

## Thom, Lisa M CSNR:EX

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**From:** Thom, Lisa M CSNR:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 9:12 AM  
**To:** Thom, Lisa M CSNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

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**From:** Chris Prosser [<mailto:cao@invermere.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2015 12:40 PM  
**To:** Teske, Irene FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

Hi Irene,

We would like to continue for the duration of the permit. That allows us the utmost flexibility to continue our randomness. Our goal is to remove to the limit of our permit in December or as close to it as possible (so about 30) and try and remove 30 in <sup>s.19</sup> as well. If we achieve it earlier then we can cease. However not sure if we have sufficient funding to have 20 deer translocated from Invermere. We are putting in only 5 K and we do not qualify for the UKEEP funding.

We will require a bolt gun.

Call me to discuss if you need more info.

Chris

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**From:** Teske, Irene FLNR:EX [<mailto:Irene.Teske@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** November 2, 2015 12:08 PM  
**To:** 'Chris Prosser'  
**Subject:** RE: Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

Hi Chris

All looks good except for duration of cull. Is there any way we can end cull on Jan 31 or early Feb? I really do not want to cull and translocate at the same time. We are going to start translocation in mid Feb.

You can use the 1 trap of ours as you have it now. One day after cull I will pick it up.

Do you require any of our other equipment?

Thanks

Irene

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**From:** Chris Prosser [<mailto:cao@invermere.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2015 11:44 AM

**To:** Teske, Irene FLNR:EX

**Subject:** RE: Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

Hi Irene,

Just to let you know we are working towards starting in December again. Here is the outline/timeline that we are working towards.

1. Annual Count - Targeted for November 22, 2015 (may be pushed to the 29<sup>th</sup> depending upon weather)
2. Culling Operations will commence Dec 1, 2015 and will run to <sup>s.19</sup> First trap will be placed the week of December 1 s.19
3. We are constructing 4 traps of our own at a cost of \$600 each plus netting.
4. Staff will begin preparing them all near the end of November.
5. Prebaiting of the site will start 4-5 days prior to trap being placed.
6. We will notify RCMP and CO service of our timeline as well.
7. Same operation procedure as last year.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cheers

Chris

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**From:** Teske, Irene FLNR:EX [<mailto:Irene.Teske@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** November 2, 2015 11:33 AM

**To:** 'Chris Prosser'

**Subject:** RE: Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

Thanks Chris. Much appreciated.

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**From:** Chris Prosser [<mailto:cao@invermere.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2015 10:42 AM

**To:** Teske, Irene FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Invermere cull summary 2015 final Nov 1, 2015 1 (2).docx

<<...>>

Hi Irene,

Here is the finalized report.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Chris

***Urban Deer***  
***2015 Annual Report***



Submitted by: Chris Prosser, CAO

Date: October 29, 2015

## Introduction

Starting in 2014-15, the District of Invermere initiated an operational program to manage aggressive deer in targeted neighborhoods. Council directed staff to create an operational management program under an approved three (3) year permit granted from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources.

s.19

s.19 The Program was initiated in early December 2014 and ran until the middle of February 2015. All meat was delivered to a local meat cutter for processing under the requirements from the Interior Health Authority. All meat was provided to the local food bank for use in their operations within the valley community. Based on the information provided, the deer that were harvested supplied the local food bank for almost nine (9) months.

## Invermere deer cull summary 2015

Species	Total	Adult Females	Adult Males	Juvenile Females	Juvenile Males
Mule deer	26	14	6	3	3

- No white-tailed deer captured

It is estimated that 1320 lbs of meat were processed and donated to local food banks. Meat processing was paid was shared with the District and the food bank. The District paid for the cost to gut and skin the deer for processing purposes. The cost for gutting and skinning the animals totaled \$3120. All costs associated with processing the meat were covered by the Food Bank and was not disclosed to the District

The District received no interest from the local First Nations for the deer meat.

Traps were located in zones which have aggressive deer / human safety related issues.

s.19

Urban deer were counted on November 29, 2014 in town. The town is separated into 7 survey units and all units are counted at the same time so as to reduce double counting. A total of 160 mule deer and 5 white-tailed deer were counted. This was the highest count since November 2012 where 205 mule deer and 15 white-tailed deer were counted. We will be conducting urban deer counts annually.

## Results and Observations

The targeted approach adopted by the District appears to have succeeded in removing the most aggressive deer within those neighborhoods. Residents in those areas have disclosed that there has been a noticeable impact and a significant reduction in aggressive behavior with the remaining deer and no reported aggressive complaints received to date.

Reproductive data:

Of the 14 adult females culled, 13 were pregnant with a total of 24 fetuses. Therefore 92.9% of females were pregnant with an average of 1.7 fetus/adult female. 9/14 adult females (64%) were pregnant with multiple fetuses.

## Conclusion

The program is planned to continue beginning in December 2015 and length of the permit. The program will be operated in the same manner as 2014-15 and the District will continue to utilize our own resources to manage the deer population. This program will run in conjunction with any translocation or other permitted deer management tool.

## Appendix “A” – 2014 Deer Count Data

### Invermere Deer Count Review

1. **Date:** Saturday, November 29, 2014
2. **Time:** The count began at 9:00 A.M. and all areas were completed by 11:00 A.M.
3. **Weather:** The temperature was between  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  with cloudy skies and very light snow falling and there was about 6 inches of fresh snow on the ground which fell the previous afternoon and night. The weather on Friday, November 28, 2014 was unusual as it was nice at about  $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the morning and then turned to heavy rainfall followed by about 6 inches of new snow by morning. It is believed this caused the deer not to be moving very much on Saturday morning when the count began. However, it was beneficial in locating deer tracks.
4. **Method:** The District of Invermere was divided into 7 areas (see Deer Count Areas, Leaders and Observers) and one group of volunteers drove every road and alley counting as many deer as they could locate in that area. Some locations were walked and that has been identified on the area maps used. Caution was taken not to count the same deer twice when they were located near an area boundary. This method was completed as similar as possible to the previous counts, attempting to obtain as much consistency as possible.

5. **Count:**

• Area # 1	11	White-tailed Deer	Does	Fawns	
• Area # 2	17		3	2	
• Area # 3	53	Mule Deer	Does	Fawns	Bucks
• Area #4	25		108*	32*	20
• Area #5	20	* this number is not accurate as two groups did not record fawns (all antlerless as does)			
• Area #6	30				
• <u>Area #7</u>	<u>9</u>				
• <b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>				

Comparison to previous counts:

- Feb 19/11 - 199
- Feb 4/12 - 175
- Nov 10/12 - 185
- Nov 17/12 - 220
- Nov 24/14 - 148
- **Overall Average - 182**

6. **Deer Condition:** During this count the deer appeared to be in fairly good condition and there were no dead or injured deer observed.

7. **Volunteers:** There were a total of 19 volunteers used to complete the count.
8. **Overall Summary:** The count went very well and most of the volunteers have helped on previous counts, therefore, it is believed the survey is relatively consistent. As mentioned above, it is believed the weather may have caused several deer to be missed with a rough unsupported guess at 25 % not counted.



From: [Jared Wright](#)  
To: [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: Provincial Response to Urban Deer Recommendations  
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 3:34:07 PM

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Hi Jeff,

Thanks for letting me know.

As for timelines and TOR, yes, lets chat this week. I have a lighter week so I will give you a call unless you want to set aside a specific time to chat.

Cheers,

Jared

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Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
V8V 0A8  
(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270

Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX , 9/28/2015 1:18 PM:

Yes you can and here it is.

We should talk about timelines and a process for establishing a TOR then convening a group.

Hope you are recovering from your convention!

Jeff Morgan

Fish and Wildlife Branch - Policy Manager

Resource Stewardship Division

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Office: (250) 371-6347, Cell: (250) 318-5666, Fax: (250) 828-4000

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**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca]

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 11:27 AM

**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Provincial Response to Urban Deer Recommendations

Hi Jeff,

As the provincial response to the UBCM recommendations were provided in the workshop, I am looking to confirm that we can distribute the response to our membership.

We did a piece in our weekly Compass last week but we only focussed on the funding announcement. Please let me know if that is the case.

Thanks again for presenting and lining up for those responses.

Cheers,

Jared

---

Jared Wright

Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
V8V 0A8  
(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270

**From:** [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** ["Jared Wright"; Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Provincial Response to Urban Deer Recommendations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:47:00 AM

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Hello Jared and Mike,

I'm thinking we (FLNR, MoE and UBCM) must now collaborate in the development of a TOR document for the urban deer advisory committee and on a second document that deals with the cost-share funding program (funding criteria/review process/cost share arrangement).

The first drafts could possibly be completed by October 30.

We would then shop both docs to the UBCM Environment Committee, key local governments and other agencies (that may wish to be involved) for comment. Final versions would be completed by December 15. Signoff on the TOR would be by FLNR, MoE and UBCM?

The funding document will be developed collaboratively but I don't think it will be a joint document. Instead, it would spell out the eligibility criteria, the priority setting process and the process by which local governments access FLNR cost-share funding.

Does this overall vision work for you?

Do the timelines seem realistic?

Sincerely,

Jeff Morgan

Fish and Wildlife Branch - Policy Manager

Resource Stewardship Division

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Office: (250) 371-6347, Cell: (250) 318-5666, Fax: (250) 828-4000

---

**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:[jwright@ubcm.ca](mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca)]

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:34 PM

**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Re: Provincial Response to Urban Deer Recommendations

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Thanks for letting me know.

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Cheers,

Jared

---

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Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX <[Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)> , 9/28/2015 1:18 PM:

Yes you can and here it is.

We should talk about timelines and a process for establishing a TOR then convening a group.  
Hope you are recovering from your convention!

Jeff Morgan

Fish and Wildlife Branch - Policy Manager

Resource Stewardship Division

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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---

**From:** Jared Wright [<mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 11:27 AM

**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

**Subject:** Provincial Response to Urban Deer Recommendations

Hi Jeff,

As the provincial response to the UBCM recommendations were provided in the workshop, I am looking to confirm that we can distribute the response to our membership.

We did a piece in our weekly Compass last week but we only focussed on the funding announcement. Please let me know if that is the case.

Thanks again for presenting and lining up for those responses.

Cheers,

Jared

---

Jared Wright

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Union of British Columbia Municipalities

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(c) 604-836-4270

**From:** [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** ["Jared Wright"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urban deer release  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2015 1:27:00 PM

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Yes...(was announced at the clinic) hence my ability to quickly ascertain "no concerns".  
Cheers!

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**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 12:40 PM  
**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Urban deer release  
Thanks. I see that it was already posted on MOE's site was well.

---

Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
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(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270

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Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX <[Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)> , 10/5/2015 12:34 PM:  
Thanks Jared.  
No concerns.

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**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Urban deer release  
Hi Jeff,

We have not posted the provincial responses to the recommendations yet, which is what we would do on Wednesday. There would be no polling - the posting would be as an information item. We previously shared the funding announcement with the membership during our Convention.

Jared

---

Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
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Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX <[Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)> , 10/5/2015 9:10 AM:  
No I don't think so.

Jared any insight?

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

From: Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX  
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2015 8:05 AM  
To: Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
Subject: RE: Urban deer release

No concerns at our end, Jeff - this is already posted on their site, so is a public document. Are they doing some kind of polling with the responses? If so, do they have the specific questions they are asking?

Cheers,

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)

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

From: Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2015 10:09 PM  
To: Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX  
Subject: Re: Urban deer release

Hello Logan,

UBCM will be releasing our response to their 22 recommendations in its Compass online posting. Will happen in Wednesday. Any issues?

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 24, 2015, at 12:52 PM, Wenham, Logan GCPE:EX <[Logan.Wenham@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Logan.Wenham@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

> This message cannot be displayed because of the way it is formatted.

> Ask the sender to send it again using a different format or email program. text/plain  
<2015FLNR0298-001586.pdf>

**From:** [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** ["Jared Wright"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015 2:16:00 PM

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There is no specified end date.

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**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Deer Funding  
Great - and for how long?

---

Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
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(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270

Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX <[Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)> , 10/6/2015 2:10 PM:  
Annual!

---

**From:** Jared Wright [mailto:jwright@ubcm.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015 1:59 PM  
**To:** Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Deer Funding

Hi Jeff,

Just a quick question - is the 100k that was announced one time funding, or annual funding. I just want to make sure we cite it accurately in our article.

Thanks in advance for any information.

Jared

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Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
V8V 0A8  
(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270

From: [Jared Wright](#)  
To: [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
Subject: Sample TORs  
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 4:07:01 PM  
Attachments: [Practice Advisory Committee TOR.PDF](#)  
[HFC Terms of Ref 2015 draft ver 2.0.docx](#)  
[SWS Working Group TOR FV-1.pdf](#)  
[TOR PPP Working Group Final.pdf](#)

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Hi Jeff,

We have attached some sample drafts TOR for your consideration. Generally speaking, we find value in having the following sections: background; purpose; objectives; scope; composition; communication; decision making; meeting logistics (number of meetings, location, who covers costs); and action plan or deliverables.

Feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss this further.

Cheers,

Jared

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Jared Wright  
Director of Advocacy and Government Relations  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
525 Government Street, Victoria, BC  
V8V 0A8  
(w) 250-387-0891  
(c) 604-836-4270  
|



From: [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#)  
To: ["Jared Wright \(jwright@ubcm.ca\)"; "Marylyn Chiang \(mchiang@ubcm.ca\)"](#)  
Subject: TOR  
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:37:00 AM  
Attachments: [PROVINCIAL URBAN DEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE-TOR.docx](#)  
[Urban Deer Program Plan.docx](#)

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Hi Marylyn and Jared,

Thanks for the nice letter thanking me for my participation in the UBCM convention.

Regarding the TOR (and cost share program plan) I have just sent these docs up to my up to my exec.

They are in no way vetted so please do not distribute.

That said, any early comments from you would be of great benefit and expedite the development of the doc.

Once we get the PUDAC (love the acronym) in place we can get the cost-share program rolling. I'm really not sure what communities will be in a position to take advantage of the funding it this year--but we want to be able to support those that are.

Sincerely,

Jeff Morgan

Fish and Wildlife Branch - Policy Manager

Resource Stewardship Division

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Office: (250) 371-6347, Cell: (250) 318-5666, Fax: (250) 828-4000

# PROVINCIAL URBAN DEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Background

Deer have become increasingly common in urban environments throughout southern BC, especially in the Kootenay/Boundary, Okanagan and Vancouver Island Regions. Urban deer come into conflict with people by attacking pets and, more rarely, people. Urban deer also browse on landscaping and gardens, defecate, create hazards for motorists and may possibly influence rates of transmission for some diseases (e.g. Lyme disease). In the past, the provincial government has supported local governments through:

- Participation on community-based deer management committees,
- The provision of technical advice,
- The development of hunting regulations and the issuance of permits to manage deer populations within or near urban areas, and
- The loaning of available equipment to communities.

In January of 2015, the provincial government and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) collaborated in the delivery of an Urban Deer Workshop. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that a Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee should be struck. It was also agreed that the UBCM would lead in the preparation of a local government Recommendations Package for the Provincial Government's consideration. This package reaffirmed the need for a provincial body with the following recommendation, "A provincial advisory committee on deer management should be created."

Further, it identified that, "a structured approach to ongoing dialogue on deer management would be beneficial for affected communities. This recommendation draws from the Minister's commitment to an annual meeting, which in the past has been referred to a 'task team,' a 'community of practice,' and an 'advisory committee.' Any advisory committee would complement the implementation of the other identified recommendations around resources, processes, roles and responsibilities, communication and education."

Government's response was "The provincial government is fully supportive of the formation of a Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee that would provide advice and share information on the resourcing, processes, roles and responsibilities, communication and educational materials and processes that relate to urban deer management."

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee (PUDAC) is to provide consistent and authoritative support to all local governments in BC that contend with urban deer conflict. It will accomplish this by convening representatives of organizations with legal authority relating to the management of urban deer. This committee will enable all organizations to: 1) share, maintain, disseminate and develop information, 2) clarify and harmonise roles and responsibilities, and 3) to develop effective working relationships and partnerships.

**Objectives:**

The objective of the PUDAC will be to:

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, agencies, and other organizations,
- Guide the development and dissemination of provincial level communications materials,
- Advise the provincial government on the development and implementation (e.g. funding decisions) of a 'Provincial Urban Deer Operation Cost Share Program',
- Provide information on policy, legislation, regulations, management practices, communications, public engagement and legal issues to all local governments that are contending with urban deer conflict,
- Advise provincial government change priorities relating to all of the above.
- Provide opportunities for other organizations (e.g. WildSafe BC) to make presentations to the organizations with representation on the PUDAC.

**Scope:**

The scope of the PUDAC will be to develop and provide consistent, authoritative and provincial-level support to local governments that are managing and/or addressing urban deer (mule deer, black-tailed deer and white-tailed deer) issues in BC. The PUDAC will offer information to local governments and may provide advice but it will not publically critique or comment on any local government management actions. The PUDAC's term is indefinite. However, as the committee matures, and as information needs stabilize, the need for meetings, communications etc. may become less frequent and more focused on improving systems, processes and materials as issues arise.

**Composition:**

The PUDAC will contain representatives from the following organizations, agencies, levels of government. The number of representatives for each is provided in brackets.

FLNR, Fish and Wildlife Branch (1)

FLNR, Regional Operations (2- one interior, one coastal)

Ministry of Environment (1)  
UBCM (1)  
Ministry of Transportation—possible—to be invited  
ICBC—possible—to be invited  
Ministry of Agriculture—possible—to be invited  
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1)  
Regional District (1)  
Local Governments (2- one interior, one coastal)

From time to time, and as required, delegates from organizations such as WildSafe BC may be invited to the PUDAC in order to make presentations and provide information.

### **Communication**

Communications regarding committee management, meeting etc. will be managed by a dedicated FLNR staff person through email. The dissemination of written material will be managed through a provincial government website and through a SharePoint site.

### **Decision Making**

The PUDAC will operate in an advisory capacity and strive to provide consensus based advice to decision makers in all participating organizations. If consensus is not achieved, the PUDAC will document and advance both congruence and dissent to the appropriate decision maker.

### **Meeting Logistics**

The PUDAC will meet 3 times per year. One meeting will be face to face and the other will be via conference calls. Face to face meetings will occur in either Richmond (UBCM venue) or Kamloops (FLNR venue) and will focus on higher level policy discussions. The organization not providing the venue will provide the lunch.

### **Immediate Deliverables and Timelines:**

- November 20, 2015, provide input into:
  - The Provincial Urban Deer Operation Cost Share Program Plan
    - Project Evaluation Criteria/Process
    - Project Templates for Project Proposals
      - Operational
      - Research
      - Infrastructure
    - Project Templates for Monitoring
    - Project Templates for Reporting

- November 30, 2015, call for Provincial Urban Deer Operation Cost Share Program Plan proposals go out
- December 11, 2015, receive all project proposals.
- December 21, 2016, evaluate all proposals and provide scoring results to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Branch
- August 31, 2016, develop and disseminate a public communications document that describes the urban deer management challenge, community based planning processes, management tools and administrative processes.
- January 1, 2017, Develop the following documents;
  - Roles and responsibilities of agencies, organizations and local governments in the management of urban deer
  - Best Practices in the direct management of Urban deer
  - Procedure on the issuance of Urban deer management permits

# Program Plan for the Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost Share Program

## 1. Introduction

Deer have become increasingly common in urban environments throughout southern BC, especially in the Kootenay/Boundary, Okanagan and Vancouver Island Regions. Urban deer come into conflict with people by attacking pets and, rarely, people. Urban deer also browse on landscaping and gardens, defecate, create hazards for motorists and may influence rates of transmission for some diseases (e.g. Lyme disease). In the past, the provincial government has supported local governments through:

- Participation on community-based committees,
- The provision of technical advice,
- The development of hunting regulations and the issuance of permits to manage deer populations within or near urban areas, and
- The loaning of available equipment to communities as required.

In January of 2015, the provincial government and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) collaborated in the delivery of an Urban Deer Workshop. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that a Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee should be struck. It was also agreed that the UBCM would lead in the preparation of a local government Recommendations Package for the Provincial Government's consideration. This package contained three recommendations that were related to the call for the provincial government provide funding for urban deer management actions. These three recommendations follow.

**Recommendation 1: The provincial government should offer funding to address deer management issues.**

Similar to the wildfire management funding program or the BearSmart program, the provincial government should provide financial support to communities who are facing urban deer management issues. The Province could support an urban deer management program administered by a neutral third party, such as Wildsafe BC, with program funds going towards school education programs, fencing, or deer culls. Only communities that have undertaken some work on urban or rural deer management should be eligible for the fund (i.e. the community has an education program, an urban or rural deer committee, changed bylaws, etc.).

**Recommendation 2: The provincial government should fund research on new deer management tools.**

Local governments are currently funding research on deer management options such as hazing, relocation, and contraceptives. The provincial government should assist in funding these technical and complicated scientific studies on deer management practices.

**Recommendation 6: The provincial government should create criteria and overarching policy for regional FLNRO managers, and ensure equal funding between regions.**

The goal of this recommendation is to reduce the amount of discretion applied by the

Regional managers so that deer management is addressed in an equitable and consistent manner across the province.

FLNR's response (summarized) was: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations supports the creation of a cost-share partnership initiative that would help local governments to address urban deer issues. The details and structure of the cost-share opportunity will be developed by FLNR with input from the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee. The province is prepared to commit up to \$100,000 toward such partnerships on an annual basis. The details and structure of the cost-share opportunity will be developed by FLNR with input from the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee. It is anticipated that this initiative would involve eligibility criteria and a system for prioritizing projects that would be applied equally to the entire province. Research activities that are supported by the provincial government would be eligible for cost-share support. Funding would depend on program and annual priorities and on funding availability.

Based on this response, the *Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost Share Program* has been created to provide financial support to local governments that have undertaken operational activities to manage deer populations within their jurisdiction. Operational activities will include direct management activities, research trials, or infrastructure to manage deer movements (see below). The funding could also be used by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) to develop communications materials that are provincial in scope or to purchase equipment (e.g. traps) that could then be loaned to local governments that are engaged in deer management actions.

## **2. Principles**

The *Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost Share Program* will:

- Provide financial support to local governments that have invested in operational deer management and/or research activities that are in pursuit of objectives developed through a community-based planning process,
- Provide funding on a cost-share basis,
- Provide funding to only those local governments that have undertaken works in accordance with an approved permit issued under the *Wildlife Act*,
- Expect statutory decision making to ensure all human safety, animal welfare and public engagement considerations have been addressed,
- Establish criteria to rank the importance of project proposals each year,
- Rely on the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee to provide input into the ranking process, and
- Develop and maintain a reporting and monitoring system in order to evaluate project success, maintain communications and improve practices.

## **3. Objectives**

- To encourage effective community-based urban deer planning and communications
- To support high-value projects that will effectively manage urban deer
- To provide learning opportunities through scientifically rigorous operational trials
- To effectively partner with local government in the delivery of urban deer management actions

- To recognize community-based planning objectives and assist local governments to achieve their objectives.
- To foster a standardized and structured approach to management actions, reporting and monitoring in order to learn from past practices and continuously improve 'best practices'.
- To encourage effective communications and information transfer between the provincial and local governments.
- To acquire and then loan specialized deer capture equipment to local governments.

#### **4. Program Management**

FLNR will provide up to \$100,000 in cost-share funding per year. This funding will remain under the control of FLNR. In order to access funding, local governments will be required to complete standardized 'project plan' templates and submit them to the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee for evaluation.

The Director of the Fish and Wildlife Management Branch will ask the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee to score all proposals based on an established system. The evaluations will be used to advise the Director. Within funding limitations, and based on the Director's prioritization of the proposals that have been evaluated, pre-approved project funding commitments will be made by FLNR.

Cost-share support will be provided to local governments upon project completion and where payments (by the local government) for actions that are eligible for support and consistent with the pre-approved project plan can be demonstrated.

#### **5. Funding**

The *Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost Share Program* will provide financial support to local governments that have undertaken operational activities to manage deer populations within their jurisdiction. Operational activities will include direct management activities, research trials, or anti-deer structures (e.g. fencing, cattle guards etc.). The funding could also be used by FLNR to purchase equipment (e.g. traps) that could then be loaned to local governments that are engaged in deer management actions.

All project proposals from local governments must pursue objectives that are contained within a community-based planning process. Further, multi-year approvals may be made but will be subject to appropriation.

##### **5.1 Funding for Management Activities**

'Management activities' are defined as operational activities that are intended to directly manage individual deer or deer populations. Operational activities are those that are known to be effective in achieving objectives while managing all associated risks. Presently, culling (capture and bolt gun) is the only direct deer management activity that is considered 'operational'. Culling operations in the interior of BC will be supported at a rate of \$200.00 for each deer that is culled. In coastal BC, culls will be



supported at a rate of \$300.00 for each deer that is culled. This support is intended to cover approximately 50% of the operational costs associated with culling. Cost-share funding support for management activities will be capped at \$20,000 per local government per year.

## **5.2 Funding for Research Activities**

‘Research activities’ are defined as trial-based activities that are intended to directly or indirectly manage individual deer or deer populations. Trial-based activities are those that have not been yet been demonstrated to be effective in achieving objectives and managing associated risks in the BC context. Activities such as hazing, translocation and immuno-contraception are some examples that would fall into this category. Funding support for research activities will not be based on formulae. Rather, they will be based on the value of the research, funding partner commitments and an evaluation of competing priorities. All research activities must be scientifically rigorous and will be evaluated according separate criteria. Cost-share funding support for research activities will generally be capped at \$20,000 per local government per year but subject to discretion of the Director.

## **5.3 Funding for Strategic Anti-deer Infrastructure**

Strategic anti-deer infrastructure is defined as physical barriers that will prevent or impede the movement of deer into urban and sub-urban areas (with high density housing) and associated facilities where they are likely to come into conflict with people. Infrastructure projects would involve only those techniques that are known to be effective in achieving objectives while managing all associated risks. Examples could include the use of fencing and cattle guards in strategic locations along roadways, at important green-belt pinch points or around waste disposal facilities. If the project proposes to use infra-structure that is not known to be effective in achieving objectives while managing all associated risks then the project would fall within the research category. Cost-share funding support for infrastructure will be capped at \$20,000 per local government per year.

## **5.4 Funding for Communications and Equipment**

The program funding may be used to support the development of communications materials that are provincial in scope. The *Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee* will be tasked with proposing priority communications and submitting this to the Director. Similarly, at the discretion of the Director, funding may be used to purchase FLNR equipment (e.g. traps) that could then be loaned to local governments that are engaged in deer management actions. Such purchases may be made in support of local government projects but they would be accounted for separately.

## **6. Project Evaluation Criteria**

Detailed evaluation criteria for the funding categories will be developed by government, with input from the PUDAC. In order to be legible for funding, projects will require endorsement by the appropriate local government, permitting to be in place (or approvals assured) and they must be compliant with all applicable laws and by-laws. All project proposals must pursue objectives generated through a well described community-based planning process that is endorsed by the appropriate local government. All

proposals will commit to monitoring and reporting requirements. Standardized monitoring and reporting requirements will be established by government, with input from the PUDAC. All non-research proposals will be evaluated on the following general criteria:

- Probability of achieving the stated objective,
- The value of the stated objective,
  - Impact,
  - Duration,
- Ability of the project to manage associated risks\*,
  - Animal welfare,
  - Human safety,
  - Environmental,
- Contributions from other funding partners, and
- Linkage to multi-jurisdictional initiatives.

All research proposals will be evaluated on the following additional general criteria:

- The management value of the stated research question,
- Probability of generating meaningful results,
  - Research design,
  - Funding commitment,
  - Management (e.g. committee) structure,
- Ability of the project to manage associated risks\*,
  - Animal welfare,
  - Human safety,
  - Environmental, and
- Contributions from other funding partners.

\*If an established risk threshold cannot be achieved, the project will not be approved.

## **7. Communications**

All project funding proposals, decisions, and subsequent reports will be made available to the public through a government website.

## **8. Immediate Deliverables and Timelines:**

- November 20, 2015, provide input into:
  - The Provincial Urban Deer Operation Cost-share Program Plan
    - Project Evaluation Criteria/Process
    - Project Templates for Project Proposals
      - Operational
      - Research
      - Infrastructure

- Project Templates for Monitoring
  - Project Templates for Reporting
- November 30, 2015, call for Provincial Urban Deer Operation Cost Share Program Plan proposals go out
- December 11, 2015, receive all project proposals.
- December 21, 2016, evaluate all proposals and provide scoring results to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Branch
- August 31, 2016, develop and disseminate a public communications document that describes the urban deer management challenge, community based planning processes, management tools and administrative processes.
- January 1, 2017, Develop the following documents;
  - Roles and responsibilities of agencies, organizations and local governments in the management of urban deer
  - Best Practices in the direct management of Urban deer
  - Procedure on the issuance of Urban deer management permits