



Landscape and Wildlife

- 1. Do you support the use of license and permit fees to support programs such as the migratory bird permit that supports the Wildlife Canada restoration program and other authorized programs?***

Yes. Currently, funds from the sale of migratory game bird hunting permits go to Wildlife Habitat Canada. Since 1984, over \$50 million has helped support over 1500 habitat conservation projects across Canada.

- 2. There is need for financial support for implementing SARA measures to protect wildlife that includes roundtables with Indigenous and non-Indigenous community participation. How would you improve the process and financial support for the implementation of caribou recovery in North Eastern British Columbia from an economic, social and environmental perspective?***

Our government has taken swift action to protect our nature and wildlife that depends on it. We've set an ambitious target to double the amount of nature protected across the country and we are well on our way to meeting that goal. We have also backed that up with the single-largest investment to protect nature in Canadian history, which helps to protect and recover species at risk with a focus on priority places, species, and sectors to achieve lasting outcomes for multiple species.

Conservation of terrestrial species like caribou is primarily the responsibility of provinces and territories. However, over the past year alone, we have taken concrete steps to protect the critical habitat of boreal caribou by:

- negotiating historic agreements with Saskatchewan, Labrador, NWT, Alberta and Yukon, collaboratively with local First Nations, for caribou habitat protection and range planning provincial and territorial lands
- issuing the first-ever order for the protection of boreal caribou on federal lands;
- published three progress reports regarding the protection and recovery of boreal caribou across Canada.

The latest progress report published at the end of June demonstrates that provinces and territories have made progress on protection plans and on the ground recovery efforts. Our government will continue to work closely with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders on a path forward.

- 3. Although BCWF supports user pay (license, surcharges and fines) supporting conservation programs, we believe the level of funding is inadequate for fish and wildlife sustainability, particularly in the face of climate change. Everyone has an impact on wildlife through their carbon use. When will you use carbon tax money to support the ecological functioning and resilience of landscapes and watersheds nationally? Will you make this a priority, working with the provincial governments?**

Our government is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat. Following a decade of lost time under the Harper Conservatives, we've taken action to protect nature. That is why we have invested a historic \$1.3 Billion in Budget 2018 to protect Canada's wildlife and wilderness. We are also doubling the amount of protected lands and oceans. Our goal is to protect 2.3 million km² by 2020. Since 2015, we have protected an additional 530,000 km² of our land and oceans – an area a little bigger than Spain. We will continue to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and scientists to protect, sustain, and restore our species in their natural habitat.

In addition, a re-elected Liberal Government will dedicate \$3 billion for natural solutions to climate change. This includes our commitment to plant 2 billion trees over the next decade and to support efforts to better conserve and restore forests, grasslands, agricultural lands, wetlands, and coastal areas.

- 4. The government has announced they will become involved in grizzly bear management. How will the federal government become involved in the management of grizzly bears in BC? Will you bring resources to adequately inventory grizzly populations, implement measures to protect habitat, and involve both indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders? Will the same consultation techniques be applied that were used during the southern caribou protection decision which provided top-down direction using federal legislation with no resources or support for the implementation of difficult land use decisions?**

Based on a scientific recommendation by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), our government recently listed the western population of the Grizzly Bear as "special concern". This category is for species which may become threatened or endangered in the future, and requires the government to work closely with all stakeholders to develop a management plan that is reported on every five years. Resources from our historic nature investment will support this process.

- 5. Environmental Assessment processes must be able to deal with the remediation of legacy sites, such as Mount Polley. How will the federal government force immediate remediation for sites that have been polluted by both operating and defunded companies?**

For many of these cases the jurisdictional responsibility starts with the province. As we have demonstrated, our first approach is always to work with provinces. In cases where the federal government has jurisdiction, for example under *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Act*, we proceed where appropriate with enforcement. To ensure the highest degree of environmental protection design standards thereby helping prevent future cases of environmental contamination, we have improved the Impact Assessment

process to very specifically require a detailed assessment of decommissioning and remediation for major projects.

- 6. A recent decision to create a national park reserve in the South Okanagan incorporated conservation lands which were purchased to protect wildlife habitat. How will the ecological integrity of these sensitive landscapes be protected from the development and commercialism that has occurred in national parks such as Banff? What are the mechanisms to ensure local stakeholder input into the national park reserve?**

On July 2nd, 2019, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia and the Syilx/Okanagan Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally work toward establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. This is a significant step towards the establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. The goals of establishing a national park are to protect the diversity of vegetation and landscape features of representative ecosystems, maintain the ecological integrity of wildlife habitat and plant species, and provide opportunities for quality visitor experiences, such as recreational activities and the presentation of natural and cultural heritage. Moving forward, the Parties have agreed to support a consensus approach to decision making in the negotiation and the implementation of the national park reserve establishment agreement. The agreement will define the terms and conditions for the establishment, development, management and operation of a national park reserve. Parks Canada will work with the Syilx/Okanagan, the Government of British Columbia, communities, conservation groups, private businesses, ranchers, and tourism and municipal organizations to conserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of this special place, and to see this national park reserve become a reality to enjoy and use for generations to come.