



## GENERAL ORDERS PART II ORDER #32-2010

<b>Issue Date:</b> June 30, 2010	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 30, 2010	<b>Review Date:</b> January 2011
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### **Subject: Response to Predator-Livestock Conflict Issues**

It is the goal of the Conservation Officer Service to provide an efficient and effective response, **within current capabilities**, to livestock producers experiencing predator-livestock conflict. To this end, the following process is to be promoted and followed by members of the COS.

### **Reporting and Response to Complaints**

All predator-livestock complaints should come to the Conservation Officer Service via the Emergency Coordination Centre ("Call Centre") RAPP Line at 1-877-952-7277.

Conservation officers receiving a report from the Call Centre will assess the appropriateness of a response to a predator-livestock complaint. To assist with this assessment, officers are reminded that COS work activities are to be prioritized according to the following criteria:

1. response to human health and safety issues
2. response to reports of property damage (including predator-livestock conflicts)
3. investigations (other than human health and safety)
4. proactive patrols

The COS will utilize various partners (e.g. licensed trappers and hunters, guide outfitters, producers, etc.) when appropriate and/or necessary to deliver this service.

If a conservation officer is not available to respond they must contact the complainant and explain the situation. If applicable in their area, they may advise the producer to:

1. Contact ARDCorp, seeking response through their contract mitigators, at:  
1-866-398-2848.
2. Contact other individuals permitted to conduct predator-livestock conflict control work, seeking mitigation response at the producer's cost (i.e. Kyle Lay, Dan Lay, Bob Thurow and Derek Funk in the Cariboo region only).

## **Notification, Monitoring and Payment of Permittees**

1. If a permittee is contacted directly by the producer, the permittee will immediately make contact with a conservation officer via the Call Centre – the permittee must report the incident and request the Call Centre contact the appropriate conservation officer for the area in question.
2. The conservation officer receiving the information from the Call Centre will contact the permittee to discuss the appropriate response, including the officer's availability/capacity to respond.
3. The Ministry of Environment is not responsible for any mitigation/response costs incurred by a permittee.

Please direct any questions or concerns about the foregoing through your supervisor to Mike Badry, COS HQ.

**Approval:** Barry Farynuk  
Superintendent, Provincial Investigations

**Date:** June 30, 2010

[Part II Orders Annotated Index \(link\)](#)



## GENERAL ORDERS PART II ORDER #34-2011

<b>Issue Date:</b> August 17, 2011	<b>Effective Date:</b> August 17, 2011 <b>Amended:</b> August 22, 2011	<b>Review Date:</b> October 2011
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**Subject:** Responding to Grizzly Bear Conflicts / Destruction of Trapped Bears

**COS Procedure reference:**

- Procedure 6.10.03 - Preventing And Responding To Conflicts With Large Carnivores

**Grizzly Bear Response**

**Summary:**

1. Due to the increased level of risk when dealing with grizzly bears, conservation officers are reminded of the following situations that present a safety concern to officers:
  - Grizzly bear and livestock conflicts (reported kills or attacks on livestock which are suspected or confirmed to involve grizzly bear).
  - Reported aggressive behaviour (the occurrence report states real or perceived aggressive behaviour).
  - Multiple grizzly bears involved (family units / breeding pair).
  - Trapping (includes checking the trap when family units are involved), snaring or immobilizing.
  - Release of a grizzly bear from a live trap.

**Action Required:**

1. When responding to any of the conflict situations described above, ensure no fewer than two qualified officers are in attendance.  
Note: "Qualified officer" may include a police officer or fishery officer who:
  - has been provided a full briefing on expectations, and
  - the CO has worked with the officer in past and is satisfied they have an appropriate level of understanding and competency to perform the required tasks.

## **Destruction of trapped bears**

### **Summary:**

1. Current ministry Standard Task / Equipment Procedure (STEP) instruction advises the use of a shotgun or handgun for dispatching a black bear in a live-trap; a rifle or handgun is recommended for dispatching a grizzly bear in a live-trap.
2. Until further notice, officers are authorized to use any of the following for euthanizing any bear in a live-trap:
  - .22 cal rifle (if available as zone issued);
  - shotgun using SSG or 00Buck;
  - duty handgun and standard issue ammunition.

**Note: Use of the 30.06 rifle is not approved for this action.**

### **Action Required:**

1. When responding to situations involving trapped bears, ensure:
  - all officers responding are aware of STEP procedures relating to bears (black and grizzly) with respect to releasing or destroying a bear in a live-trap, and
  - all bear traps have an appropriate shooting port to facilitate safe discharge of a firearms.

Note: Shooting ports can be installed in the front mesh of the trap with a locked cover to prevent injury to a captive bear. (See examples below).



Trap Shooting Port  
1.JPG



Trap Shooting Port  
2.JPG



Trap Shooting Port  
3.JPG

Questions or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Wayne Zimmerman, Inspector, Support Services.

**Approval:** Barry Farynuk, Chief Superintendent  
Provincial Operations

**Date:** August 17, 2011



## GENERAL ORDERS PART II ORDER #21-2012

<b>Issue Date:</b> April 13, 2012	<b>Effective Date:</b> April 13, 2012	<b>Review Date:</b> N/A
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**Subject: Unlawful Killing of Grizzly Bears**

### Summary

In the past two years a number of grizzly bear have been killed by members of the public ostensibly for the protection of life or property<sup>1</sup>. Some of these incidents received considerable media attention, resulting in questions and criticism about the legality of the killings and the subsequent COS response.

The *Wildlife Act* provides for the lawful killing of grizzly bears **in only these situations:**

- An officer under the *Wildlife Act* may kill a grizzly in the course of performing duties under the Act.
- A person may kill a grizzly:
  - during the open season with the required licences and LEH authorization
  - if exercising a recognized aboriginal right to do so
  - with a permit to do so, under the conditions described in the permit (i.e. the grizzly is dangerous to public safety)
- A person to whom *Wildlife Act* section 26(2) applies may kill a grizzly. The applicable prohibitions against killing do not apply to “a person who hunts or traps wildlife that is on the person's property and is a menace to a domestic (defined term, but fairly broad) animal or bird”. The killing must occur on the person’s property and only the property owner may do the killing. Legal Counsel advises that property includes owned and leased land, but not land used under licence or permit (e.g. a holder of a grazing licence is not excused).
- Any person may kill a grizzly that is an **immediate threat to that person’s life**, relying on the common law excuse of necessity. The authority in this situation only applies if there are **no alternatives** to the killing (i.e. killing the bear is the only way to avoid serious injury or death to a human).

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<sup>1</sup> Click [here](#) for provincial bear stats, including the number of grizzly bears killed by the COS and “other”, which includes either a member of the RCMP or a member of the public.

Examples of situations where the killing of a grizzly bear is not permitted:

- Except as excused by section 26(2), as noted above, it is **not lawful** to kill a grizzly that is merely destroying personal property. For example, a grizzly that is:
  - claiming harvested game
  - eating fish left on a porch
  - eating a steer on Crown land subject to a grazing licence
  - trying to get into a refrigerator on a sundeck
- It is **not lawful** to kill a grizzly that is not an immediate threat to life. More specifically, an immediate threat to life is not automatically presented by a grizzly that is:
  - repeatedly walking through a back yard while people are in their house
  - frightening someone while they are in their truck
  - hanging around a hunting camp

### **Actions Required**

It is essential that all staff understand the distinction between the lawful and unlawful killing of a grizzly bear, as outlined above, and are capable of articulating same to the public. Furthermore, it is expected that conservation officers, in exercising their discretion, will ensure that an appropriate and consistent enforcement response is taken for any unlawful killing. This includes conducting a thorough investigation to ensure an individual's actions were permitted under the *Wildlife Act*.

### **Questions**

Questions or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Inspector Wayne Zimmerman, Support Services.

**Approval:** Gord Hitchcock, A/Chief Superintendent  
Program Governance

**Date:** April 13, 2012



## GENERAL ORDERS PART II ORDER #34-2012

<b>Issue Date:</b> June 28, 2012	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 28, 2012	<b>Review Date:</b> N/A
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**Subject: COS Response to Livestock-Predator Conflicts**

### Summary

The goal of the Conservation Officer Service is to provide an efficient and effective response, **within current capabilities**, to livestock producers experiencing livestock - predator conflict.

### Policy Reference

- 6.10.03: Preventing & Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores
- Part II Order #15-2011 - Rescinded

### Action Required

Further to policy 6.10.03, members will apply the following guidelines when responding to livestock-predator conflicts:

#### 1. Assess the Information

Conservation officers receiving a report of a livestock-predator conflict will:

- contact the producer to discuss the details of the conflict, including the species of predator that may have been involved
- assess possible contributing factors (e.g. poor attractant management) and extenuating circumstances (e.g. remote location, Crown Land, poor access, etc.)
- ensure the complaint and their initial assessment are properly documented

#### 2. Implement Appropriate Control Measures

Human health and safety is the first priority of the COS and may preclude an officer from attending a livestock-predator conflict to undertake a field investigation and/or implement control measures. In such circumstances, the member should discuss options with the producer including the employment of other individuals licensed or permitted to conduct predator control work (e.g. licensed trappers and hunters, guide outfitters, permit holders, etc.).

If there is reliable evidence to believe a large predator (e.g. bear, cougar, wolf, coyote) has injured or killed livestock, and higher priority commitments and/or extenuating circumstances (e.g. remote location/Crown land/poor access) do not preclude attendance, members will:

- conduct a field investigation of the attack and,
- where appropriate, implement the safest and most efficient control measures available to capture and destroy or relocate the offending animal

*Note: If appropriate, members may employ the use of another licensed or permitted individual (e.g. licensed trappers and hunters, guide outfitters, permit holders, etc.) as part of their control action. However, if a member is uncertain as to what constitutes an appropriate response, they are to contact their immediate supervisor directly.*

See the Livestock-Predator Conflict Response Flow Chart for a convenient summary.

Questions or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Mike Badry, COS HQ.

**Approval:** Barry Farynuk, Chief Superintendent  
Provincial Operations

**Date:** June 28, 2012





## GENERAL ORDERS PART III ORDER #28-2013

<b>Issue Date:</b> September 19, 2013	<b>Effective Date:</b> September 19, 2013
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**Subject: Human-Wildlife Conflict - Predator Control - Neck Snares**

### Summary

Part II Order #05-2013 is rescinded. Subsequent to a joint COS/FLNRO review, and with Deputy Minister approval, the use of neck snares by members of the COS is reinstituted under the restrictions listed below to ensure predator control actions are as selective and humane as possible.

### Policy – Neck Snares

#### 1.0 General Provisions

1. Officers must complete certification training (i.e. PRO Level 2) before they are authorized to deploy neck snares.
2. All neck snares must be equipped with a tension spring and a break-away device appropriate to the species being targeted.
3. Neck snares may only be deployed during the winter season.

#### 2.0 Action Required

##### 2.1 Officer

1. Check neck snare sets as often as practical, but in any case no less frequently than
  - a. every 72 hours if set on private land, or
  - b. every 7 days if set on Crown land.

### Questions

Question or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Sergeant Darrell Ashworth, Provincial Predator Conflict Prevention and Response Coordinator.

<b>Approval:</b> Jeff Ginter, A/Chief Superintendent Provincial Operations	<b>Date:</b> September 19, 2013
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## GENERAL ORDERS PART II ORDER #09-2014

<b>Issue Date:</b> April 11, 2014	<b>Effective Date:</b> April 9, 2014	<b>Policy Chapter:</b> Information Management
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**Subject:** Human Wildlife Conflict Report ("HWCR") – COS Data Entry

### Summary

The COS is responsible for entering a HWCR received directly by COS staff into the PEP Database and for correcting any data entry errors with a HWCR entered by Emergency Coordination Centre ("ECC") staff.

Effective April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the following regional program administrative support ("RPAS") staff (also posted on the Human-Wildlife Conflict webpage) will have access to the PEP Database in order to facilitate these actions:

- Kootenay – Tracy Young
- Okanagan – Leslie Cooke
- Omineca – Jo-Anne Chartrand
- Peace – Christine Smilik
- Skeena – Lizzette Namox
- South Coast – Anna Guercio
- Thompson-Cariboo – Barb Matthews
- West Coast – Denise Sexton

### Action Required

#### Officer

1. Send an email with all of the relevant details, to your RPAS when:
  - a. a HWCR is received directly by you (i.e. it has not been forwarded to the COS by ECC staff); or
  - b. a HWCR, or information therein, has been incorrectly entered by ECC staff into the PEP Database.

#### RPAS – With Access to the PEP Database

1. Enter or correct a HWCR, as required. Do **not** enter an ERS that has been received directly by the COS into the PEP Database. These violation reports are only entered into COORS.
2. If taking leave, arrange coverage for your region in your absence and indicate your alternate in a Microsoft Outlook automatic reply.

### Questions

Questions or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Inspector Wayne Zimmerman, Support Services.

**Approval:** Aaron Canuel, A/Superintendent  
Program Support



**GENERAL ORDERS  
PART III ORDER #18-2015**

<b>Issue Date:</b> March 6, 2015	<b>Effective Date:</b> April 1, 2015	<b>Policy Chapter:</b> Wildlife Act
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**Subject: Amendments to the *Wildlife Act* and Regulations Related to Guide Outfitting**

**Summary**

Order in Council No. 045/2015 will bring into force on April 1, 2015, a number of significant changes for the guide outfitting industry, including assistant hunting guides in particular.

Amendments respecting assistant hunting guides are intended to provide additional business certainty to guide outfitters by simplifying the regulatory scheme and making it easier to hire and manage employees. Effective April 1, 2015, an assistant hunting guide licence is no longer required. In order to act as an assistant hunting guide in BC, a person must

- be 18 years of age or older
- not be prohibited from applying to be an assistant guide or from assistant guiding itself (e.g., as a result of a failure to pay a fine, as a result of a regional manager's prohibition, etc.)
- successfully complete the assistant hunting guide exam, approved by the Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch
- pay the required fee for the approved exam
- secure employment with a licensed guide outfitter
- carry a written (hard copy or electronic) authorization issued by their employing guide outfitter while guiding; the authorization includes (among other data) a unique identification number assigned under the authority of the Director to a person who passes the assistant hunting guide exam

Guide outfitters must maintain a copy of every written authorization for a period of 7 years from the date of issue.

**Background and Additional Resources**

Additional information is available from the following documents or websites:

- Bill 5 – 2014: Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act  
Bill 5 amends the *Wildlife Act* and various other statutes in the NRS.
- OIC 045/215  
OIC 045/215 brings sections in Bill 5 related to guide outfitting, and consequential regulation amendments, into force on April 1, 2015.

- FAQs Prepared for Guide Outfitters and Assistant Hunting Guides

This document was prepared by Fish and Wildlife Branch staff for guide outfitters and assistant hunting guides. It is publically available on the FrontCounter BC webpage: [Guide Outfitter Licence Guide](#).

- Backgrounder – *Wildlife Act* and Regulation Amendments Summary

This document was prepared by Fish and Wildlife Branch staff for the Conservation Officer Service and includes additional information on the assistant hunting guide exam, guide outfitter responsibilities, the written authorization, and record keeping.

- Assistant Hunting Guide Certification Program

The GOABC currently administers the assistant hunting guide exam, which is available online, in-person or by phone.

### **Violation Tickets**

While the above-noted changes repeal and replace offences under the Act and regulations, the necessary amendments to the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation remain under development. These consequential amendments should be in place by April 1, 2015, or shortly thereafter. Staff will be advised accordingly.

### **Questions**

Questions or concerns about the foregoing should be directed through your supervisor to Inspector Wayne Zimmerman, Support Services.

<b>Approval:</b> Wayne Zimmerman, Inspector Support Services
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**GENERAL ORDERS  
PART III ORDER #66-2016**

<b>Issue Date:</b> August 24, 2016	<b>Policy Chapter:</b> Human-Wildlife Conflict
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**Subject: Bear Smart Status Review** [New Initiative]

The objective of the **Bear Smart Status Review** is to ensure designated Bear Smart communities are continuing to meet the Bear Smart criteria that were considered during the original review process. In doing so, the review is intended to bolster community efforts to reduce human-bear conflicts and to maintain the integrity of the Bear Smart Community Program.

More specifically, the **Bear Smart Status Review** will:

1. Identify the ongoing efforts and successes of the community regarding Bear Smart criteria.
2. Identify areas of concern that need attention to ensure Bear Smart status is maintained.
3. Seek feedback on challenges and concerns with implementing the Bear Smart Community Program.

Overseen by the COS, the review will take place every 5 years following Bear Smart designation.

Seven communities (Kamloops, Squamish, Lions Bay, Whistler, Port Alberni, Naramata and New Denver) have successfully attained official "Bear Smart" status. The 5 year review of Kamloops' status is currently underway and Squamish, Lion's Bay and Whistler will be contacted this year to initiate the review process.

See the [Bear Smart Status Review Framework](#) for further information.

**Questions**

Questions or concerns about the foregoing may be directed through your supervisor to Deputy Chief Conservation Officer Chris Doyle, officer in charge of Provincial Operations.

<b>Approval:</b> Aaron Canuel, Deputy Chief Conservation Officer Officer in charge of Program Support
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