

Barlow, John ENV:EX

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Cc: GCPE Communications - Environment; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; Shoemaker, Wes ENV:EX; Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX; Shiff, Alexander ENV:EX
Subject: media request - Vancouver Sun - COS wildlife conflict procedure

Martina,

an FYI.

COS responded with same approach last week to Canadian Press.

reporter: Larry Pynn, The Vancouver Sun 604-605-2362

deadline: Tuesday.

request: The Conservation Officer Service has said it has been revising its procedure manual in terms of wildlife conflicts.

Has that been done?

Can I have a copy?

Have individual COs been granted more on-the-ground discretion?

suggested response:

s.13

Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX
Subject: FW: "Predator-kill" policy review messaging
Attachments: KM_conflict wildlife_draft2.docx

A review of predator procedures began in 2014 and is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the COS. This work is still ongoing and we are hopeful the review can be completed by the end of October. Typical of any proactive review, committee members will update and define roles pertaining to agency mandates, define operational procedures and put forward recommendations for improvements. At this point the review process and any opportunities for public input have not been determined.

s.13,s.15

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Key Messages/Questions and Answers Conflict Wildlife Procedural Review Aug. 4, 2015

Background:

The procedures for preventing and responding conflict wildlife situations with large carnivores is currently being undertaken by the Conservation Officer Service, Ecosystems Branch (MOE), and Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Branch (FLNRO). The procedure currently dates back to 2002 and both MOE and FLNRO are looking to update it. Once content is agreed between the two ministries it will likely go to the COS' led Human-Wildlife Conflict Steering Committee before final review.

The review began in 2014 and is expected to be complete by October 2015.

Key Messages:

- This review of procedures began in 2014 and is a collaborative effort between FLNRO and the COS. Considering the varied level of scope and complexity included within the policy, work is still ongoing.
- Progress is being made and we are hopeful the review can be completed by the end of October.
- The current policy addresses topics such as public safety, prevention of human-wildlife conflict principles and education, "Bear Smart" requirements, large carnivore management, large carnivore conflict response options, translocation and rehabilitation of large carnivores (criteria), and rehabilitation centre standards.
- Typical of any proactive review, staff will look to define roles pertaining to the multiple agency mandates, define operational procedures, and put forward recommendations for improvements to ensure continued best practices.
- Our goal will continue to be to ensure consistently applied guidelines that will ensure the safety of the public and the welfare of wildlife.
- The review is being completed jointly by wildlife specialists from FLNRO and MOE as well as members of the COS.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

What stage is the review currently at and what steps are required to complete it?

- The procedure is still with ministry line staff.
- Once staff have made recommendations it will go for sign off, likely at the Director level for both ministries (Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations).
- This procedure would also undergo review by the COS-led Wildlife Conflict Steering Committee.

Will the review result in fewer conflict animals being euthanized?

- It would be premature to judge what procedures may change at this time.
- It is worth noting that this is a procedural review, not a policy review, meaning staff are looking to ensure best practices are used when making a determination. That determination is currently based on three criteria:
 1. Animal health – is the animal healthy – is it humane to admit them into a rehabilitation program (orphaned bear cubs) or release them back in the wild – extensive injuries or illnesses can lead to a poor chance of survival.
 2. Lack of human food conditioning – is the animal accustomed to eating human food sources?
 3. Lack of human (presence) habituation - is the animal exhibiting normal escape behaviour or caution around humans – or is there aggressive or familiarity behaviour?

Why are relatively few animals relocated under the existing policy?

- The criteria listed above are important indicators on the success of relocating a conflict animal.
- If the animal is already habituated, experience shows that it will often return to populated areas and pose a renewed threat to public safety.
- For black bears in particular, suitable habitat is usually already occupied, making conflict likely. These animals face either injury in conflict with those animals already there, or starvation from trying to compete for food resources in unfamiliar territory.
- Suitability for relocation for bears is based on several factors, and is made on a case-by-case basis.
- Short-distance translocation (within home range) may be an option for animals that are not food conditioned or human habituated.
- Tragic as it is, sometimes euthanizing a food conditioned or habituated animal is the most humane option available.
- It is for this reason that we stress programs like “Bear Smart” and WildSafeBC that prevent conflict from ever happening by reducing attractants that make large carnivores conditioned to human food in the first place.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Is the fact that fewer animals are relocated than euthanized just a question of resources?

- No. The level of habituation and food conditioning, health of the animal, and the lack of available territory are the key determinants.
- Resources available are targeted to animals that have the best chance to successfully return to the wild.
- Euthanizing animals is a last resort. Conservation officers will consider all alternatives prior to taking this action.
- The number of black bears destroyed by conservation officers is actually on a downward trend, even though human-bear conflict calls have risen.
- Over the last 20 years, black bear euthanizations have declined – by about half, despite roughly twice as many reports of human-black bear conflict.

Will stakeholders be engaged prior to the procedure being finalized?

- At this point the stakeholder review process has not been determined.

Will the public be provided an opportunity for input?

- Procedures of this nature are technical documents, intended to provide wildlife professionals (biologists, Conservation Officers etc.) the tools they need to do their jobs.
- That said, if major changes occur to the way the Province determines disposition of conflict wildlife, that information will be available to the public.

Is this review only happening because of the recent story regarding the Port Hardy bear cubs?

- No. The review has been ongoing since 2014, well before the Port Hardy bear cubs were an issue.

Does the existence of this review vindicate the actions of the Conservation Officer who refused to euthanize the black bear cubs in Port Hardy?

- No. While every situation is different, there are existing procedures that provide guidance for Conservation Officers in the course of their duties.
- A decision on Officer Casavant has not been taken at this time.

What is the difference between a review of procedures and a review of policy?

- Policy provides a general overview of government's approach to an issue.
- By contrast, 'procedures' are the more detailed work plans that help guide government staff in implementing policy.
- In reviewing the procedural document for conflict wildlife, the Province is looking for ways to improve best practices and better inform decision making, not change the fundamental approach behind those decisions.

If the procedural review doesn't speak to policy, what is the Province's policy with respect to conflict wildlife?

- Public safety is the first priority for the Conservation Officer Service.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Conflict prevention is key. Proactive programs such as “Bear Smart” and WildSafeBC seek to reduce conflicts and the need for COS response.
- Every wildlife conflict situation is assessed individually, taking into account the risk to public safety and the animal’s ability to survive in the wild.
- Several factors, such as food conditioning and human habituation, are considered during the decision-making process.

DRAFT

Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Predator review

From: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Nicoll, Sara ENV:EX
Subject: Predator review

You may be interested to know that a review of predator procedures began in 2014 and is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the COS. Typical of any proactive review, committee members will update and define roles pertaining to agency mandates, define operational procedures and put forward recommendations for improvements. At this early point the review process, opportunities for public input have not been determined.

Sara Nicoll
Manager, Correspondence Unit
Ministry of Environment
250 387-9874

Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX

From: Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 4:10 PM
To: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Subject: Request for update: Large carnivore conflict prevention and response procedures
Categories: 6. Pending...

Good afternoon,

For the past 6 months or so we have been using the following generic content:

You may be interested to know that a review of the large carnivore conflict prevention and response procedures began in 2014 and is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Conservation Officer Service. Typical of any proactive review, committee members will update and define roles pertaining to agency mandates, define operational procedures and put forward recommendations for improvements. At this point in the review process, opportunities for public input have not been determined.

I have been advised that the review of large carnivore conflict prevention and response procedures is now complete and the policy has been signed off by FLNRO. Can you confirm this is the case? Any details are appreciated as we will be revising our generic statement.

Thanks!

Diana Ainsworth
Senior Writer, Correspondence Unit
Ministry of Environment
250 857-4909

Polak, Mary ENV:EX

From: Polak, Mary ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 12:12 PM
To: Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Media Report for Monday, June 6, 2016

Yes, as long as we split it up like we discussed re MEM

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 7, 2016, at 11:04 AM, Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX <Martina.KapacdeFrias@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Shall we set up a time for BIV request below? MBB will also be responding to the request.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Karn, David GCPE:EX" <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 7, 2016 at 8:46:15 AM PDT
Subject: Media Report for Monday, June 6, 2016

Dear all, apologies as this was not sent yesterday.

Media Report for Monday, June 6, 2016

Awaiting M.O. approval

Business in Vancouver (Nelson Bennett) - wants to speak with minister by Wednesday to discuss the recent Pacific Coast Collaborative agreement and promotion of small scale capacity i.e wind, how that will be absorbed by Hydro as extra capacity through distributed power; the recent letter from scientists and how does BC nurture a nascent LNG industry while meeting GHG targets and commitments; the expected release of the Climate Leadership Plan sometime this month.
Said he'll have further questions but these are the overall themes.

Today's calls

Vancouver Sun (Larry Pynn) - The Conservation Officer Service has said it has been revising its procedure manual in terms of wildlife conflicts.
Has that been done? Can I have a copy? Have individual COs been granted more on-the-ground discretion?
GCPE to provide procedure document.
COS' DC Doyle speak with reporter about procedure.

Nelson Star (Bill Metcalfe) - Seeking BC Parks comment in regards to West Arm Provincial park area fire plan.

GCPE responded

The City of Nelson and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) have expressed concerns regarding the potential threat of a wildfire starting in West Arm Park and threatening the adjacent communities. BC Parks understands and shares interface fire concerns as there is potential for the park to be impacted by a fire that starts in the adjacent communities, spreads to the park and compromises park values.

B.A. Blackwell & Associates LTD has been contracted by BC Parks to update and finalize the existing Draft West Arm Park Fire Management Plan (WPFMP). It is expected to be completed by August 30th, 2016. The City and RDCK are also both in the process of updating their Community Wildfire Protection Plans (contracted to B.A. Blackwell & Associates).

The WPFMP will have a landscape, ecosystem based approach and context that will identify park values, wildfire risk or benefits to these values, and recommended management actions.

The WPFMP will incorporate and consider:

- All related fire management information and data that has become available since the draft fire management plan was completed in 2010
- All completed and proposed fuel management treatments or activities to reduce wildfire risk to park values which are appropriate with the general prescriptive management objectives for the park
- Critical Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) data/information for the WPFMP associated with existing and updated Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for the City of Nelson as well as the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)
- Watershed management data/information associated with existing water licenses.
- Species at Risk data/information for West Arm Park including Mountain Caribou and Grizzly Bear.
- Comments from key stakeholders and public.

BC Parks is involved in a technical working group with the City of Nelson Fire Rescue and the RDCK. This working group meets once a month.

CHNL (Angelo Iacoibucci) – seeking comment from MMP re B.C. joins western Canadian fight against invasive species. This is a big issue at Shuswap lake.

GCPE provided COS audio regarding inspection stats.

<https://soundcloud.com/bcgov/cos-provincial-overview-june-02-2016>

Globe and Mail (Mark Hume) - 'I've been told selenium levels in fish in Ealue Lake, downstream of Red Chris Mine, have been increasing. Local residents are voicing concerns, with some suggesting fish shouldn't be eaten until more testing is done.... Is government monitoring Red Chris water quality and are there any concerns emerging? Is the mine in compliance on water quality?'

GCPE responded

The fish Se data that was presented at the open house is data that was collected as part of the ongoing monitoring programs required by Permit 105017.

- MOE and Tahltan are currently reviewing this data and determining how best to address the changing Se levels.
- The ministry will be discussing this with the relevant health authorities over the next few weeks regarding consumption of these fish.
- Currently, Red Chris is required to monitor Se levels in tributaries around the mine in water, sediment, periphyton and benthic invertebrates. Similarly, they are monitoring Se levels in Kluea and Ealue Lakes in water, sediment zooplankton and fish. These results are reported annually to the Ministry of Environment.
- MOE has conducted annual compliance inspections since the company received their original effluent discharge authorization in 2012. Advisories and warnings have been issued for various issues over that time.
- Ealue Lake has limited potential to be impacted by the mine as it is not within the drainage area of the mine's tailings impoundment or waste rock storage area.

CTV Vancouver Island (Jessica Lamm) - Bear Feeding Video Update

COS Daniel Eichstatder responded

LAMM contacted me by phone requesting an update on the Bear Feeding video investigation.

-Asked what Charges Pending meant

- Informed her that they were in process of being laid.

- Asked for information on the people responsible

- Informed that information could not be provided as it is an active investigation still.

- Asked if COS has destroyed bears yet

- Informed that the COS has not destroyed those bears yet, and has no intention to do so unless they start to display ATB, at which point the response to the bears would be re-evaluated.

Previous calls completed

Dawson Creek Mirror (Mike Carter) - re Walter Energy's Brule mine. I understand that in Feb. 2016 tests were undertaken by Walter on the biochem treatment system at the Brule mine that found the water was not being properly treated, possibly due to leak in the system's water levelling device. Walter then advised the MoE of the situation.

I am not 100 per cent sure what all that means. Can you provide any background on the issue MoE might have?

GCPE responded

- The ministry received a non-compliance report from Walter Energy on March 24, 2016 after the company observed issues with their newly installed biochemical Reactor.
- The biochemical reactor is intended to decrease total selenium levels in effluent prior to it being released to settling ponds which discharge to the environment during runoff events.
- The non-compliance is due to the biochemical reactor not functioning as designed, however the biochemical reactor is part of an overall selenium management plan.

- The permit recognizes that it will take time for the total selenium levels to be reduced and at this time Walter Energy is not in violation of their selenium management plan, and is working to address the plant deficiencies. The Mine is currently not in operation.

Canadian Press (Camille Bains) - regarding COS monthly media call where stats were provided including that 5 watercraft were confirmed to have adult invasive species. Reporter asking what jurisdictions those boats were coming from and where they were apprehended.

GCPE responded

This year's stats as of May 25, 2016

2,900 watercraft inspected and have been identified as traveling into B.C. from 33 different provinces and states.

107 watercraft identified as coming from a high risk province or state.

14 watercraft have been issued Decontamination Orders, and 12 watercraft have been issued quarantine periods to meet the required 30 day drying time. Of the total watercraft inspected, 6 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels.

All 6 watercraft came from Ontario and were destined either for the Lower Mainland or Vancouver Island.

3 were originally intercepted at the Golden inspection station, 1 at the Cranbrook station and 2 by the Lower Mainland crew

Updates available on Website.: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/mussels.htm>

Reporter seeking previous example of mussel capture.

On March 12, 2014, Canada Border Services Agency staff at the Osoyoos border crossing observed what appeared to be the shells of invasive mussels on a boat being transported from Texas to a new owner in B.C.

CBSA staff contacted the Conservation Officer Service, which then contacted the Ministry of Environment's aquatic invasive species co-ordinator.

The boat was seized by the COS and decontaminated by using a hot wash process. After provincial staff were satisfied that all traces of mussels had been removed from the boat, it was released on March 14 and authorized to enter B.C. waters.

Coast FM- Nanaimo - Cougar Sighting

Sgt Dean Miller responded

Reported wanted to know if there had been multiple calls related to a SM post of a cougar crossing Red Roof Road in Halfmoon Bay.

- no other reports in area

- COS respond to habituated cougar report/ aggression/ or has livestock kill.

- report classified as a sighting so no response at this time.

- encourage the public to use RAPP as apposed to reporting through SM.

Globe and Mail (Justine Hunter) - with regard to the post below from ENV website, are existing groundwater users (said to be 20k) going to be grandfathered under the system

and if so will they be subject to the new WSA Regulation? How much water are these folks using

GCPE responded

No. Existing groundwater users are not being grandfathered. Under the WSA and the new Water Sustainability Regulation, existing non-domestic groundwater uses (e.g., irrigation, industrial purposes, community water systems) now require a water licence, just like surface water uses have for many years. The regulations provide a three-year transition period in which existing groundwater users (ie, groundwater users that were using groundwater before date the Act and regulations were brought into force on Feb 29, 2016) can apply for a licence. Surface water and non-domestic groundwater users will also be subject to the new water fees and rentals announced last year. To incent well owners to apply early, application fees are being waived for the first 12 months the WSA is in force. More information on the WSA and how users can apply is available on the [Province's water website](#) and in this [Groundwater Licensing brochure](#).

How much water are these folks using?

Because the provincial government has not historically licenced groundwater, estimates of total ground water use in BC are unreliable. This is one of the benefits of licensing and regulating groundwater. Licensing groundwater use along with a new measuring and reporting regulation (development to begin later this year) will provide a much clearer picture of the location of wells, the amount of groundwater used and how it is used, and the potential connection to surface water sources.

Polak, Mary ENV:EX

From: Polak, Mary ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 9:46 PM
To: Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX
Cc: Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Response needed re: bear cubs/GPS collars

Thx

Sent from my iPad

On May 30, 2016, at 9:38 PM, Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Knudsen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

FYI

Mark Knudsen
Ministerial Assistant to the Hon. Mary Polak

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX" <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>
Date: May 30, 2016 at 8:06:12 PM PDT
To: "Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX" <Mark.Knudsen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Standen, Jim ENV:EX" <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>, "Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX" <Martina.KapacdeFrias@gov.bc.ca>, "Crebo, David GCPE:EX" <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: **Re: Response needed re: bear cubs/GPS collars**

I spoke with Lesley late today and confirmed that she had all the info below which she did have. She has been in contact with Dan PETERSON (FLNRO) and indicated that they are continuing to have discussions.

COS will continue to have contact with Lesley related to her organizations assistance to the COS in helping to educate the public about attractant management, specially in the lower mainland.

Doug

Sent from my iPad

On May 27, 2016, at 5:53 PM, Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX
<Mark.Knudsen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Doug. Have a great weekend.

Mark

From: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX
Sent: May-27-16 5:50 PM
To: Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX; Crebo, David GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Response needed re: bear cubs/GPS collars

Hi Mark

No problem at all I do know that Lesley was in touch with Dan Peterson today but I will follow up Monday with her to make sure she has all of the info below I will let you know when I make contact

Doug

Sent from my iPhone

On May 27, 2016, at 17:40, Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX
<Mark.Knudsen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Doug,

We've confirmed with FLNRO that they are the lead on the GPS collars as per Pynn's article and Lesley's question I've included their KMs below. MMP was hoping you might be able to follow up with Lesley to communicate this info and maybe that we can connect her with FLNRO if she does want more information?

I've cc'd Crebo to this email in case we wanted to share these KMs with Chris Doyle as well in case it comes up on the next COS media avail?

- These two black bear cubs are being collared as agreed upon by North Island Wildlife Recovery Association/Centre before original intake, including that the centre would incur the costs of collaring.

- Collaring was proposed due to the circumstances that caused the cubs to be brought into the centre against the recommendation of provincial staff.

- Release is tentatively scheduled for June.

· The GPS collars will track the bears' movements via data e-mailed to a generic account that can be accessed by NIWRA/C and ministry staff. If a collar remains stationary for an extended period of time, a mortality signal is transmitted. The animal may then be located to determine cause of death.

· Collaring may also help to locate where the bears hibernate for winter, and could provide habitat-selection characteristics/parameters to compare if released bears are selecting similar habitat types to wild bears.

· Ministry staff advise that while this is not common practice, black bear cubs have been collared (or implanted with a transmitter) in past.

· There is no collaring "program" per se. Many wildlife rehabilitation centres request that animals be fitted with tracking devices to track post-release movements. Regional ministry staff assess each request and ensure that standards are followed to ensure animal care.

· All grizzly cubs are collared before release. We suggest contacting Ministry of Environment for information re collared grizzly cubs.

From: Forsdick, Doug
O ENV:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May
25, 2016 4:54 PM
To: Standen, Jim
ENV:EX; Kapac de
Frias, Martina E ENV:EX
Subject: FW:
Response needed re:
bear cubs/GPS collars

As Minister Polak is
cc ed on the note
from the fur bearers I
thought I would give
you a quick update.

I just finished
speaking with Lesley
Fox and informed her
that the COS is not
the organization that
is responsible for
wildlife management
(collaring bears from
rehab facilities). I did
indicate that the COS
supports any research
in the area of
understanding the
effectiveness of
rehabilitation of
bears. We also had
further discussion
about how Lesley`s
group can assist the
COS with public
education related to
managing attractants
in areas of high
conflict in the lower
mainland. I have a
meeting set with our
Insp. in charge of the
lower mainland and
will be reporting back
to Lesley after that
meeting.

Doug

From: Lesley Fox
[mailto:lesley@thefurbearers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May
25, 2016 4:10 PM

To: Forsdick, Doug O
ENV:EX
Cc: Polak.MLA, Mary
LASS:EX
Subject: RE: Response
needed re: bear
cubs/GPS collars

Hi Doug,

Just phoned and got
your voicemail.

We're getting several
calls/emails regarding
the Van Sun article -
<http://vancouver.sun.ca/news/local-news/government-orders-wildlife-rehabber-to-collar-controversial-bear-cubs-at-own-expense>

I haven't been able to
respond to people
because, well, I don't
know what to say
really. Do you know
why these bears are
being collared?

At our meeting the
Minister specifically
mentioned that the
media has been a
problem for the COS.
That efforts are being
made to improve the
public image of the
COS and proactive

efforts are being made to bring forward more positive news. By targeting these bears, it looks extremely suspicious from the public's perspective. I have been asked by a few of our supporters if the government plans to kill the bears out of spite because of that CO who sent them to rehab, how should I respond to that?

You realize that if anything happens to those bears it would be a public relations disaster, right? So why make them the subject of some kind of study?

What kind of reassurance can I provide to our members that despite the optics of this situation, those cubs will be given a far second chance in the wild?

Lesley Fox

Executive Director

The Fur-Bearers

179 West Broadway

Vancouver, BC, V5Y
1P4

Office: 604-435-1850

[www.TheFurBearers.
com](http://www.TheFurBearers.com)

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From: [Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX](#)
To: [Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX](#); [Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: 220384 - Updated Procedure, 4-7-04.01.1 - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Date: Monday, May 16, 2016 11:03:51 AM
Attachments: [DN 220384 Attachment - Procedure Manual.pdf](#)
[DN 220384.pdf](#)

It appears Dan was able to dig it up.

Mike

From: Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX
Subject: FW: 220384 - Updated Procedure, 4-7-04.01.1 - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Hi Mike,
Fyi
Dan

From: McNeill, Diana A FLNR:EX
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX
Cc: Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX
Subject: 220384 - Updated Procedure, 4-7-04.01.1 - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Jeff,
Please see the attached DN and Policy Manual signed by Dan. Dan advised that Doug Forsdick was looking for the outcome of this note and manual. I will leave this with you to discuss/share with him.
Thanks,
Diana

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

Date: February 18, 2016

File:

CLIFF: 220384

PREPARED FOR: Dan Peterson, Director, Fish & Wildlife

ISSUE: Updated Procedure, 4-7-04.01.1 – Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

BACKGROUND:

The inter-ministerial Human-Wildlife Conflict Steering Committee has been working for many years to update this procedure, which was last updated in 2001. Recently, this work was expedited to complete the updates.

DISCUSSION:

The Human-Wildlife Conflict Steering Committee (HWCSC) is made up of representatives from FLNRO Fish & Wildlife, MoE Ecosystems Branch and the Conservation Officer Service (COS). This committee meets on a regular basis to work on human-conflict issues that affect multiple organizations. The committee recognized the need to update this procedure to ensure better clarity on responsibilities and actions for staff dealing with conflict situations, and had been working on changes for some time.

The committee was informed last year that both FLNRO and MoE considered the completion of this update a priority. A working group was established and consistent work has been done over the last year to complete this update. Representatives from FLNRO and MoE have agreed on the format and content of the updated document.

The procedure was altered to clarify officer response to conflicts with large carnivores. Accordingly, sections of the old procedure were removed regarding a) permitting for the control of carnivores that come into conflict with humans, and b) permitting for the captive-care of orphaned bears. The Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian and Large Carnivore Specialist will develop a stand-alone Standard-of-Care for orphaned bears. Future permits issued for the care of orphaned bears will require that rehabilitation facilities adhere to this new Standard-of-Care to ensure the proper care and release of bears.

Changes to the procedure include:

- Improved clarity on roles and responsibilities;
- Improved focus on the Conservation Officer Service's field procedures and risk matrices for managing bears and cougars;
- Improved clarity on actions taken by staff in conflict situations;

- Removal from the procedure of animal-care details and the development of a separate Standard-of-Care for orphaned bears that will become a requirement under permit conditions;
- Removal of wording from the procedure regarding permitting of nuisance animals and damage to human risk.

OPTIONS:


Option 1: Accept changes to procedure.

Option 2: Make further changes to procedure.

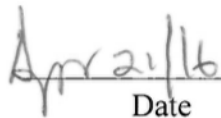
RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Accept changes to procedure.

☒ Approved / Not Approved



 Signature
 Dan Peterson
 Director
 Fish & Wildlife Branch



 Date

Attachment: 4-7-04.01.1 Procedure Manual

Contact:

Jeff Morgan
Policy Unit Manger
Fish & Wildlife
 250-371-6347

Prepared by:

Kate Craig
Policy Analyst
Fish & Wildlife
 250-387-9789

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
Director	DP	
Manager	JM	Feb 12/16
Author	KC	Feb 12/16



PROCEDURE MANUAL

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This Procedure Replaces:

4-7-04.01.1 - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores (2001)

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Director of Fish and Wildlife
Regional Wildlife Managers
Wildlife Management Staff
Ministry of Environment, BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection: 04.01.3 Control of Species

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Procedure Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection: 13.02 Translocations of Wildlife and Non-Native Species

Other Cross-References:

British Columbia Ministry of Environment. 2015. Provincial Red and Blue Lists.
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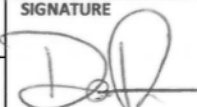
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Hunt, C. L., et. al. 2003. Wind River Bear Institute - Bear Shepherdung Guidelines For Safe and Effective Treatment of Human-Bear Conflicts. Wind River Bear Institute, "Partners-In-Life" Program, Heber City, Utah. January 2003.

IUCN. 2013. Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland. 72 pp.

Targeted Predator Control.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/Targeted%20Predator%20Control.pdf>

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WPLP Best Management Practices for Cattle.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/WPLP%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20for%20Cattle.pdf>

WPLP Best Management Practices for Sheep.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/WPLP%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20for%20Sheep.pdf>

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Human - Bear Conflict Response Matrix

Appendix 2 Human - Cougar Conflict Response Matrix

Purpose:

This procedure outlines recommended actions to be followed when responding to conflicts between large carnivores and people that threaten human health, safety or property.

The following principles will be used to guide the prevention of and response to conflicts with large carnivores:

1. Human safety is the first priority.
2. There are many variables that can influence the response to conflicts with large carnivores and officer discretion is not superseded by policy or procedure. An officer must be prepared to rationalize their decision-making when it varies from this procedure.
3. The conservation value of the animal(s).
4. Animal care should meet or exceed accepted standards, including methods of animal capture, immobilization, handling, and transportation, release, and during delivery of any method of hazing or aversive conditioning.
5. Where appropriate and timely, conflict responses are accompanied by clear articulation of provincial legislation regarding the provision of attractants and the consequences to wildlife, and the delivery of appropriate prevention and mitigation techniques.
6. Timely, accurate and readily accessible records, summaries and maps.

This procedure applies only to human-large carnivore conflicts. It does **not** apply to the control of large carnivores for conservation of red or blue-listed species (e.g. removal of large carnivores to protect species at risk).

There are three sections to this procedure:

1 Roles and Responsibilities

2 Preventing Conflicts with Large Carnivores

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- 2.1 Prevention of Conflicts
- 2.2 Bear Smart Communities
- 2.3 Carcass Redistribution
- 2.4 Enforcement
- 2.5 Agriculture and Industry

3 Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

- 3.1 Conflict Response Priorities
- 3.2 Non-lethal Responses Outside of Bear Smart Communities
- 3.3 Lethal Responses
- 3.4 Methods of Control
- 3.5 Wolves and Coyotes
- 3.6 Relocation
- 3.7 Orphaned Bears

Definitions:

authorized rearing facility – a wildlife rehabilitation facility that is permitted by the province to rear and release orphaned bears.

aversive conditioning – the training of an animal through the consistent delivery of unpleasant stimuli (deterrents and repellents) until the animal ceases to engage in undesirable activities (Hunt 2003).

Bear Smart Community – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, a community that has successfully met the requirements of the Bear Smart Community Program and that has been formally designated by the Ministry of Environment as a Bear Smart Community. The Bear Smart Community Program is a voluntary, preventative conservation measure that encourages communities, businesses and individuals to work together on a goal. The goal is to address the primary causes of bear/human conflicts to reduce the risks to human safety and private property, and to reduce the number of bears destroyed due to conflict.

blue-listed species – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, includes any ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies considered to be of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in British Columbia. Species are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly

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sensitive to human activities or natural events. Blue-listed species are at risk, but are not extirpated, endangered or threatened.

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) – the ECC manages the “RAPP” (Report All Polluters and Poachers) Program, a toll free tip-line and web-based service that allows the public to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk and known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws.

carcass redistribution – moving road-killed carcasses or dead livestock to areas where large carnivores can feed on them temporarily to avoid being drawn into proximity with people or livestock.

Conflict Management Plan – a plan that outlines measures that industrial companies can take on-site to avoid and reduce risks of potentially negative human-large carnivore interactions and provides recommendations and options for managing industrial facilities and human action at those facilities.

Conservation Officer – as defined in the *Environmental Management Act*, a person described in section 106(2)(a) or (b) and includes, in relation to a specific power or duty, an auxiliary conservation officer and a special conservation officer who has been authorized under section 106 (3)(b)(iv) to exercise the power or perform the duty.

control – (a) killing of wildlife by shooting, trapping or poisoning, (b) hazing or aversive conditioning of wildlife by use of pepper spray, noise makers, rubber bullets, dogs, etc., or (c) capture and release.

dangerous wildlife – as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, means (a) bear, cougar, coyote or wolf, or (b) a species of wildlife that is prescribed as dangerous wildlife.

grizzly bear population unit (GBPU) – identified areas that define individual Grizzly Bear populations for the purposes of management and conservation.

harassment of livestock – the act of worrying, stalking or chasing after livestock but not an actual attack on livestock resulting in death or injury; it does not mean the mere presence of wildlife near livestock.

hazing – random, inconsistent, or one-time application of a repellent/deterrent to cause an animal to alter its behaviour at that moment (Hunt 2003).

large carnivore – for the purposes of this procedure, large carnivore means bear, cougar, wolf, or coyote.

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large carnivore conflict – an incident involving a large carnivore that threatens human safety or property.

livestock – as defined in the *Livestock Act* means cattle, goats, horses, sheep, swine and game and includes any other animal designated by regulation.

Officer – as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, (a) a constable, a conservation officer, the director, an assistant director or a regional wildlife manager, (b) a park ranger appointed under the *Park Act*, or (c) an employee of the government designated by name or position as an officer, by regulation of the minister.

red-listed species – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment includes any ecological community and indigenous species and subspecies that is extirpated, endangered or threatened in British Columbia.

relocation – the deliberate capture, transport and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals within the animal's home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010).

threatened GBPU – a Grizzly Bear Population Unit (GBPU) whose population estimate is less than 50% of the area's estimated minimum habitat capability.

translocation – the deliberate capture, transport, and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals beyond the animal's home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010) and includes:

- reintroduction** – the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared (IUCN 2013).
- reinforcement or supplementation** – the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of conspecifics (IUCN 2013).
- conservation introductions** – the intentional movement and release of an organism outside its indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations of the focal species or to perform a specific ecological function (IUCN 2013).

wildlife monitor – synonymous with "Bear Guard" and defined for the purposes of this procedure as a person who has been hired to keep resource workers safe by (a) increasing wildlife safety awareness and education, and (b) acting as an on-site field monitor who watches for potentially dangerous wildlife, recognizes potentially dangerous situations with wildlife, acts to pre-emptively avoid dangerous situations, and deals effectively with dangerous wildlife situations when encounters do occur.

Procedures:

1 Roles and Responsibilities

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- 1.1 The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), Fish and Wildlife Branch (F&W) and the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Ecosystems Branch provide science-based direction regarding wildlife management to prevent or reduce negative effects of human-wildlife encounters including risks to public safety and damage to property.
- 1.2 The Conservation Officer Service (COS) takes actions to minimize the risk that conflicts with large carnivores pose to public safety and property through conflict prevention outreach, training, enforcement and both non-lethal and lethal responses.

2 Preventing Conflicts with Large Carnivores

2.1 Prevention of Conflicts

- (a) The emphasis of government efforts will be to prevent or reduce conflicts with large carnivores and will include encouraging and promoting agricultural standards of good husbandry, management of attractants, community planning, and the delivery of public education.

2.2 Bear Smart Communities

- (a) Priority will be given to conflict prevention in order to increase public safety and maximize the protection of property and the protection of the wildlife resource. Preventive methods include encouraging communities and residents to become "Bear Smart".
- (b) The Ministry of Environment designates communities as "Bear Smart" based on the recommendation of the Provincial Wildlife Conflicts Prevention Coordinator.
- (c) Once a community has been designated as "Bear Smart", the ministry is committed to working with local governments, other law enforcement agencies and stakeholder groups, to develop a response plan for human-bear conflicts. The response plan must take into consideration:
 - i) Available resources and partnerships with other agencies (i.e. Parks Canada, RCMP, local government, etc.),
 - ii) Non-lethal control of bears including short distance relocation (i.e. <10km, within home range), hazing, aversive conditioning and on-site soft and hard release will primarily be used in communities that have been formally designated as "Bear Smart". Officers must be trained and equipped to deliver non-lethal control. Long distance, outside of home range translocation of conflict animals, is not supported,



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- iii) All short distance, within home range relocations should satisfy the criteria in Section 3.6 in terms of risk of future conflicts, and
- iv) The conflict history of all bears being considered for non-lethal control should be evaluated.

2.3 Carcass Redistribution

- (a) The regional wildlife manager and regional COS Inspector can authorize carcass redistribution in cases involving high conservation value animals (e.g. female Grizzly Bears in threatened GBPU's) where the local circumstances indicate that carcass redistribution could be effective in temporarily reducing conflict.

2.4 Enforcement

- (a) In situations that involve the intentional or negligent feeding or attraction of dangerous wildlife, charges may be laid under Section 33.1 of the *Wildlife Act*. This does not apply to farm operations, as defined in Section 1 of the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, to people that operate a facility for the disposal of waste, that is operated in accordance with the *Environmental Management Act* by a municipality, or to people hunting or trapping wildlife in accordance with all other applicable provisions of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations.
- (b) In situations where a Conservation Officer suspects that dangerous wildlife is, or may be, attracted to any land or premises, other than a private dwelling, the officer may conduct the necessary investigation and issue a dangerous wildlife protection order if warranted under Section 88.1 of the *Wildlife Act*.

2.5 Agriculture and Industry

- (a) Crops
 - i) Reports of crop damage by large predators (e.g. Black Bears in grain, blueberry or orchard crops) should be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for information regarding conflict prevention and compensation.
- (b) Livestock
 - i) Unless evidence warrants otherwise, property (livestock) damage complaints alleged to be by large carnivores will be investigated as soon as possible on-site by the Conservation Officer Service, giving consideration to other priority duties and the availability of partners to take on this responsibility.

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- ii) In situations where large carnivore harassment or attack cannot be confirmed through field investigation and, in the opinion of the investigating officer, predation did not take place, then no further action will be taken.
 - iii) Large carnivores feeding on dead livestock will not be considered as evidence of large carnivore attack or harassment unless other evidence confirms that large carnivores caused the death of the animal.
 - iv) In situations where faulty or negligent husbandry practices (e.g. carcasses not removed, remote and uncontrolled lambing/calving grounds, obvious malnutrition of livestock) encourage large carnivore harassment or attack on livestock, control may be denied by the investigating officer until the situation is corrected.
 - v) Where the investigating officer requires more information about the adequacy of husbandry practices or the cause of death of livestock than can be obtained above, the investigator will consult with the Wildlife Veterinarian, the local or regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Range Division of the Forest Service, and/or a private veterinarian for assessment of the livestock and advice on what constitutes good husbandry practices in the particular situation (whichever is appropriate).
 - vi) In situations where improved husbandry is difficult to achieve or is refused by the complainant or producer, and where this causes a continuing threat from large carnivores to neighbouring farming operations, the matter may be referred to local livestock organizations (where present) and to the Regional Wildlife Conflicts Advisory Committee (where present) for review and advice.
 - vii) In areas where chronic large carnivore/livestock or large carnivore/property conflicts arise from conflicting land use practices, the matter should be discussed as soon as possible by the Regional Wildlife Conflicts Advisory Committee, and, if necessary, referred to appropriate government agencies for assessment and possible action.
- (c) Industry
- i) The Environment Assessment Office may require human wildlife conflict management plans to be developed for industrial projects. The conflict management plan should focus on the conservation risks to large carnivores and their populations, and large carnivores as a potential hazard to humans or human property, and describe proactive management strategies and actions to be taken on-site to avoid and reduce risks of potential negative human-wildlife interactions that could

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lead to human injury or property damage or the destruction or relocation of large carnivores.

- ii) Industry may utilise wildlife monitors to train field workers and monitor large carnivore activity at the field site. Wildlife monitors must be properly trained and may require permitting through FLNRO for this activity.

3 Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

3.1 Conflict Response Priorities

- (a) An officer will respond to wildlife actions that threaten human safety as their first priority.
- (b) All other human-wildlife conflicts, including wildlife actions that threaten property or have caused property damage, will be responded to in accordance with:
 - i) Other work priorities,
 - ii) Available time,
 - iii) Available resources (manpower, funding, equipment, etc.), and
 - iv) Regional and provincial wildlife conservation and management priorities as per annual program and business plans.
- (c) Decisions regarding response to conflicts with bears and cougars will consider Appendix 1 Human-Bear Conflict Response Matrix and Appendix 2 Human-Cougar Conflict Response Matrix of this procedure.

3.2 Non-lethal Responses Outside of Bear Smart Communities

- (a) There may be limited opportunities to deliver the full spectrum of non-lethal responses to a large carnivore conflict in areas that are not designated as "Bear Smart" communities. Hazing, short distance, within-home range relocation, on-site capture and hard release, and other effective means of preventing the escalation of conflict behaviours may be warranted in the circumstances outlined below.
- (b) Non-lethal responses to conflict may be appropriate where:
 - i) Officers are trained and equipped to deliver non-lethal responses,
 - ii) High conservation value animals are identified (e.g. female Grizzly Bears in threatened GBPU's),

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- iii) Animals are deemed healthy and vigorous individuals that are not injured, malnourished, or otherwise compromised,
- iv) Early contact has occurred with low level conflict animals or situations, and
 - There is no long history of conflict with humans, property or livestock, and
 - It has been determined that there is potential to reverse the conflict behaviour through management intervention.
- v) There is an immediate need to ensure human safety and lethal methods are not practicable.

3.3 Lethal Responses

- (a) Where human-made changes in the environment (livestock, orchards, etc.) have caused unusually high concentrations of large carnivores, emphasis should be placed on the use of licensed hunters and trappers to harvest carnivores during open seasons. Open seasons, bag limits and other regulations should be adjusted, either in regulation, or by Minister's Order, to allow for effective harvesting where that action is deemed appropriate or where public consultation suggests that these actions would be effective in reducing high populations of carnivores.
- (b) Provisions of Section 3.3(a) above will not be used to create a permanent large carnivore-free area in any part of the province excluding the localized and temporary space created through the removal of large carnivores involved in conflicts.
- (c) Large carnivores shall be destroyed under any of the following conditions:
 - i) The animal is aggressive towards humans,
 - ii) There is evidence that the animal has gone through human food-conditioning to an extent that, if moved, would attempt to return to human activity areas where foods are expected,
 - iii) The animal presents a threat to humans, other animals or the environment due to significant infectious disease(s) (e.g. rabies). Where the investigating officer requires more information regarding infectious agents, the investigator will consult with the Wildlife Veterinarian.
 - iv) The chances for survival in a natural habitat are low and it is considered inhumane to leave in situ, e.g. animal is in very poor body condition, is



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exhibiting very abnormal behaviour, or has an obvious and severe injury or illness;

- v) Local conditions prevent the safe capture, transport and release of the animal and available capture methods may even increase human safety hazards; or
 - vi) Areas for safe and humane release are not available.
- (d) Officer actions in this regard will, at all times, take officer and public safety into consideration.
- (e) Whenever possible, ministry staff in the field shall inform the public present of the method to be used to resolve the conflict, briefly explain the reasons, the likely causes of conflict, appropriate behaviour to avoid conflict, and encourage the public to leave the immediate area for reasons of safety. Where immobilizing equipment is used to capture bears and cougars, the presence of qualified back-up personnel capable of ensuring officer and public safety is required.
- (f) All uses of immobilization chemicals must be recorded by the responding officer(s) and reported, as requested, to the Wildlife Veterinarian.
- (g) Each Grizzly Bear and Cougar that is destroyed must be recorded on a compulsory inspection (CI) data sheet and the number of that CI recorded on the human-wildlife conflict report form.

3.4 Methods of Control

- (a) Control action by an officer, where warranted, will immediately follow confirmation of a large carnivore conflict wherever possible. All control must be directed to the effective removal, hazing or aversive conditioning of individual large carnivores (or groups) involved in conflicts while taking precautions to minimize harm or risk to non-target species (including people) and the environment.
- (b) Control actions can include the deliberate trapping of large carnivores involved in conflicts prior to their destruction, using culvert traps and other live-holding traps and snares.
- (c) In all situations in which it is necessary to destroy individual large carnivores involved in conflicts, shooting with an appropriately sized firearm is preferred. The target site may vary with the situation and species but a quick and humane death is the goal. Kill trapping will only be used for control of Wolves and Coyotes.

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- (d) Where it is determined that large carnivore control is necessary it will be conducted by the safest and most efficient method suitable to the local circumstances.
- (e) The reported presence of large carnivores in grazing areas will not be considered as a reason for control except as allowed under Section 3.4(f) below.
- (f) Notwithstanding Section 3.4(e), the control of large carnivores in response to confirmed harassment reports might be affected in the absence of confirmed livestock kills or injury.
- (g) Large carnivores threatening human life, or attacking livestock on private lands (includes leased land) may be destroyed through shooting or trapping by the landowner or manager of the stock or their employees as per the *Wildlife Act* Section 2(4) and Section 26(2). Where wildlife is destroyed in this manner it remains the property of the Crown unless the individual (employee, owner or manager) takes the animal during hunting or trapping seasons under licence. An individual that kills wildlife in defence of life or property must promptly report the killing to an officer (*Wildlife Act* Section 75).
- (h) Land leased from the Crown for the purpose of raising livestock is considered as private property for the purposes of this policy; grazing permit areas are not considered as private property.

3.5 Wolves and Coyotes

- (a) Producers are required to follow best management practices for cattle and sheep to reduce the risk of conflict with Wolves, Coyotes and other large carnivores. Good agriculture practices are preferred over control actions.
- (b) Where a conflict caused by a wolf pack has been confirmed the pack may be removed.
- (c) Denning Wolves or Coyotes (adults and young of the year) can only be removed if the den is established within an area actively used by livestock during the spring and summer seasons, and where livestock losses and harassment of livestock by these animals is confirmed.
- (d) Where circumstances prevent the immediate removal of Wolves or Coyotes (individuals or packs) involved in conflicts, control is permitted within a 12 month period following the livestock loss, in response to confirmed harassment reports within the same area. Whenever possible individuals or packs identified as involved in the conflict should be the priority for removal.

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3.6 Relocation

- (a) Decisions to relocate large carnivores in response to conflict with humans should be made by the regional FLNRO office in consultation with the Large Carnivore Biologist and Wildlife Veterinarian.
- (b) Capture and relocation of Cougars and Wolves will not occur, other than juveniles that may be taken into permanent captivity, if appropriate. Capture and relocation of conflict bears should be considered only in a few, limited circumstances. Adult bears will not be moved outside of their natural home ranges, or, in the case of dispersing subadult males, they will only be moved within distances that approximate their natural dispersal distances from natal home ranges. Bears will only be relocated short distances where all of the following conditions are met:
 - i) There is no or very limited indication of food-conditioning and no indication of aggressiveness. Animals considered to be dangerous to the public will not be relocated,
 - ii) The animal appears healthy, in good condition, and is not expected to need parental care to survive if relocated without its female parent,
 - iii) Dependant young animals are relocated with the female parent, and
 - iv) Animals that are handled and released are marked with an ear tag, permanent electronic tag, tattoo (lip and groin) and, preferably, a VHS or GPS transmitter. Those animals relocated under recovery programs will be outfitted with a radio transmitter and assigned to a monitoring program in accordance with standards prescribed by FLNRO and under an approved capture permit or by government staff only.
- (c) Factors that may improve the success of within home range relocation include:
 - i) The presence of natural, alternative forage,
 - ii) Security and thermal cover (e.g. climb trees for females with young),
 - iii) Lower than saturation densities of native, resident bears,
 - iv) Low levels of human habituation and no food conditioning history, and
 - v) Attractant issues that may have led to the within home range relocation are resolved.

3.7 Orphaned Bears

- (a) Grizzly Bears



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- i) All suitable orphaned Grizzly Bear young of the year in British Columbia may enter a collaborative pilot program between the Province and an authorized rearing facility.
- ii) Only young of the year are candidates for the program. Orphaned yearling Grizzly Bears will be left in the wild if appropriate.
- iii) The authorized rearing facility must have a valid permit in place that permits housing Grizzly Bear young of the year for rearing and release.
- iv) Any Grizzly Bear young of the year found without its mother must not be assumed to be orphaned and should be given every reasonable opportunity, or 48 hours, to re-join its mother.
- v) When an orphaned or injured Grizzly Bear young of the year is reported to or found by staff, the closest FLNRO regional office must be notified immediately. FLNRO will subsequently notify the Large Carnivore Specialist and an authorized rearing facility.
- vi) If the authorized rearing facility receives knowledge from the public or a wildlife rehabilitation facility about an orphaned/injured Grizzly Bear, they must immediately contact the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and the regional FLNRO office.
- vii) As soon as possible after capture, the animal should be transferred to the authorized rearing facility after an initial health assessment and treatment of any urgent issues by a veterinarian, including euthanasia if warranted after consultation with the Wildlife Veterinarian. Further evaluation of the young of the year's health will take place at the authorized rearing facility by staff in consultation with the local veterinarian, and/or the Wildlife Veterinarian. This assessment will determine the initial suitability of the animal as a candidate for the project.
- viii) If medical treatment is necessary, it should be done in consultation with the Wildlife Veterinarian.
- ix) Evaluation of any orphaned Grizzly Bear for entry into the pilot project must involve discussion of the following criteria and will include input from the Wildlife Veterinarian, FLNRO regional and/or headquarters biologists, and other professionals experienced in rearing orphaned bears. Ideally, these criteria should be met before an orphaned Grizzly Bear is admitted into the pilot project. However, discretion may be used based on the knowledge and experience of those involved in the evaluation:

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- Young of the year must not have any obvious injuries or disabilities preventing a reasonable chance of recovery and post-release survival.
 - Any treatable medical conditions or injuries must not create irresolvable pain or other inhumane conditions nor result in conditioning to human presence through increased handling.
 - Bears from the wild with no known previous experience with people will have priority over bears that have become food conditioned or exhibit imprinting behaviour.
 - Preference will be given to more than one young of the year in the facility at one time to enable socialization between animals.
 - Young of the year that are unsuitable candidates for rearing may be brought to an authorized rearing facility as a companion for suitable young of the year if there is a need and if there are no demands for that young of the year from a Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) approved captive facility.
- x) If a young of the year is judged to be unsuitable for initial or continued rearing, the disposition of Grizzly Bear young of the year will be determined by FLNRO and may include:
- Possible transfer to CAZA accredited facilities for display in British Columbia,
 - Possible export from British Columbia to a CAZA accredited facility for display in Canada (or equally accredited facilities in the U.S.),
 - Transfer to an authorized rearing facility as a companion for suitable rearing candidates, and
 - Euthanasia.
- (b) Black Bears
- i) Provided that permitted rearing facilities can provide adequate facilities to rear, release and monitor bears, consideration should be given to the rearing and release of orphaned Black Bear young of the year that are considered suitable candidates.
 - ii) In order to be considered as candidates for rearing and release:



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- Any Black Bear young of the year found without its mother must not be assumed to be orphaned and should be given every reasonable opportunity, or 48 hours, to re-join its mother.
 - Only young of the year are candidates. Orphaned yearling Black Bears will be left in the wild.
 - Young of the year must be in good health (of adequate size for that age class with no serious injuries or obvious illnesses), and
 - Young of the year must not display high levels of habituation to humans or conditioning to human food sources. If there are any questions regarding the physical or behavioural condition of the bear the Wildlife Veterinarian or FLNRO regional/headquarters biologists will be contacted for advice.
- iii) Young of the year that are brought to rearing centres must be examined by a veterinarian, after which FLNRO regional staff, in discussion with the facility, will decide whether the young of the year should be euthanized or reared by the rearing facility for later winter or summer release.
- iv) Adequate and suitable facilities must be available at a rehabilitation centre that meet provincial standards for the rearing of bear young of the year for release into the wild.

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Appendix 1 Human - Bear Conflict Response Matrix

		Level of Conflict/ Bear Behavior					
		<u>Level 1</u> Wary of human (leaves on approach)	<u>Level 2</u> Habituated (indifferent to presence of humans)	<u>Level 3</u> Assertive behavior or causes property damage (including livestock and pets)	<u>Level 4</u> Follows/ bluff charges humans (threatening behavior) or is fed by humans	<u>Level 5</u> Causes human injury (defensive/ surprise attack) or enters unoccupied building	<u>Level 6</u> Predatory or non-defensive attack or enters occupied buildings
Habitat Type and Feeding Source	<u>Level A</u> Bear is feeding on natural foods in natural area or continuous bear habitat	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Manage	Destroy
	<u>Level B</u> Bear is feeding on natural foods in area adjacent to continuous bear habitat	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	<u>Level C</u> Bear is feeding on natural foods in sub-urban or residential area with immediate escape route	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	<u>Level D</u> Bear is occasionally feeding on non-natural foods in remote area (camps, etc.)	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	<u>Level E</u> Bear is frequently feeding on non-natural foods in residential area with immediate escape route	Manage	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy	Destroy
	<u>Level F</u> Bear is frequently feeding on non-natural foods in confined/urban areas with no immediate escape route or enters an occupied building	Manage	Remove	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy

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In any incident where an imminent threat to public safety exists, any appropriate and necessary action may be applied. In the event that the health or well-being of any particular bear is determined to be compromised (sick, injured, emaciated, etc.), humane euthanasia will be considered.

See Section 3.7 of the Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores procedure regarding response to orphaned bear cubs.

Long-distance translocation of bears will not normally occur. Under some circumstances, immobilizing and removing animals off-site for assessment may be appropriate.

With all incidences relating to livestock depredation, husbandry practices should be assessed and communicated to the producer by the responding officer.

LEVELS 1-2 LOW RISK

EXAMPLES OF WARY OR INDIFFERENT BEHAVIOUR

- Leaves on approach/presence of a human
- Stands ground on approach but then leaves
- Leaves after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.
- Stands ground after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc. but then leaves

LEVELS 3-4 MODERATE RISK

EXAMPLES OF ASSERTIVE OR THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Stays and approaches after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.
- Stays and (bluff) charges after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.

LEVELS 5-6 HIGH RISK

EXAMPLES OF DEFENSIVE OR PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR

- Confrontations as a result of a sudden encounter with a bear protecting its space, cubs or food.
- Continues to approach, follow, disappear and reappear, or displays other stalking behaviors. Attacks a person that is in a tent or other structure.

DEFINITIONS

Monitor – Provide advice regarding attractants, appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter, safety advice if a person did encounter a bear, and bear behavior. Continue to monitor for further reports. An officer may attend to investigate the reliability of the report.

Manage – Provide advice regarding attractants and appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter. Non-lethal management (hazing) may be delivered in appropriate circumstances. May include:

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Manage Attractants – ensure that all non-natural foods are removed from the conflict site or stored in a bear-proof manner (such that the bear cannot access them).

Manage Bear – use non-lethal tactics (bear aversion; hazing) to move the bear away from the conflict site to suitable cover or a more desirable location away from people or busy urban areas, preferably back to a natural area or bear habitat.

Manage People – ensure that people in the area of conflict are kept a safe distance from the bear; educate people as necessary to ensure the circumstances that lead to the conflict aren't repeated.

Manage Site – this may include stopping traffic or heavy equipment while a bear is being shepherded away from the site; or if conflicts are expected to reoccur at this site, this may require closing the area, with signage and/or barriers.

Remove – The animal is considered a risk to public safety and must be removed. There may be an option to relocate following Section 3.2 of the Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores procedure. Otherwise the animal must be destroyed.

Destroy – The animal is considered a high risk to public safety and must be destroyed.

Bear habitat – an area away from human development that contains suitable food sources, travel corridors, cover and denning spaces.

Confined urban area – a heavily populated human-use area in a city.

Defensive attack – A bear that makes full physical contact by either swatting or biting and has exhibited defensive behaviour prior to contact.

Escape route – a clear route free of obstacles.

Natural area – an area that is not landscaped, but where plants grow naturally/wild.

Natural foods – native or non-native species plants (or their parts i.e. roots, fruit, seeds, nuts) that grow naturally/wild in an area (not landscaped plants); insects; fish and small mammals (wild not domestic).

Non-defensive attack – a bear that attacks exhibiting offensive aggressive behaviour.

Non-natural foods – garbage, human food and other odorous products that have attracted a bear (not including fruit trees, crops etc.).

Occupied building – A four-sided structure in which people live/work.

Predatory attack – A bear that attacks a person with predacious interest or intent.

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Appendix 2 Human - Cougar Conflict Response Matrix

		Level of Conflict/Reported Cougar Activities						
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
		Unconfirmed sighting	Confirmed sighting	Confined or treed	Habituated or day time sighting	Follow or stalk a person	Attack or kill pets or livestock	Attack on a person
Location and Public Risk	Level A Wilderness setting- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy
	Level B Rural setting- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level C Front country habitat- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level D Wilderness setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level E Rural setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy
	Level F Front country habitat- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy
	Level G Urban setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy

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In any incident where an imminent threat to public safety exists, any appropriate and necessary action may be applied. In the event that the health or well-being of any particular cougar is determined to be compromised (sick, injured, emaciated, etc.), humane euthanasia will be considered.

If the option exists, orphaned kittens may be transferred to a CAZA accredited zoo. Otherwise they will be euthanized. There are no rearing facilities in BC permitted to rear orphaned cougar kittens.

Translocation of cougars will not normally occur. Under some circumstances, immobilizing and removing animals off-site for assessment may be appropriate.

With all incidences relating to livestock depredation, husbandry practices should be assessed and communicated to the producer by responding officer.

Dispersing juveniles are a potential elevated risk as they roam widely in search of unoccupied territory and have poorly developed hunting skills. This is when cougars are most likely to conflict with humans.

A cougar will demonstrate various levels of behaviour throughout any given day depending on many different variables. These behaviours are often not reported nor observed by humans however may be taken into account if presented within a report.

LEVELS 1-3 LOW RISK EXAMPLES OF NON-THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Viewing from a distance
- Flight
- Lack of attention, various movements not directed towards a human
- Ears up, intent attention, shifting of positions, following behaviours

Examples

Subject is walking in wildland/rural area, subject observed a cougar, the cougar observed subject, the cougar moves off.

Cougar seen crossing a paved road on the edge of a subdivision in a green belt at night.

LEVELS 4-5 MODERATE RISK EXAMPLES OF MODERATELY THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Day active in the presence of people
- Intense staring, following and hiding
- Hissing, snarling and other vocalizations

Examples

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Urban: cougar is sighted in a town, residential development, including any green belt or public area adjacent to or within this identified environment or other areas that are not within the specific urban setting, such as a large park, river valley or golf course.

Rural: where a cougar is observed in amongst the vicinity of residences, farmyards, livestock or other domestic animals.

Defensive encounters: a cougar is on a kill, it defends the kill site and does not retreat or leave area when human presence is known.

Backcountry: a cougar follows a person when they are out hiking or working.

LEVEL 6-7 HIGH RISK

EXAMPLES OF THREATENING OR ATTACK BEHAVIOUR

- Crouching, tail twitching, intense staring, ears flattened like wings, body low to the ground, head is up
- Crouching, tail twitching, body and head low to the ground, rear legs "pumping", fur standing out

Examples

Human safety: A cougar attacks and kills or injures a person.

Domestic livestock and pet, property loss: A cougar attacks and kills or injures domestic livestock or pets.

DEFINITIONS

Monitor – Provide advice regarding attractant management, appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter, safety tips when a cougar is encountered, and cougar behavior. Continue to monitor for further reports. An officer may attend to investigate the reliability of the report.

Manage – Gather further information by contacting complainant or directly responding to the complaint. Manage based on assessment of risk to public safety. All options may be considered (educate, manage attractants/cougar/people/site, destroy). May include:

Manage Attractants – ensure that all attractants are secured at the conflict site or stored in a wildlife-proof manner, including night-time containment of livestock.

Manage Cougar – provide space to allow the cougar to move away from people or busy urban areas, preferably back to a natural area or continuous cougar habitat.

Manage People – ensure that people are aware of cougar safety and cougar conflict reduction information.



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Manage Site – this may include closing the area, with signage and/or barriers or moving a kill that is being defended.

Destroy – the animal is considered a high risk to public safety, pets or livestock and must be destroyed.

Confined – cougar is in fringe habitat or urban area with no immediate escape route.

Euthanasia – following Canada Council on Animal Care Guidelines, the animal will be euthanized by the most humane and expedient method and where possible, away from public scrutiny.

Front country habitat – the interface between wilderness/rural and urban settings, usually dominated by medium-sized properties such as acreages and/or small hobby farms.

Habituated – when a cougar approaches humans or remains in human frequented areas, and displays behaviors that are a cause for public safety concerns (e.g. daytime sightings) and fails to avoid humans or human frequented locations and structures.

Natural area – an area that is not landscaped, but where plants grow naturally/wild.

Natural foods – native or non-native prey species that occur naturally/wild in an area (wild not domestic).

Non-natural foods – domestic animals (pets and livestock), that may attract a cougar.

Nuisance – a cougar the repeatedly frequents and is observed in residential areas or areas of high human use, or a cougar that has attempted to attack pets or livestock.

Rural setting – an area dominated by very large land holdings and commercial agricultural use.

Urban setting – a densely populated human-use area in a community.

Wilderness setting – an area away from human development that contains suitable food sources, travel corridors, cover and denning spaces.

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From: [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX](#); [Stalberg, Mike X FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivore Policy
Date: Monday, May 9, 2016 11:32:51 AM

Hi Aaron,

I signed it the week I talked to Doug, with Diana away, it might still be caught up somewhere though?

Mike Stalberg, can you please look into where this is.

Thanks

Dan

From: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2016 11:31 AM
To: Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX
Cc: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX
Subject: Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivore Policy
Hi Dan, just following up on Chief Forsdick's conversation with you pertaining to you signing the updated Large Carnivore Policy.

Were you able to sign this? We are once again facing some heavy social pressure regarding having to destroy a bear cub up North and it would be very helpful to refer to this document with our media interactions etc.

Thanks

D/Chief Aaron Canuel

Officer in Charge | Program Support
Conservation Officer Service | Ministry of Environment
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Ph. 250 489-8523 | Cell 250 919-8530
Email: Aaron.Canuel@gov.bc.ca
RAPP 1-877-952-7277

From: [Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX](#)
To: [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Preventing and Responding to Large Carnivores Policy/Procedure
Date: Monday, February 16, 2015 12:18:00 PM

Hi Dan, hope your' doing well. I have a small favour to ask.

History

As part of the COS work-plan for 2014, we made it a priority to work together with your staff on updating the above noted policy. It was important to update this policy that was over 10 years old by incorporating the bear and cougar response matrix's into the policy as well as revising translocation and orphan bear cub procedures. My understanding is that the policy is now with your policy staff for final revisions as technically it's a FLNRO policy that COS refers to on a regular basis.

Now that the bear conflict season is fast approaching would it be possible to prioritize this on your end? I believe it's mostly complete and COS has endorsed the draft version. I appreciate the list of policy revisions keeps stacking up and there is only so much capacity. If there is any ability to get this policy completed before FYE it would be very appreciated.

Thanks Dan.

Aaron Canuel

Superintendent Program Support

BC Conservation Officer Service

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Aaron.Canuel@gov.bc.ca

From: [Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX](#); [Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX](#); [Craig, Kate ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX](#); [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Date: Monday, September 21, 2015 11:09:27 AM

Hi Aaron,

Thank you for highlighting the timeframe on this work.

I know that this is a priority for s.22

but to ensure that we keep moving, I

will do the following today:

1. I will send an email to the Working Group to remind them of the timeline, and
2. I will look at the calendars of the working group today and set the next meeting for as soon as possible.

It is important to keep on track with so many issues requiring immediate attention.

Scott

Scott Harrison
Policy Unit Head – Fish & Wildlife Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

From: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX
Sent: 21 Sep 2015 09:44
To: Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX; Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX; Craig, Kate FLNR:EX
Cc: Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX; Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

Hi Scott, thanks for this. One thing we have to be very cognisant to is ensuring momentum on this file as our Deputy has indicated that this initiative is extremely important with a goal of coming up with a revised product by the end of October. I have heard that working group feedback to Mike Badry's document has been very limited to date.

Is it possible for you and Kate to hold bi-weekly meetings to ensure momentum?

Thanks for your consideration.

Aaron Canuel

Deputy Chief - Program Support

BC Conservation Officer Service

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From: Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX; Craig, Kate FLNR:EX
Cc: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

Hi Mike,

Thank you for recognizing the timeline for this project.

I have forwarded your email to Kate because she is Chairing this working group.

Scott

From: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX
Sent: 11 Sep 2015 14:42
To: Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX
Cc: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large

Carnivores

Hi Scott,

As today was the deadline for a draft procedure I am going to assume we have amended the time lines.

I know everyone is busy and the schedule was pretty optimistic. I also think it is more important to get this right as opposed to rush it so I am fine with extending the deadline. We should try to keep the momentum going however and engage the rest of the working group. I haven't heard back from anyone on the last amendments and no one else has made any changes to the document. Perhaps another meeting next week would be in order. What do you think?

Mike

From: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX

Sent: Friday, September 4, 2015 3:26 PM

To: Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX; Craig, Kate FLNR:EX; Hamilton, Tony ENV:EX; Liedtke, Michael ENV:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; York, Ben A ENV:EX

Subject: RE: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

I have taken another crack at cleaning up the procedure. I also made some major changes to the cougar conflict matrix based on Kevin van Damme's comments.

Take a look and give me a call if you want to discuss.

Thanks

Mike

From: Harrison, Scott FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2015 9:10 AM

To: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX; Craig, Kate FLNR:EX; Hamilton, Tony ENV:EX; Liedtke, Michael ENV:EX; Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX; York, Ben A ENV:EX

Subject: Reformatted document for WG - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Hello,

I have reformatted the document entitled, "4-7-04.01.1 Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores – reformat.docx"

It is at the following link:

[4-7-04.01.1 Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores - reformat.docx](#)

As per our discussion in the meeting yesterday, it is a good time to focus on the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of this procedure?
2. Should some material be in separate procedures?
3. How should the information and steps be grouped? (i.e., What section headings and necessary and sufficient?)

It is an interesting procedure, and I look forward to working on it with you.

Scott

Scott Harrison

Policy Unit Head – Fish & Wildlife Branch

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

From: [Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX](#)
To: [Peterson, Dan FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX](#); [Airey, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Policy Review Required - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
Date: Friday, August 7, 2015 7:54:00 AM

Hi Dan, FYI. Hoping to have continued support from your Provincial staff on this important initiative. Any questions don't hesitate to give me a shout.

Thanks

Aaron Canuel

Deputy Chief - Program Support

BC Conservation Officer Service

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Aaron.Canuel@gov.bc.ca

From: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 9:42 AM

To: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX; Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

Cc: Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX

Subject: RE: Policy Review Required - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

I met with Kate yesterday to discuss the ongoing revision of the Preventing and Responding to Conflict with Large Carnivore procedure. She will be working on the formatting and revisions that have already been made while I am on leave and will post the document on the FLNRO share point site. When I return in August I will complete a review of content and make any further revisions that are required. Kate will format those and we will forward the revised procedure to the reviewers you noted below with a description of the changes.

The policy that supports this procedure is:

Volume 4, Section 7, Subsection 04.01 Problem wildlife management

Once changes to the procedure have been made we will review the policy and make required changes to ensure it is consistent.

Given other commitments and annual leave we have targeted mid-September to have this completed.

Mike

From: Canuel, Aaron ENV:EX

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 8:28 AM

To: Morgan, Jeff A FLNR:EX

Cc: Badry, Micheal J ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; Airey, David ENV:EX; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX

Subject: Policy Review Required - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

Hi Jeff, as you are likely aware, the COS has been dealing with an issue on the North Island pertaining to 2 black bear cubs of the year orphaned as a result of us having to destroy the food conditioned sow. This has created a high level public scrutiny and media attention on the Ministry. Also, last year, as part of our business planning priorities, the COS identified the need to review and update together with FLNRO our collective Preventing and Responding to Conflicts With Large Carnivores Policy (I understand the policy sits in your shop given FLNRO is the lead on many of the items covered in the policy to do with managing wildlife and rehab centers). As I understand it, Mike Badry has recently been in contact with your team pertaining to this review and revision. This week, our Deputy Minister has requested that this policy review be conducted quickly in order to address the following elements:

- COS and FLNRO to review policy with respect to destruction of animals and bear cubs.
- Ensure that the policy is consistently enforced throughout the Province (FLNRO and COS).
- Identify any recommendations or changes required.
- Role of FLNRO and how it relates to on the ground decision making.

Jeff, I understand that we have a Human/Wildlife Steering Committee which sits on an ongoing basis but I'm not sure we require everyone on that committee to participate in the review - rather some key people. I'm thinking yourself, Mike Badry, Dr. Schwantje, Tony Hamilton, Kate Craig, Chris Doyle, and perhaps a key FLNRO Regional biologist. I would be interested in participating in this review as well. Basically, through extension of my Deputy, we need to put some serious priority on this policy/procedure review in order to assist us with these issues.

Thanks and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Chris Doyle or I.

Aaron Canuel

Deputy Chief - Program Support

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