Conflict</i>, specific behavioral actions rural citizens can take to protect their property</li> </ol>	-Through CRD -Through municipal, EAs -Downloadable off the website -Through Special Interest Groups	Paula Steele/ Sophie Wood

Media Release/ Briefing Kit	FAQ sheet; Brochures; Citizens Advisory Group Recommendations Diagram	Throughout Oak Bay pilot project	Jeff Weightman
Email address	An email address residents can access to submit questions or share feedback in relation to the Deer Management Plan	Ongoing	CRD: Monitored by Jeff Weightman  Oak Bay: TBD
CRD Website Home Page	Profile the Deer Management Page as "Current Priority" on the Home Page; Feature Hot Topic up- dates corresponding to project milestones	Ongoing	Cailey Hopkins
CRD RDMS Website Page Updates	Web page including links to the timeline, pilot terms of reference, FAQs, etc. <a href="http://www.crd.bc.ca/regionalplanning/deermanagement">www.crd.bc.ca/regionalplanning/deermanagement</a>	Ongoing	Sophie Wood/ Jeff Weightman
RDMS Timeline	An overview of the major project milestones and decision points to date, including links to relevant	Ongoing; posted on the page	Jeff Weightman/ Sophie Wood
Social Media Listening Re- ports	Monthly reports summarizing comments on blogs, social media sites etc. related to the RDMS (list provided by Regional Planning).	Nov 2013 - Nov 2014	Corey Burger/ Jeff Weightman



Page 037 to/à Page 038

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## **Appendix 5: Count Methodology and Results**

### **Background:**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Nuisance Wildlife Permit a count of the resident Columbian black-tail deer in the municipality of Oak Bay to be conducted as one component to help to determine a relative population density. To accomplish this, volunteers, Oak Bay contractors and CRD employees were utilized to conduct the deer count.

### **Study Area:**

In order to gather the most credible count data efficiently and effectively the municipality of Oak Bay was divided up into 3 counting zones.

### **Count Methodology**

Ungulates are usually most active during the periods around dawn and dusk, active at night, and are least active during daylight hours. That pattern, coupled with the observation that animals are usually less wary at night, suggests that direct count methods are likely to be most efficient during early morning, late evening or during the night. Counts took place around sunrise and sunset and were completed within 2 hours. There were 5 counts during late March and early April. The counters were divided up into teams of 2, using one team per zone. The teams consisted of a driver and a spotter/recorder. Teams were instructed on how to determine the sex of the deer. There were also instructions given on how to correctly fill out the Deer Count Sheet; mark way points on the GPS Surveyor app that could be installed on smart phones and; send information to the CRD. Drivers were instructed to drive between 15-20km/h while counting so that deer would not be missed due to speed. The drivers were given a map with a predetermined route, set out by the CRD, to minimize route crossover and the re-driving of streets. The route covered all the arterials and collectors within each particular zone. Teams were directed to only count the deer that were seen in the forward 180 degrees of their field of vision so that deer were not double counted. Teams were given an information sheet that they filled out during the counting process. The information sheet and the data from the GPS information were turned in to the CRD within 24hrs of the count occurring so that the data could be compiled. Once the information was turned in, it was compiled by CRD and a map of the information was produced along with a final count.

Page 040 to/à Page 042

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.15

#### Appendix 8 – Minimum Qualifications for Contractor

- Need a minimum of 2 personnel
- Must have use of a covered truck for bleeding and transport of deer
- Must hold a valid British Columbia hunting license
- Must have hunting experience
- Must have experience working with live and dead wildlife
- Must have experience with handling and field dressing deceased ungulates without contaminating meat
- Must have a working knowledge of black-tail biology and anatomy
- Trapping experience an asset
- Must have the ability to read an area for animal activity
- Must have the ability to check traps a minimum of once every 24 hours.
- Must have the ability to deal with the public diplomatically
- Experience dealing with angry, aggressive or hostile people an asset
- Must be very discreet
- Must be able to lift and move heavy objects
- Must be able to set the traps after dark and then have them checked and emptied before sunrise
- Must be trained or willing to be trained to use modified clover traps and bolt gun (to the satisfaction of the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian)

## WILDLIFE ACT

### PERMIT NA14-158682

<b>PERMIT HOLDER</b>	District of Oak Bay 2167 Oak Bay Ave Victoria BC V8R 1G2  ATTENTION: s.19 PHONE: FAX:
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**IS AUTHORIZED UNDER** s. 2 (b)(ii) of the *Permit Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 253/2000,

<b>TO</b>	Hunt, trap or kill up to twenty five (25) <b>Black-tailed Deer</b> ( <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> ) during the open or closed season as the regional manager considers it necessary for the proper management of the wildlife resource.
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#### SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

<b>TERMS OF PERMIT</b>	The permit holder must comply with the terms in Appendix A.		
<b>COMPLIANCE ADVISORY</b>	Failure to comply with any term of this permit is an offence under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> , and may result in any or all of prosecution, suspension of the permit, cancellation of the permit, ineligibility for future permits, and denial of future permit requests.		
<b>PERIOD OF PERMIT</b>	This permit is only valid from January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.		
<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>	<DATE>		
<b>SIGNATURE OF ISSUER</b>	s.19	<b>PERMIT FEE</b> Exempt	<b>HCTF SURCHARGE</b> Exempt
	Recreational Fisheries & Wildlife Programs West Coast Region		

## APPENDIX A TERMS OF PERMIT

### PERMIT NA14-158682

#### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

1. The permit holder must maintain an accurate up to date record of the wildlife hunted, trapped or killed under the permit, which includes the following information:
  - a) the common name of the wildlife;
  - b) the location where the wildlife was taken;
  - c) the date the wildlife was hunted, trapped or killed;
  - d) the sex and age class of the wildlife taken;
  - e) the bands or tags on the wildlife;
  - f) a description of all nests, dams or other structures destroyed or removed

**NOTE:** A blank reporting form (Appendix C) is attached to the end of this permit for your convenience.

2. The permit holder must submit the original record referred to in paragraph 1 to FrontCounter BC **within 21 days** after the expiry of the permit.
3. The permit holder must produce a copy of the record referred to in paragraph 1 on the demand of an officer.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. The permit holder must comply with all laws applicable to the activities carried out under this permit.
2. The permit holder must hold either a valid British Columbia hunting licence, or utilize a person with a valid British Columbia hunting licence.
3. The permit holder must take all reasonably necessary steps to ensure that public safety is not jeopardized and fish or wildlife habitat is not damaged by any action taken under authority of this permit.
4. The permit holder must ensure that the wildlife are treated in a humane manner, and are not subjected to any unnecessary harm or suffering.
5. All ungulates killed are to be disposed of according to instructions provided by the Regional Manager.
6. Permit holder is responsible for making arrangements to ensure that a substantial portion of the meat of any deer killed is made available for use by First Nations and/or persons in need. Any deer not used for human consumption must be composted (buried) in an environmentally sound manner that does not compromise human health or safety, or make it likely that pets or scavengers can gain access to the carcasses.
7. All wildlife and wildlife parts hunted, trapped or killed at a time not within the open season remain the property of the Province of British Columbia. The permit holder may not sell or trade wildlife hunted, trapped or killed at a time not within the open season, except as authorized by permit.
8. Wildlife wounded but not killed must be reported to the Conservation Office Service as soon as possible.

## **APPENDIX B ADVISORY**

### **PERMIT NA14-158682**

#### **GENERAL**

- It is the permit holder's responsibility to be aware of all applicable laws and the limits of this permit.
- The Province is not liable for any illness contracted through wildlife handling. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to inform themselves of possible health hazards, and to ensure that all reasonably necessary safety measures are undertaken.
- If applicable, the permit holder is responsible for renewing his or her own permit. The issuer is not obliged to send a reminder notice.

#### **LEGISLATION**

Here are some, but not all, relevant excerpts from the **Wildlife Act**:

##### **Property in Wildlife**

**2 (3)** A person who lawfully kills wildlife and complies with all applicable provisions of this Act and the regulations acquires the right of property in that wildlife.

**2 (4)** If a person by accident or for the protection of life or property kills wildlife, that wildlife, despite subsection (3), remains the property of the government.

**2 (5)** Despite anything in this Act, no right of action lies, and no right of compensation exists, against the government for death, personal injury or property damage caused by

- a) wildlife, or
- b) an animal that escapes or is released from captivity or is abandoned

in British Columbia

##### **Hunting and licences**

**11 (1)** A person who hunts wildlife commits an offence unless the person holds all of the following:

- a) a hunting licence issued to the person under this Act;
- b) any limited entry hunting authorization that is required by regulation;
- c) any other licence that is required by regulation;
- d) any other permit that is required by regulation

**11 (8)** A person commits an offence if the person traps fur bearing animals unless he or she holds a trapping licence.

##### **Trafficking in wildlife**

**22** A person who traffics live wildlife or wildlife meat, except as authorized by regulation or a permit, commits an offence.

##### **Documents not transferable**

**81** Except as authorized by regulation or as otherwise provided under this Act, a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization is not transferable, and a person commits an offence if the person

- a) allows his or her licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization to be used by another person, or
- b) uses another person's licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization.

### **Failure to pay fine**

**85** (1) This section applies if a person

- a) fails to pay, within the time required by law, a fine imposed as a result of the person's conviction for an offence under this Act or the *Firearm Act*, and
- b) has been served with notice of this section.

(2) In the circumstances referred to in subsection (1),

- a) the person's right to apply for or obtain a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is suspended immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine,
- b) all licences, permits and limited entry hunting authorizations issued to that person under this Act are cancelled immediately and automatically on the failure to pay the fine, and
- c) the person commits an offence if, before that fine is paid, the person
  - i) applies for, or in any way obtains, a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act, or
  - ii) does anything for which a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization under this Act is required.

### **Production of licence or permit**

**97** If a person who is required to hold a licence, permit or limited entry hunting authorization issued under this Act

- a) fails to produce it for inspection to an officer on request, or
- b) fails or refuses to state his or her name and address to an officer on request,

the person commits an offence.

### **REGULATIONS**

This excerpt from the **Permit Regulation**, made under the Wildlife Act, is relevant:

**8** A person who holds a permit under the Act or the Permit Regulation commits an offence if he or she fails to comply with a term of the permit.

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



## APPENDIX C RECORD OF WILDLIFE HUNTED, TRAPPED OR KILLED

### PERMIT NA14-158682

- The permit holder **MUST** maintain an accurate up-to-date record.
- The permit holder **MUST** submit the original copy of this report to FrontCounter BC **within 21 days** of the permit's expiry or annually as indicated in "Appendix A – Terms of Permit – Reporting Requirements" of this permit.
- The permit holder must produce a copy of this record on the demand of an officer

Common name of wildlife	Location where wildlife was taken	Date wildlife was hunted, trapped or killed	Sex and age class of wildlife	Bands or tags on wildlife	Description of all nests, dams or other structures destroyed or removed

\*If more room is required, please use a sheet of blank paper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Permit Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
FrontCounter BC Nanaimo  
Suite 142, 2080 Labieux Rd  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9

**From:** [Jeff Weightman](#)  
**To:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#); [Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OBMH-02 2014 Deer Population Reduction  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014 1:24:29 PM  
**Attachments:** OBMH-02 2014 Deer Population Reduction.docx

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**From:** Helen Koning [mailto:hkoning@oakbay.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:01 PM  
**To:** kathi springer; Fernando Pimentel  
**Cc:** Jeff Weightman; Mike S. Webb; Helen Koning  
**Subject:** FW: OBMH-02 2014 Deer Population Reduction

Hi Kathi:

I just spoke to Fernando (who was kind enough to help me <sup>s.22</sup> and we reviewed the RFP and reformatted it and tweaked to what we think is now the completed document. Please see attached request for proposal.

I have also run those by Jeff. (as you can see I have copied him on the email for his record)

I have told Fernando that the technical questions can be answered by Jeff and Mike at CRD .

Fernando will be working with Mike and Jeff to set up the weighted criteria on which proposals will be evaluated prior to the closing date.

Fernando and CRD will work on drafting up a contract for service as well.

I have suggested to Fernando to let this out mid next week at the earliest, after the election. This way it can be ready <sup>s.22</sup>

This information is provided to you more for information Kathi as I think Fernando can take care of this.

Helen

Hi Fernando:

This is good work on the reformatting and making the necessary revisions. I have run them by Jeff at CRD.

I did not ask him about the WCB. I think that should be our call and I would strongly encouraged. I will leave you to determine the outcome of this.

I think that is it and I leave it in your capable hands. Thanks Fernando.

Helen

Helen M. Koning  
Chief Administrative Officer  
District of Oak Bay  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria BC V8R 1G2  
Tel: 250-598-3311

---

**From:** Fernando Pimentel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 3:53 PM  
**To:** Helen Koning  
**Subject:** OBMH-02 2014 Deer Population Reduction

Helen,

I made the changes as discussed. The insurance needs its own section, so I put it under section 20. One more question for Jeff, do we require language for WCB or are all the contractors individual owners. My concern is that we require 2 persons to attend a live

trap, will the contractor be employing personnel or will they sub-contract?

Thanks,

Fernando

---

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Thank you.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

### **Oak Bay Deer Population Reduction**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The objective of this project is to implement a capture and euthanize program to reduce deer-human conflicts in Oak Bay, British Columbia and compliment the conflict reduction, public education and deer-vehicle collision mitigation components of the urban regional deer management strategy pilot project.
- 1.2 The objective of this request for proposal is to provide the District with responses from qualified proponents capable of carrying out the work herein defined. The subsequent proponent submissions will form the basis for evaluation, interview and selection.

#### **2. Submission Details**

- 2.1 Proponents are requested to submit four (4) copies of their Proposal marked "RFP OBHM-02 - Deer Population Reduction" to Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8R 1G2 on or before:

**Friday 12:00 Noon, local time, on December 5, 2014**

- 2.2 All questions relating to this RFP must be directed to Fernando Pimentel by email to [fpimentel@oakbay.ca](mailto:fpimentel@oakbay.ca). Inquiries and responses relating to this RFP will be distributed by email to the invited proponents. It is the sole responsibility of each Proponent to ensure that they have received all amendments and addenda related to this RFP. All proponents must register using the above email address in order to obtain addenda.
- 2.3 The District reserves the right to cancel this Request for Proposal for any reason without any liability to any proponent or to waive irregularities at their own discretion.
- 2.4 Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice only, provided such notice is received at the office of the District's Purchasing Section prior to the date/time set as the closing time for receiving proposals.
- 2.5 Proposals shall be open for acceptance for sixty (60) days following the submission closing date.
- 2.6 Except as expressly and specifically permitted in these instructions, no Proponent shall have any claim for any compensation of any kind whatsoever, as a result of participating in the RFP, and by submitting a proposal each proponent shall be deemed to have agreed that it has no claim.

- 2.7 Proponents are advised that the District will not necessarily accept any Proposal and the District reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals at any time without further explanation or to accept any Proposal considered advantageous to the District.
- 2.8 A Proposal which contains an error, omission, or misstatement, which contains qualifying conditions, which does not fully address all the requirements of this RFP, or which otherwise fails to conform to the requirements in this RFP may be rejected in whole or in part by the District at its sole discretion.
- 2.9 The District may waive any non-compliance with the RFP, specifications, or any conditions including the timing of delivery of anything required by the RFP and may, at its sole discretion, elect to retain for consideration Proposals which are non-conforming, which do not contain the content or form required by the RFP or because they have not complied with the process for submission set out herein.
- 2.10 The District may choose, at its sole discretion, to proceed with all of the components of the work, none of the components or selected components of the work.
- 2.11 All Proposals will remain confidential, subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of British Columbia.

### **3. Negotiations**

- 3.1 If a written contract cannot be negotiated within fifteen (15) days of notification to the preferred Proponent, the District may, at its discretion at any time thereafter, terminate negotiations with the preferred Proponent and either enter into negotiations with any qualified Proponent or cancel the RFP process in its entirety.

### **4. Review of Proposals**

- 4.1 The District will review the Proposals submitted to determine whether, in the District's opinion, Proponents have demonstrated the required experience and qualifications to fulfill the obligations of the services identified in this RFP.
- 4.2 The District, in its sole discretion and without having any duty or obligation to do so, may conduct any inquiries or investigations, including but not limited to contacting references, to verify the statements, documents, and information submitted in connection with the Proposal and may seek clarification from the Proponent's clients regarding any financial and experience issues.
- 4.3 Proposals will be reviewed on the following criteria:
- i. Understanding of scope of work;
  - ii. Previous relevant experience;
  - iii. Capability, Company and Team experience & qualification;
  - iv. Project Deliverables; and

- v. References.

4.4 Proponents may be scheduled for an interview at the discretion of the District.

## **5. Non-Conforming Applications**

5.1 Proposals which fail to conform to any requirement of this RFP may be rejected by the District. Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this RFP, the District may at its sole discretion elect to retain for consideration Proposals which deviate either materially from the format requirements set out in hereto or which otherwise fail to conform to any other requirement of this RFP except the requirement of delivery of the Proposal prior to Closing Time.

## **6. RFP Process**

6.1 The District may unilaterally take the following actions, and shall not be liable for any such actions:

- i. Amend the scope and description of the services to be procured as described in this RFP, and the qualifications that may be required to meet those requirements;
- ii. Reject or accept any or all Submissions;
- iii. Cancel the RFP process at any time and reject all submissions; or
- iv. Cancel the RFP process and recommence in respect of the same RFP with the same or an amended set of documents, information and requirements.

6.2 The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that any RFP is in no way whatsoever an offer to enter into an agreement and submission of a Request of Proposal by any Respondent does not in any way whatsoever create a binding agreement. The Respondent acknowledges that the District has no contractual obligations whatsoever arising out of the RFP process.

## **7. Information Disclaimer**

7.1 The District and its directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants and advisors are not liable or responsible for any verbal or written information, or any advice, or any errors or omissions, which may be contained in this RFP or otherwise provided to the Served provider pursuant to this RFP.

7.2 The District makes no representation, warranty, or undertaking of with respect to this RFP and the District and its directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants and advisors, shall not be liable or responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information in this RFP or any other written or oral information made available to any interested person or its advisors, and any liability however arising, is expressly disclaimed by the District.

## 8. Project Background

The Capital Regional District (CRD) initiated work to address human/deer conflicts in 2011. After researching and analysing data including the ICBC deer vehicle collision database, Ministry of Environment Blacktail Deer Population Trends, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure highway clean up data, Ministry of Health and Island Health Lyme disease rates, and contacting other communities experiencing similar deer human conflicts, the CRD launched a dedicated email address to receive human/deer conflict related complaints concerns and input from residents and non-residents.

In response to well-established and ongoing community concerns, the CRD Board directed preparation of an action-oriented Regional Deer Management Strategy (RDMS) in 2012. An 11-member Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was set up to guide preparation of the RDMS, which was based on recommendations from Gayle Hesse's (2010) Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis. An Expert Resources Working Group (ERWG), consisting of provincial wildlife biologists, the provincial wildlife veterinarian, an agrologist, and the wildlife manager of the SPCA provided information and advice to the CAG. The recommendations included conflict reduction, population reduction, deer vehicle collision mitigation, and administrative/public education management options.

The CRD recently completed an urban deer count to satisfy the final requirement of the provincial general permit for nuisance wildlife. The count provides one measure of the deer population. Other indicators of the deer population include: resident complaints; ICBC deer vehicle collision data; and Oak Bay public works deer carcass removal statistics.

The provincial general permit for nuisance wildlife requires that the applicant complete conflict reduction, deer-vehicle collision mitigation and public education prior to proceeding with population reduction. Oak Bay, through a one year pilot project has:

- increased fines to \$300 for contravention of the anti-feeding bylaw;
- enforced speed limits in high impact areas;
- reviewed bylaw provisions regarding fence height;
- reviewed the use of chemical repellents on plants to deter feeding; and
- distributed, to all residents, public education materials produced by CRD staff.

In addition to completing the above actions, the following provincial requirements were completed in preparation for a general application permit (nuisance wildlife) capture and euthanize:

- a deer count;
- maps of the project area (Attachment 1);
- a communications plan outlining provincial, regional and municipal messaging;

- a contingency plan which explains what will happen in the event of an unexpected outcome such as a wounded animal (Attachment 2); and
- a detailed description of the proposed approach to population reduction.

## **9. Related Work**

Previous related efforts have included: the Regional Deer Management Strategy, Pilot Project Terms of Reference, Communication Strategy, municipal and public engagement, two public education brochures, data collection (complaints, collisions, ICBC collision information, carcass removal, and population index), and completion of the provincial general permit.

## **10. Identified Challenges**

Challenges may be faced while implementing the strategy due to very emotionally sensitive issues. There is likely to be a strong media interest in the population reduction activity. Strong opposition from animal advocates and some local citizens has been experienced to date and this may be escalated through the capture and euthanize process.

## **11. Jurisdictional Roles**

There are three levels of government that have roles in undertaking the deer management strategy: the province, the region and the municipality. The role of the Province is to approve the permit, provide information through provincial officials (Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Officer) and some direction/training for the capture and euthanization process.

The Region has a supportive and strategic implementation role. The CRD is providing pertinent information from the province to the municipality as well as staff in the form of a wildlife specialist, GIS personnel and communication personnel. It also has the role of completing the provincial permit application and aiding in drafting the request for proposal for contractors to complete the population reduction.

The Municipality's role is to provide the final authorization for the provincial permit, issue the request for proposals as well as award the contract. It collaborates with the CRD to oversee the work conducted, covers the necessary budget to support the project, and has final approval in the implementation of capture and euthanization.

## **12. Proposed Approach**

- 12.1 The contractor will be responsible for capture and euthanize activities which focus on the neighbourhoods within Oak Bay that have the highest numbers of deer-human conflicts. Up to 25 black-tail deer will be captured in modified clover traps and then euthanized using a captive bolt gun by a contractor selected by Oak Bay and CRD staff.



- 12.2 The contractor should be prepared to begin capture and euthanize activities in January 2015. The contractor will, with property owner permission, set modified clover traps on sites, throughout the municipality. The analysis done by the CRD along with contractor input and a municipal liaison (at Oak Bay's discretion) will determine the trap sites. The contractor will use game cameras provided through funding from Oak Bay to monitor any activities occurring around the traps via cell phone and then prioritize trap visits based on activity.
- 12.3 The capture and euthanize activities must take place after last daylight and before first daylight. Traps will be locked open for daytime storage and not reset until after dark when the contractor will reset them.

### **13. Scope of Work**

- 13.1 The successful contractor(s) are required to be proficient (as deemed by the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian) in the use of all capture and euthanize equipment involved, or be willing to be trained by Provincial staff to become proficient. Training and guidance, if needed, will be provided by the Provincial Wildlife veterinarian in a training session that could require up to 2 days of training in December. The contractor must also be willing to attend a maximum of two meetings with the First Nations that are receiving the meat, for introductions and protocols around receiving the meat. To conduct the capture and euthanize program a minimum of two personnel are required. The successful contractor is responsible for providing a second person.
- 13.2 Each trap must be checked, and emptied as required, a minimum of once every 24 hours by the contractor. The contractor will be required to set and bait each trap in the evening after last daylight. Before first daylight the contractor will check any game camera footage that has been captured during the night if there is an issue at the trap sites. The contractor will then proceed to check each trap and empty them accordingly. If there is an issue the contractor must contact the CRD supervisor and advise on the issue at hand. Contractors have the option to pre-bait the areas for up to one week before the traps are setup. To safely and effectively restrain the deer after it is trapped there **must** be 2 contractors present.
- 13.3 The first contractor will collapse the trap while the second contractor puts their full body weight on top of the deer and collapsed trap then holds the head still while the first contractor dispatches the deer quickly and humanely using the bolt gun. Contractors will promptly re-establish the trap from its collapsed state, open the gate and move the deer to a waiting covered truck. Contractors will use a black plastic bag to cover the head of the deer after the bolt gun has been used, to catch any blood while the deer is being taken to the truck. The deer must, under cover and in the back of the truck, away from public view and be bled within 15 minutes of euthanasia, to reduce meat spoilage. Blood must be collected in a container to maintain a clean worksite. Once the deer is bled and the trap set up for daytime, the contractor will move on to the next trap location.
- 13.4 When all the traps have been checked and, if needed, emptied and set for daytime use; the contractor will take the deer to a predetermined location to field dress them and drop them off to the butchering facility (deer must be field dressed within no more than an hour from euthanization). Once the deer is/are field dressed and dropped off at the butchering facility the

contractor will transport the entrails to the Hartland Landfill for proper disposal. The deer must be sexed, aged and examined by the person butchering at the facility. Deer that are determined by the person doing the butchering as unhealthy will not be processed for human consumption. The person butchering must notify the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian or Provincial Wildlife Biologist of deer that are found to be unhealthy. Contractors must follow the contingency plans in Attachment 2.

#### **14. Minimum Qualifications for Contractors**

- Need a minimum of 2 personnel
- Must have use of a covered truck for bleeding and transport of deer
- Must have use of a smart phone and data plan
- Must have steel-toed boots and a high visibility vest
- Must hold a valid British Columbia hunting license
- Must have hunting experience
- Must not have any *Wildlife Act* infractions or charges pending from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations
- Must have experience working with live and dead wildlife
- Must have experience with handling and field dressing deceased ungulates without contaminating meat
- Must have a working knowledge of black-tail biology and anatomy
- Trapping experience an asset
- Must have the ability to read an area for animal activity
- Must have the ability to check traps a minimum of once every 24 hours.
- Must have the ability to deal with the public diplomatically
- Experience dealing with angry, aggressive or hostile people an asset
- Must be very discreet
- Must be able to lift and move heavy objects
- Must be able to set the traps after last daylight and then have them checked and emptied before first daylight
- Must be trained or willing to be trained to use the provided modified clover traps and bolt gun (to the satisfaction of the Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian)

**15. Study Area**

Oak Bay is a residential urban area consisting of single family houses, apartment buildings, businesses and parks. It has an area of approximately 10.5 square kilometers and is partially surrounded by ocean. Areas have been marked on a map to show where in the municipality the deer human conflicts have occurred i.e. the count, deer/car collisions, resident complaints and carcass removal by public works (Attachment 1).

**16. Budget and Costs**

The budget for the capture and euthanize will not exceed Oak Bay's budget of \$15,000. Any required travel and accommodation costs must be identified and included in the budget.

**17. End State**

Whole field dressed deer will be donated to one or more First Nations communities, or another charitable organization. Any deer that are not fit for human consumption will not be butchered and will be passed on to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations personnel for inspection.

**18. Outside of Project Scope**

The contractor is not responsible for providing the game cameras, modified clover traps or bolt gun. The contractor will not be responsible for transporting the traps. The contractor is not responsible for obtaining hazardous waste permits or costs associated with dumping the waste.

## 19. Cost and Billing

- 19.1 **Per deer with a minimum payment:** The contractor will receive a minimum payment regardless of the number of deer caught. Once more than 4 deer are caught, the per deer payment will come into effect.

The minimum payment will be the greater of:

- \$200 per day to a maximum of 14 days
- \$600 per deer (5 deer to a maximum of 25 deer)

### Scenarios based on 25 deer@ \$600 per animal to a maximum of 25 deer

Time worked (days)	Up to 2 weeks	Up to 2 weeks	Up to 2 weeks	2-8 weeks	2-8 weeks
Number of deer euthanized	0	up to 4	5-25 maximum	up to 4	5-25 maximum
Total payment	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$3000-\$15,000	\$2,800	\$3000-\$15,000

- 19.2 If the contractor does not capture and euthanize any deer within 2 weeks of initiating the capture and euthanize program, with no interference from individuals or groups opposed to capture and euthanize, the contractor will be paid the minimum of \$2,800 and the contract may be terminated based on performance.
- 19.3 A minimum payment will be made to the contractor if Oak Bay stops the trap and euthanize activities before the first 5 deer are caught or 14 days of work completed. The contractor will receive a payment of \$2,800 regardless of the number of days worked and deer caught.
- 19.4 If the contractor breaks the contract and leaves before any deer are caught or 14 days are completed then no payment will be made.

**20. Insurance**

20.1 The contractor shall, at their own expense, provide and maintain until the completion of the work the following insurance in a form acceptable to Oak Bay with an insurer licenced in British Columbia:

- |    |  |                |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | Commercial General Liability               | \$3,000,000.00 |
| 2. | Automobile Insurance (owned and non-owned) | \$3,000,000.00 |

Commercial General Liability policies shall name Oak Bay as an additional insured, and all such policies shall contain a provision that the insurance shall apply as though a separate policy had been issued to each named insured. Commercial General Liability policies shall provide that no cancellation or lapse of or material alteration in the policy shall become effective until THIRTY (30) days after written notice of such cancellation, lapse or alteration has been given to Oak Bay.

Any deductible amounts in the foregoing insurance which are payable by the policyholder shall be in an amount acceptable to Oak Bay.

20.2 The contractor shall provide Oak Bay with a certificate or certificates of insurance as evidence that such insurance is in force including evidence of any insurance renewal or policy or policies. Every certificate, or certificates of insurance shall include, certification by the insurer that the certificate of insurance specifically conforms to all of the provisions required herein.

Page 061 to/à Page 063

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.15

**From:** [Jeff Weightman](#)  
**To:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#); [Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Deer Reduction RFP  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014 1:20:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [Scanned from a Xerox multifunction device.pdf](#)

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Fernando Pimentel [<mailto:fpimentel@oakbay.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2014 12:21 PM  
**To:** Jeff Weightman; Mike S. Webb  
**Subject:** Deer Reduction RFP

Jeff,

The tender has now closed. We had one response. Please see attached.

Thanks,  
Fernando

---

Fernando Pimentel  
Deputy Treasurer / IT Manager

The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria BC V8R 1G2  
Office: (250) 598-3311  
Fax (250) 598-9108  
[www.oakbay.ca](http://www.oakbay.ca)

This e-mail and any attachments are for the use of the intended recipient only and must not be distributed, disclosed, used or copied by or to anyone else. This e-mail and any attachments may be confidential, privileged and/or subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you receive this message in error, please delete all copies and contact the sender.

Thank you.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

November 27, 2014

District of Oak Bay  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria, BC  
V8R 1J2

Attention: Fernando Pimentel, Deputy Treasure/IT Manager

Dear Mr. Pimentel;

Re: s.19,s.22      . RFP OBHM-02-Deer Population Reduction

Following is my proposal for the Deer Population Reduction project.

**Qualifications**

s.19,s.22



### **Use of Baits and Baiting**

I propose to prebait for at least one week prior to start of trapping, if possible with the traps on site and locked open. I will use a mixture of different baits. Included will be cattle feed (a molasses based feed and proven deer attractant in the greater Victoria area) as well as apples, grains, shelled corn, salt, sweet spray attractants and scents.

### **Cost and Billing**

My proposal follows the conditions as set out under paragraphs 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 and 19.4 of the OBHM-02-Deer Population Reduction document with the following amendment:

The minimum payment will be the greater of:

- \$200 per day to a maximum of 14 days (zero to 4 deer)
- **\$350 per deer** (5 deer to a maximum of 25 deer)

### **References**

s.22

I confirm that I have thoroughly read and understand the conditions and requirements as set out in the OBHM-02-Deer Population Reduction document and I am willing and able to fulfill the required obligations in a discreet and professional manner.

Sincerely s.19,s.22

s.19,s.22

**From:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Cottam, Nick ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** deer  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 20, 2015 2:51:39 PM  
**Attachments:** FAQ-DMS.pdf  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** kathi springer S.22  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 8:17 AM  
**To:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Helen Koning  
**Subject:** Communications discussion  
**Importance:** High

Good morning Dr. Schwantje and Logan,

As discussed on the phone with Dr. Schwantje and Helen Koning CAO of District of Oak Bay, I would like to request your assistance with communicating the facts as they relate to the 2015 deer cull in Oak Bay.

- I would like your assistance in rewriting this FAQ sheet (I'll deal with the organization of the information if you would please review and strengthen the content). I have asked the CRD to send me a word document and will forward upon receipt.
- I would also like to suggest that we discuss the opportunity for Dr. Schwantje and Mayor Jensen to meet with the editorial board of the TC and the Editor/report of the Oak Bay News/Vic News plus the management/producers of both TV stations to share the facts (hand them fact sheets) and to review with them how we can best work together to ensure that the facts remain the benchmark for pending coverage.

My feeling is that a meeting in early January would be best for this (January 5<sup>th</sup>) and this will require some logistics to coordinate. Logan and Helen and I would also be in attendance.

In speaking with the other communities who have experience in this challenging undertaking, our communication goal is to seek media support/understanding to hold the emotions accountable and in context to the facts.

Logan – I'd welcome your insight here as to the press gallery media – should we be doing the same? Given that this is the Provincial Capital – access to national and international media will be an outcome we must consider and plan for.

I have drafted a communications work plan and reviewed it with Mayor Jensen. I'd welcome the chance to meet with you all in person to discuss and amend as appropriate.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Let me know what dates/times next week would work. Wednesday is the only day for me

that is completely full.

Warm regards,

Kathi Springer  
s.22

**From:** Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX  
**To:** "kathi.springer"; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Helen Koning; Dean, Sharon GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Communications discussion  
**Date:** Friday, December 12, 2014 11:15:07 AM

---

Hi Kathi:

Thanks for your email.

As discussed, the Province won't be participating in your proposed visit to local editorial boards, but I wish you well.

We would be glad to help with review of a FAQ sheet on deer to ensure it is factually accurate. I can review for policy and I'll work with our program staff (likely Helen) to ensure it is accurate on the biology side.

Also, as discussed I am resending the Province's fact sheet on deer, last updated it in September 2014, which is something you can share publicly or borrow language from as needed.

<https://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/forests-lands-and-natural-resource-operations/factsheets/factsheet-urban-deer-management-in-bc.html>

Hope that helps,

Logan Wenham

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: (250) 953-3675

*To live is to fly, low and high,*

*So shake the dust off of your wings, and the sleep out of your eyes;*

- Townes Van Zandt (To Live is to Fly)

---

**From:** kathi.springer<sup>s.22</sup>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 8:17 AM

**To:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Helen Koning

**Subject:** Communications discussion

**Importance:** High

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Thank you in advance for your support.

Let me know what dates/times next week would work. Wednesday is the only day for me that is completely full.

Warm regards,  
Kathi Springer

s.22

**From:** [Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: request for the word document  
**Date:** Friday, December 12, 2014 11:29:29 AM

---

Hi Helen:

I advised Kathi that you and I would both review their document once it was ready, but we wouldn't rewrite the CRD Q&A at the front end.

In keeping with that, don't rewrite/wordsmith content – but let me know if any of this content is factually correct if that doesn't take too much of your time. Then let me know if there are biology errors, and I'll then review for policy and then I'll get back to Oak Bay for both of us. Since Oak Bay is looking to do a new document that they'll want us to review anyway, I don't want to have you and I do the same task twice, or for us to decide how Oak Bay wants to word their information. If you'd rather wait for their own document to come your way, then tell me that and I'll communicate that back to Kathi now. I'd like to keep communications matters going direct between me and Kathi, and she and I can separately discuss with our program experts without drawing you directly into the discussion.

Does that work for you?

Logan Wenham

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: (250) 953-3675

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---

**From:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2014 8:08 AM  
**To:** Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: request for the word document  
FYI

Helen

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** kathi springer S.22  
**Date:** December 12, 2014 at 8:04:17 AM PST  
**To:** <[Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: request for the word document

Hello Helen. I spoke with Logan yesterday and while I would have much preferred to be proactive and claim some space ahead of this issue, I understand that the approach used that the Ministry is comfortable with is more reactive in style.

Your help please confirming the representation of the facts buried in this long document (attached) would be greatly appreciated.

I will work on reformatting/editing the narrative for your/Logan's review

early next week. s.22

Thank you!

Kathi

---

**From:** Sophie Wood [<mailto:swood@crd.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 11, 2014 4:03 PM

**To:** kathi springer

**Cc:** Jeff Weightman

**Subject:** RE: request for the word document

Hi Kathi,

This document was not originally created in Word. However, I've created a Word version with just the text so that Dr. Schwantje can proceed with making changes. We can work out the formatting later.

Sophie

**Sophie Wood** | Communications Liaison

Planning and Protective Services | Regional Planning

Capital Regional District | 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3158 | F: 250.360.3159 | [swood@crd.bc.ca](mailto:swood@crd.bc.ca) | [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

**From:** [Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** ["kathi.springer"](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: request for the word document  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 12:41:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [FAQ-DMS-textonly.docx](#)

---

Hi Kathi:

Helen Schwantje flipped this document over my way. We had a chat and it would be better if we wait for your edited narrative as noted below so we don't duplicate effort – when you are ready flip your revised document direct to me and I will coordinate from there on our end (I'll review for policy and get Helen to assist me on confirming science information).

Cheers,

Logan Wenham

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: (250) 953-3675

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*So shake the dust off of your wings, and the sleep out of your eyes;*

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Your help please confirming the representation of the facts buried in this long document (attached) would be greatly appreciated.

I will work on reformatting/editing the narrative for your/Logan's review early next week<sup>s.22</sup>

Thank you!

Kathi

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**To:** kathi.springer  
**Cc:** Jeff Weightman



**Subject:** RE: request for the word document

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Sophie

**Sophie Wood** | Communications Liaison

Planning and Protective Services | Regional Planning

Capital Regional District | 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3158 | F: 250.360.3159 | [swood@crd.bc.ca](mailto:swood@crd.bc.ca) | [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Deer Management Strategy

### CRD | Planning & Protective Services

#### **Why is population reduction an important component of a deer management strategy?**

Public education, outreach, bylaw enforcement, street signage and traffic calming measures, fencing, landscape design and deer repellent utilization are all components of a successful deer management strategy. Population reduction is only one component of a deer management strategy. When dealing with an overabundance of deer in an area where there are no natural predators, there needs to be a mechanism to reduce the population to more manageable numbers.

#### **What is the Regional Deer Management Strategy?**

The CRD Board provided direction to move forward with a Regional Deer Management Strategy in 2011. The CRD utilized a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) consisting of eleven members of the public, chosen from applicants by the CRD Board, to guide the development of a Regional Deer Management Strategy (RDMS). The Strategy is designed to be action based using the Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis (Hesse 2010) as a foundation to address the deer-human conflicts within the Capital Region.

In April of 2012 the CRD assembled an Expert Resources Working Group (ERWG), which included provincial wildlife biologists, the provincial wildlife vet and experts from the private sector, to advise and clarify information for the Citizens Advisory Group. In December of 2012 the CRD Board adopted the Regional Deer Management Strategy. A “terms of reference” was drafted to give the framework for both an urban and an agriculture pilot project. The Oak Bay council voted to work with the CRD initiative in June of 2013. [www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf](http://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf)

#### **Why did Oak Bay agree to participate in the Pilot Program?**

Like the municipalities throughout the CRD, the District of Oak Bay has, over the past several years, been hearing concerns and growing complaints from residents throughout the municipality regarding the growing population of blacktail deer in Oak Bay and the risk to public safety. We were asked to take action.

Public safety is our primary concern. In the absence of any natural predators, the deer population is on the rise, and as a consequence so are the incidents of deer-human conflict throughout our streets and neighbourhoods. 40 deer died in 2013 in Oak Bay due to human-deer conflict and these deaths were not humane – they were long and painful and most often the result of vehicle collisions, failed attempts to jump fences, and illness. We are expected to surpass these numbers in 2014.

The Provincial Government, who has the authority for wildlife management in BC, has reviewed the CRD’s Regional Deer Management Strategy and requires the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to issue permits authorizing population reduction. After the Strategy was released Oak Bay residents urged council to step forward and participate in the urban pilot project. Please see the following link for more information: [www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf](http://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/Regional-Deer-Management/regional-deer-management-strategy.pdf)

#### **What does the Oak Bay Urban Pilot Project include?**

- Public Education and Communication
- Deer Vehicle Collision mitigation:
  - Signage
  - Speed limit considerations
- Bylaws that include:
  - Fencing (higher back and side fencing allowances for home owners)
  - Feeding the deer is prohibited and fines have increased to \$300.00
- CRD Database design and compilation: Deer count to better understand the size of the population throughout the community
- Data Analysis: CRD Count + ICBC deer vehicle collisions + Oak Bay carcass removal + Oak Bay resident complaints
- Population reduction – if necessary
- CRD evaluation of Pilot Project
- Determination of next steps

### **What can residents do to help address the risks associated with deer-human conflict?**

For more information, the following brochures are available at [www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement](http://www.crd.bc.ca/deermanagement)

Deer in the Capital Region

Reducing Deer-Human Conflict

Ministry of Environment - Discouraging Ungulate Conflicts

#### **Be Deer Aware:**

- Use caution when in the proximity of the deer. When driving, slow down and be very aware.
- Deer are most aggressive when they have young to protect (spring and early summer) and in the fall during mating season (end of October through early December.)
- Educate your children, neighbours and friends, and prevent your pets from chasing or confronting deer.
- Do not feed the deer! A fine can be levied for feeding deer in Oak Bay.

**When are deer most aggressive?** Deer are most aggressive during the spring birthing period as well as the fall/winter mating season (rut). The does' instinct to protect their fawns from a perceived threat could provoke defensive reactions. The rutting season is another sensitive time to be aware of potential conflict because the bucks are looking for females to mate with. Due to elevated testosterone levels, the bucks become very focused on the does and can become very aggressive towards pets, and in rare cases, children.

### **What considerations and options were explored with the Province of BC and the CRD to address population reduction in Oak Bay?**

#### **If there is a population reduction, will other deer move into neighbourhoods to fill the void?**

Wildlife experts in the provincial government have informed us that the void will not be filled right away with deer from other areas. Blacktail does do not migrate very far from where they were born. They generally don't cover more than a few square blocks. Home range in urban areas is estimated to be about 2.5 square kms. Bucks, however, will cover slightly more ground looking for females during the rut and for prime food.

Deer generally will not move to a new area unless they are pushed because of predation (animal or people), dense populations and/or a lack of desirable habitat.

### **Capture and Relocate**

This method is not currently supported by the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations for blacktail deer in this region. The Ministry Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations stated that it will not authorize the capture and relocation of blacktail deer due to the transportation stress and resulting high mortality rate. Deer habituated to urban and suburban environments do not fare well when introduced into wild environments.

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/UrbanUngulatesConflictAnalysisFINALJuly5-2010.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/UrbanUngulatesConflictAnalysisFINALJuly5-2010.pdf)

### **Tranquilize and Relocate**

The Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations has stated that it will not authorize the use of tranquilizers to aid in relocation due to the high risk of the deer reacting poorly to the tranquilizer. Risks range from no reaction to the deer succumbing to the tranquilizer causing death. Deer habituated to urban and suburban environments do not fare well when introduced into wild environments. Residual tranquilizers can impact other animals that consume deer that have been tranquilized.

### **Immunocontraceptives**

This method involves trapping a deer in a clover trap, releasing the males, marking the females and injecting them with a contraceptive. This is currently only possible and legal as part of a research project and the contraceptive application must be supervised by Provincial staff. The cost per doe is approximately \$1000.00 including the contraceptive. It is necessary to trap the deer in order to give the inoculation and manage any appropriate tagging or radio collaring for tracking. The inoculation not only sterilizes the doe, it also makes the meat unfit for human consumption. If the animal dies, scavengers that feed on the inoculated carcass could become contaminated. Approximately 70-90% of the doe population must be treated in order to start slowing population growth. Best results occur in geographically isolated populations. The contraceptives are not currently licenced or approved by Health Canada for use except when being used for experimental scientific research and by permit only. Immunocontraceptive treatment needs to be ongoing in order to be effective over the long term. Treated deer will live out the remainder of their natural life.

### **The farming of blacktail deer has not been supported as a deer management option by the government of BC.**

The Province has never permitted the farming of blacktail deer. This is to reduce the risk of transferring diseases between wild populations and domesticated, farmed big game animals. According to the Provincial Big Game Farm Act, the only big game animals that can be legally farmed in the province are Fallow Deer, Reindeer and Bison.

### **Capture and Euthanize**

Under the direction of professional wildlife experts, deer are baited into modified clover traps. The wildlife experts use the trap to constrain the deer and employ a bolt gun to euthanize the deer. The deer dies quickly, and the meat, uncontaminated by tranquilizers or contraceptives, can be consumed rather than wasted. Talks are underway with First Nations to receive the deer meat along with the hides, antlers and hooves which can be used for ceremonial purposes.

This issue of managing the growing population of blacktail deer in our community is a very emotional one for all of us. We will continue to listen to our residents, work to ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information available and we remain committed to act responsibly to protect the safety of our residents and the well-being of the deer.

From: [kathi.springer](#)  
To: [Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX](#); [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
Cc: [Helen Koning](#); [Dean, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: text for Frequently Asked Questions  
Date: Monday, December 22, 2014 8:36:41 AM  
Attachments: [Frequently Asked Questions DMS background.docx](#)  
[Draft text options.docx](#)

---

Hi Logan and Dr. Schwantje

Please find attached text for two FAQ's – one on the CRD's Deer Management Strategy process and one on the Options. Not sure what to call the options FAQ so please feel free to wade in here with your suggestions and edits.

CRD will format for us once we have the content confirmed.

As discussed, we would like to have a person identified for media to contact in your office. As inquiries are coming in now, we'd like to be able to pass this information sooner rather than later.

Ideally we would like media to speak directly to Dr. Schwantje ...As you know our original thinking was that we would be proactive with our local media and they get a chance to ask all their questions directly to Mayor Jensen and Dr. Schwantje in a controlled environment (not in the middle of a frenzy when there is little time for context). I am certain I can manage this scenario (proactive). I understand that this is not your approach and that you will provide arms length support through one of your staff. Let me know if you change your mind. As this is an urban pilot – in the provincial capital, we might want to consider playing to our strengths which is claiming the facts in advance rather than having to refute the claims of Deer Safe etc. Let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Thank you for wading into the edits of these two documents. Welcome your thoughts and appreciate your time on this s.22 though not sure of your schedules. We would like to have this up on the website first week of January if possible please.

Merry Christmas!  
Kathi Springer s.22

Page 080 to/à Page 084

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

**From:** [Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: text for Frequently Asked Questions re: Oak Bay deer cull  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 23, 2014 10:22:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [Frequently Asked Questions DMS background FLNRO edits.docx](#)  
[Draft text options FLNRO edits.docx](#)

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Hi Helen:

I've completed my review for these two documents – where possible, I've tried to better characterize how the Province interacts with communities interested in pursuing an urban deer cull. Since these are Oak Bay/CRD documents I resisted the temptation to wordsmith beyond that.

Can you give a similar review for the science side of things – making sure they have those facts correct and also if any of my additions need correction and then get back to me?

Note that I still need to run whatever we come up with through my GCPE bosses, so please keep your edits internal – I will share with Oak Bay after I have the OK at my end.

Thanks in advance!

Logan Wenham

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: (250) 953-3675

*To live is to fly, low and high,*

*So shake the dust off of your wings, and the sleep out of your eyes;*

- Townes Van Zandt (To Live is to Fly)

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**From:** kathi springer<sup>s.22</sup>

**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2014 8:35 AM

**To:** Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX

**Cc:** Helen Koning; Dean, Sharon GCPE:EX

**Subject:** text for Frequently Asked Questions

Hi Logan and Dr. Schwantje

Please find attached text for two FAQ's – one on the CRD's Deer Management Strategy process and one on the Options. Not sure what to call the options FAQ so please feel free to wade in here with your suggestions and edits.

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Thank you for wading into the edits of these two documents. Welcome your thoughts and appreciate your time on this.<sup>s.22</sup> though not sure of your

schedules. We would like to have this up on the website first week of January if possible please.

Merry Christmas!



Page 086 to/à Page 087

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13



Page 089 to/à Page 091

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: s.22  
To: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
Subject: RE: Follow up to phone call re Oak Bay deer cull  
Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 8:10:20 AM

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Hi again Dr. Schwantje- one last question- could Oak Bay's/the CRD's failure to credibly implement the preliminary steps of the pilot program and their lack of sufficient resources or expertise mean a permit could be denied at this time on the grounds that granting it "would be detrimental to the proper management of wildlife resources in B.C." ([http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/fw\\_permreg.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/fw_permreg.html)) ?

Thank you.

s.22

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From: s.22  
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 10:27 PM  
To: 'Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX'  
Subject: RE: Follow up to phone call re Oak Bay deer cull  
Thanks again Dr. Schwantje.

I tried to reach Sean Pendergast again today, as he didn't go into detail about the permitting process when I spoke to him earlier this month. If I understood him correctly, as long as the municipality meets the provincial criteria, there is no reason to reject a permit application, but I don't know what those criteria are.

Is my understanding correct that you have the final say on whether a permit to cull is issued? If not, could you tell me who does, and what the likely timeline is for a decision?

There is growing concern that Oak Bay will receive a permit between Christmas and New Years and not inform residents – I would very much appreciate knowing whether this is even a possibility. Does the province report the granting of a permit in some public way?

Thanks very much,

s.22

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From: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX [mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca]  
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 10:31 AM  
To: s.22  
Subject: RE: Follow up to phone call re Oak Bay deer cull

Thanks for your note s.22

If you spoke to Sean then you should understand the permitting process but I am not aware of a permit being issued at this time. However, to my knowledge, even if one is issued there is nothing forcing a permittee to use a permit. I really don't have anything more to give as you have done a great job with your research.

I wish you a great holiday season as well.

Helen

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From: s.22  
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2014 11:22 PM  
To: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
Subject: Follow up to phone call re Oak Bay deer cull  
Dear Dr. Schwantje,

I wanted to thank you again for taking time with me on the phone recently – I really appreciated your perspective and knowledge. I also spoke with Sean Pendergast, and I am continuing to collect information and inform myself regarding how the CRD pilot project has proceeded in Oak Bay. The more information I have gathered, the more concerned I am that Oak Bay has not adequately undertaken the steps in the CRD Terms of Reference that should precede any move towards a cull. As well, there is some basic information I have been unable to determine, because no one on council or staff seems to know.

I am hoping that a permit will not be issued at this point and that the mayor and council will be urged to use the remaining time and money in the pilot project to educate and engage residents of

the municipality.

I would appreciate knowing if a permit has been issued at this time, and if not, what the steps in the permitting process are and what timelines are associated with each, and the factors that would go into any decision to issue/not issue a permit for a cull in Oak Bay.

Some council members have admitted to me that they are confused, unsure and uninformed about Oak Bay's participation in the pilot project. I spoke with Helen Koning on Thursday, and even as the writer of the most recent staff report, she was unable to answer basic questions such as how many deer deaths in Oak Bay were actually attributable to deer-car collisions or in what areas they took place. She suggested I find answers myself to some of the questions I have by reading minutes dating back to mid-2013 (the search function on the Oak Bay website fails to turn up most of the council references, so it is a painstaking meeting-by-meeting manual process, particularly since Helen was unable to provide relevant dates) or submit an FOI request (which I will likely do, but as I know, Oak Bay can take up to 30 working days to respond).

One councillor emailed me yesterday to tell me that no RFP for a contractor to conduct the cull had been issued yet, but Helen Koning informed me that an RFP had been posted and closed December 5. Mayor Jensen has indicated to council that January 15 is significant, but some council members don't know why. Some have said it's the date the cull will begin. Quite frankly, confusion reigns.

To re-iterate to you some of the serious concerns I outlined in our conversation:

- Very few signs have been put up (the staff report says 6, a staff member told me 4) and in only 2 locations – one high collision area has no signs;
- The signs are small and white, with a red fawn, and the words "Please Slow Down". The signs are not very visible, do not stand out, and in no way indicate that there is potential danger to the deer and possibly the driver (when I researched effective deer alert signs, I could find nothing remotely like the ones Oak Bay has produced, likely for good reason);
- I was initially told two CRD leaflets were distributed to homeowners with information on deer (deer resistant plants, instructions to not feed them, etc.). I was then told only one was distributed last spring, and then Helen Koning told me it was in fact two. Rather than sending the leaflets in the mail with tax notices, as some other informational leaflets are, they were distributed in our small local paper amongst a plethora of advertising flyers. If you don't look at sales flyers, you wouldn't have seen them;
- As of Friday, there were still no educational deer-human conflict posters in the main Rec Centre, although the October staff report suggests that posters were to be put up imminently;
- No survey of the community has been undertaken (although it is listed as an important option in the October 2014 Staff Report). If the letters in our local newspaper since mid October until December 17 are anything to go by, there are many residents who do not want a cull. Letters to the editor questioning the spending of taxpayers money on a deer cull when it seems to be well known that killing 25 deer will have little impact on the deer population are outrunning those in support of a cull 22 - 3;
- Helen Koning was unable to tell me how many complaints there have been about deer behaviour or how the mayor and council determined the community wants a cull. What the mayor (who has been publicly committed to a cull for some time) has said in media interviews is that the people he talked to on the doorstep during the recent election support a cull- hardly an extensive or scientific sample. I was told by Helen Koning there is no "deer file" with that kind of information, and that I should make an appointment with the mayor to find out how he knows the community endorses a cull.
- A re-elected council member told me that the decision to ask the CRD to extend the pilot project beyond September 30 was not voted upon by council. I have since learned that staff was directed by the mayor to request the CRD extend their involvement to March, and that some council members knew while others did not. Extending the pilot was not voted upon. The application for a permit to cull was submitted in the last few weeks of the election campaign, rather than waiting for a new council to form and re-evaluate the issue, even

though it was clear during the election campaign that a potential deer cull was an issue for residents and that many were against it;

- The Oak Bay mayor and some council members have been publicly repeating that pets, children and elderly people are at risk from the deer and it's only "a question of time if we don't cull". One council member told me someone was killed by a deer (it turned out she was referring to a theory about the cause of a fluke early morning accident approximately 12 years ago near Elk Lake when an unhelmeted cyclist coming fast down a steep hill on Haliburton Rd may have struck a deer). This tactic has raised the level of anxiety in our neighbourhoods unnecessarily.

I am troubled that the mayor and council have taken little in the way of meaningful action to address the initiatives that are identified as important steps prior to a cull (and which might even render a cull unnecessary). The public is largely in the dark about what is involved and there has been much fear-mongering and misinformation. Reading the CRD's Terms of Reference for the Deer Management Pilot Project 2013 makes it even clearer that the attention to the educational component of this pilot project has been minimal at best. It's interesting to note that as of Thursday, when I spoke with Ms. Koning, there had been 37 deer deaths in Oak Bay – not all of them by collision, although she could not tell me the proportion of those attributable to collisions with cars and those due to other causes. So in fact, the number of deer deaths in Oak Bay, despite the dire predictions that they would potentially double, has remained approximately the same as in 2013.

Dr. Schwantje, I have done more research since we spoke, including reading the November 2013 CRD Terms of Reference. It suggests a communications plan including information advertisements in the area newspapers on a weekly/monthly basis and public safety messaging- which hasn't happened; it points out that it is "often easier and more effective to influence human behaviour than to manage wildlife or natural systems"- but little has been done in this area; there are frequent references to the need for tracking conflict statistics over time, and it suggests that wildlife managers should strive for the best possible baseline information re deer abundance, age, and sex ratios- which hasn't happened; it suggests a volunteer program and strategies for conducting a deer count (there are a number of wildlife experts and biologists in Oak Bay who have the expertise and would be willing to participate in such a count, however Helen Koning told me no volunteers were used, only one CRD staff person and "two guys" from the Victoria Animal Control – whose website makes it clear their expertise is with dogs and cats). The Terms of Reference repeats that baselines are important, and yet the CAO, who wrote the October 2014 Staff Report, said she doesn't have that information.

Once again, thank you very much for your time. I will follow up with a phone call, but if I am unable to reach you before Christmas, I hope you have a lovely holiday season.

Regards,

s.22

From: s.22  
To: Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX  
Cc: Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX  
Subject: Oak Bay deer cull permit  
Date: Monday, December 29, 2014 2:11:27 PM  
Importance: High

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Dear Mr. Peterson,

I, along with a number of other Oak Bay residents, have serious concerns about the Capital Regional District/District of Oak Bay's application for a permit to conduct a deer cull in Oak Bay between January and March 2015. I am writing to ask that the permit application be denied as premature or that the issuing of a permit be delayed until Oak Bay and the CRD have addressed the significant deficiencies in implementing the steps which are supposed to precede a cull and which, if effectively implemented, could make a cull unnecessary.

I believe that Oak Bay's/the CRD's failure to credibly implement these preliminary steps and their apparent lack of sufficient resources or expertise to manage the issue appropriately means that granting a permit under these circumstances "would be detrimental to the proper management of wildlife resources in B.C." ([http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/fw\\_permreg.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/fw_permreg.html) )

Having read the Terms of Reference for the CRD's Regional Deer Management Strategy, minutes and reports from the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee, as well as the most recent Oak Bay staff report (October 2014), it is very clear that many of the steps that should occur prior to a cull have either not taken place, or have been performed perfunctorily at best. There has been no meaningful outreach to the Oak Bay community or public education (a one-off leaflet in a flyer-laden community newspaper, no advertisements, purported posters that no one can find or has seen), and measures to reduce deer-vehicle collisions such as signage and enforcement of speed have been minimal to non-existent. Of the inadequate and frankly informal communication from the Oak Bay council to residents, much has been inaccurate.

In the most recent (October 15, 2014) Oak Bay update on the CRD Deer Management Strategy, the mayor states that it is "still Council's belief that the majority of Oak Bay citizens support population reduction as part of the CRD's DMS should the action be warranted". Oak Bay has not provided any data to support this statement – there has been no survey of Oak Bay residents, and the CAO was unable to tell me or even estimate the number of complaints about deer registered with Oak Bay from among a population of around 18,000 residents. In order to receive accurate information on the numbers of complaints along with the number of deer deaths directly attributable to deer-car collisions or other causes, I was told by the CAO (who wrote the most recent staff report) that I would have to file an FOI request.

I have spoken with a number of incumbent and newly elected council members, and they have freely admitted to being confused and uninformed about the issue. Confusion on the status of the deer cull is widespread, rumours abound, letters to the editor of the Oak Bay News since mid-October are running 23 to 3 against a cull (based on everything from a lack of science to cost and ineffectiveness), and there has been little communication with the public other than the mayor's promise during the election campaign that a cull "will take place in early January".

Oak Bay is clearly not ready either practically or emotionally to undertake a cull at this time.

I would appreciate hearing from you about the status of the Oak Bay permit and the associated timeline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

s.22

Oak Bay resident

**From:** [Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** ["kathi.springer"; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Helen Koning; Dean, Sharon GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: text for Frequently Asked Questions  
**Date:** Monday, December 22, 2014 9:01:05 AM

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Thanks, Kathi – I'll review these documents and then work with Helen to make sure the science side is covered. I'll get back to you with our collective edits so that you have a single point of contact.

I thought I provided the Province's media contact earlier, but maybe it was just by phone. Our media desk is Greig Bethel, and his phone number is 250-356-5261 or by email at [Greig.Bethel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Greig.Bethel@gov.bc.ca). s.22

s.22

s.22

We ask that all media

come through our media desk. This ensures we can meet deadlines and that we find the right person to help depending on the specific nature of their questions. This will not always be Dr. Schwantje (wonderful as she is!).

On that note, if we receive media enquiries that relate to Oak Bay's decision to proceed or other municipal angles how would you like us to refer them? Should they go to you or is there an Oak Bay staffer you'd prefer we send media to directly? Can you provide a contact # and email if other than yours?

As previously advised, the Province won't be participating in your proposed visit to local editorial boards, but I wish you well.

s.22

s.22

I'll do my best to look at this stuff s.22

s.22

it may end up being the week of January 5 before we have definitive responses for you.

Merry Christmas to you as well!

Logan Wenham

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Phone: (250) 953-3675

*To live is to fly, low and high,*

*So shake the dust off of your wings, and the sleep out of your eyes;*

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**From:** kathi.springer s.22

**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2014 8:35 AM

**To:** Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX

**Cc:** Helen Koning; Dean, Sharon GCPE:EX

**Subject:** text for Frequently Asked Questions

Hi Logan and Dr. Schwantje

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Thank you for wading into the edits of these two documents. Welcome your thoughts and appreciate your time on this s.22 though not sure of your schedules. We would like to have this up on the website first week of January if possible please.

Merry Christmas!

Kathi Springer s.22

**From:** [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Stalberg, Mike X FLNR:EX](#); [Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX](#); [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#); [Craig, Kate FLNR:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Oak Bay deer cull permit  
**Date:** Monday, January 5, 2015 8:12:25 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Hi Mike,

Has the Region received a permit application yet? Or had any conversations with Oak Bay staff recently on things like communications? Do you know if Craig has been taking a lead on some of this conversation with the Mayor?

Thanks

Dan

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2015 7:29 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Oak Bay deer cull permit  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Peterson,

I sent the below email to you on December 29 s.22 I forwarded it to Jason Morgan s.22 but would like to ensure you receive it.

I and another resident met with the Mayor of Oak Bay yesterday and shared our concerns with the Regional Deer Management Strategy pilot process- the lack of community outreach, and absence of evidence-based science in promoting a deer cull. We shared considerable information with him. His response was to say that if the Ministry does not feel Oak Bay is ready for a cull, they will not issue a permit. As outlined in my earlier email, I believe there is a great deal of evidence that demonstrates Oak Bay is not ready for a cull.

I also believe it is important to note that the Mayor of Oak Bay is making public statements that are not based in fact. An article in Sunday's Times Colonist (p. A3) quotes the Mayor as saying "We've also seen a rise in the aggressiveness of deer...Over the last little while, a number of pets have been attacked and maimed". Only one dog has been injured by a deer that was cornered in a back yard at night time. Oak Bay staff have been unable to provide information to residents about the number and nature of any complaints.

To add to the information below, I have attached photos of some of the inadequate signage that is supposed to be part of the conflict reduction measures. Six small, often obscured, and ineffective signs have been put up in two locations, and speed reduction has not been implemented. The speed limit continues to be 50 kmh in these areas (and even that does not seem to receive any enforcement attention).

Oak Bay is becoming more seriously divided on the deer cull issue as awareness builds about the inadequacy of the measures to date and the cost of the extended pilot and associated cull that has almost no probability of success. I believe residents who are proponents of the cull do not have the information that there are several prerequisites that should take place first, and that if undertaken properly could even eliminate the need for a cull. Those who believe a cull is the only way to reduce deer – human conflict do so because they've been told that the deer are aggressive and dangerous; this is quite simply, fear-mongering.

I will look forward to your response. Thank you for your time,

s.22

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2014 2:11 PM  
**To:** 'Dan.Peterson@gov.bc.ca'  
**Cc:** 'Pendergast, Sean FLNR:EX'; 'Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX'  
**Subject:** Oak Bay deer cull permit  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Peterson,

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Having read the Terms of Reference for the CRD's Regional Deer Management Strategy, minutes and reports from the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee, as well as the most recent Oak Bay staff report (October 2014), it is very clear that many of the steps that should occur prior to a cull have either not taken place, or have been performed perfunctorily at best. There has been no meaningful outreach to the Oak Bay community or public education (a one-off leaflet in a flyer-laden community newspaper, no advertisements, purported posters that no one can find or has seen), and measures to reduce deer-vehicle collisions such as signage and enforcement of speed have been minimal to non-existent. Of the inadequate and frankly informal communication from the Oak Bay council to residents, much has been inaccurate.

In the most recent (October 15, 2014) Oak Bay update on the CRD Deer Management Strategy, the mayor states that it is "still Council's belief that the majority of Oak Bay citizens support population reduction as part of the CRD's DMS should the action be warranted". Oak Bay has not provided any data to support this statement – there has been no survey of Oak Bay residents, and the CAO was unable to tell me or even estimate the number of complaints about deer registered with Oak Bay from among a population of around 18,000 residents. In order to receive accurate information on the numbers of complaints along with the number of deer deaths directly attributable to deer-car collisions or other causes, I was told by the CAO (who wrote the most recent staff report) that I would have to file an FOI request.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

s.22

Oak Bay resident





