

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for the

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURE / WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agriculture / Wildlife Advisory Committee (AWAC) identifies, and seeks solutions to, conflict between wildlife and the agriculture sector of the province.

AUTHORITY

The AWAC reports to, and receives all its authority from, the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will be comprised of members from:

- BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) - 4
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) - 3
- BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) - 2
- BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) - 1
- Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN) - 1
- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) - 1
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DU) - 1
- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) - 1
- BC Ministry of Forests (MOF) - 1

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Environmental Conservation and Protection:** Agricultural policies and practices, and industry development will be conducted in a manner that protects and conserves the environment.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Environmental protection policies and initiatives will consider the economic sustainability of agriculture.
- **Consultation:** The agriculture industry and governments will consult with one another in a timely, inclusive and transparent manner
- **Cooperation and Consensus:** Industry and government will work in a cooperative manner and seek consensus on joint initiatives and solutions.
- **Regulatory Certainty and Equitability:** Environmental regulations will be fair, consistent and predictable and will be administered in an equitable manner.
- **Prevention and Stewardship:** Agricultural practices will work to prevent environmental degradation and encourage individual and community stewardship.

OBJECTIVES

The AWAC is to provide a forum for exploring opportunities to enhance the compatibility of agriculture and wildlife objectives within the province. Specific objectives are:

- **Communication:** To foster effective communication on agriculture/wildlife issues between members of the committee and other interested parties.
- **Consultation:** To serve as a forum for consultation on current and emerging agriculture/wildlife issues including legislative initiatives of governments.
- **Solutions:** To find and promote workable solutions with respect to wildlife issues affecting the agriculture industry and vice versa.
- **Coordination:** To provide coordination to the actions of industry, government and communities to resolve agriculture/wildlife issues.
- **Timeliness:** To encourage timely resolution of issues implementation of solutions.

SCOPE

- AWAC will build on existing partnerships and relationships between parties to find solutions to issues and to facilitate improved communications at all levels.
- AWAC will develop an annual work plan to outline priority issues, activities, deliverables and performance measures.
- AWAC will maintain a list of current agriculture/wildlife issues and initiatives requiring monitoring, discussion or action by the committee, its members, or the Partnership Committee.

COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

- The committee will meet 3 to 4 times per year
- WLAP and MAFF leads will serve as co-chairs
- MAFF will be responsible for providing the meeting venue and administrative support to the committee (meeting notices, minutes, etc.)
- Member organizations determine who their representatives will be. Alternates are acceptable.
- Guests are welcome but should notify the chair in advance. Their level of participation is at the discretion of the chair but will not include a role in decision-making.

REVIEW

The AWAC will review these Terms of Reference annually and forward any desired changes to the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment for approval.