



BCWF NEWS

2019 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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BC Wildlife Federation President's Report

Submitted by Bill Bosch

It is a pleasure to have been voted in as the new President of the BC Wildlife Federation. It is a role I am no stranger to as I held this position from 2012-2014. Past President, Harvey Andrusak has worked tirelessly over the past two years to guide the organization to where it is today. I want to thank him for his dedication and his continued support as he serves as past president and intends to stay active with fisheries conservation issues. I put my name forward to lead the BCWF again because I believe strongly that it's time government and industry recognized that fish, wildlife and habitat need to be respected. The board and I will be working to take this on over the next year. Here are a few updates on what the BC Wildlife Federation has been working on during the first half of 2019:

Moose Solutions Roundtable

On behalf of the BC Wildlife Federation, Gerry Paille Wildlife Allocations Committee Chair has been involved in the Moose Solutions Roundtables. Their last meeting was hosted in the beginning of April by Indigenous and Provincial representatives in the Cariboo-Chilcotin / Region 5. Approximately 50 people participated in the session with representation coming from guides, resident hunters, trappers and forestry companies. Ranchers have also been involved in these discussions but were unable to attend this meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to review and approve draft Terms of Reference for the Roundtable, provide population and habitat assessment updates, identify shared solutions and actions, and seek consensus on next steps. The Moose Solutions Roundtable reached consensus on 3 top priority solutions for immediate effort and action for moose recovery and management. These are:

1. Plan and undertake access management, especially for non-status roads, combined with forest licensee road deactivation and habitat restoration.
2. Develop a multi-faceted and integrated approach to understanding and addressing predator impacts on prey while also improving habitat. There is a strong desire for timely action on reducing impacts from predators.
3. Enhance population assessment methods to include Indigenous and local data sources and develop common and accessible information platform to inform decisions.

Skagit Headwaters

The BC Wildlife Federation has joined more than 110 conservation and recreation groups to oppose the Imperial Metals mining permit for the Skagit Headwaters. The BCWF raised concern last year around plans to clear cut large areas of an unprotected "donut hole" of lands in the Skagit area, which are surrounded by parks and protected areas.

The proposed mining would not just impact British Columbia's wilderness but would threaten salmon and orca whale recovery efforts downstream in Washington. The Skagit River has its source in British Columbia but flows through Washington State before reaching the Puget Sound. It is a key provider of healthy salmon populations. British Columbia needs to do its part to protect this invaluable watershed. The protection of this area is important not just for the wilderness in British Columbia, but for the aquatic habitat downstream in Washington State. Now is the opportunity to connect this wilderness of international importance that has been delayed for too long. You can visit our website for more information about denying the permit to Imperial Metals and how we need to keep them out of Skagit Headwaters and Manning & Skagit Provincial Parks for our fish, recreation & quality of life.

Mount Polley

The BCWF has submitted a letter to Minister Wilkinson requesting an update on the progress of the investigation into the Mount Polley Tailings Dam failure in 2014. This dam failure resulted in destruction of fish habitat in Hazeltine Creek and Polley Lake and discharge of effluent into Quesnel Lake. The BCWF is concerned in the long term that the mine will become an orphaned site and that future remediation will be funded from public purse rather than having the "polluter pay". If charges are not brought forward by August 2019, no further legal action stemming from this event will be possible.

Amendments to the Federal Fisheries Act

The Canadian House and Senate have voted for Bill C-68. The Fisheries Act amendments now move on to get royal assent from the governor general and will be brought into effect before the House and Senate break for summer. The Bill C-68 amendments to the Fisheries Act are good news, especially for our salmon and trout. The BCWF and like-minded fisheries organizations see this as another positive step for the protection of critical lower Fraser River fish habitat in the area known as the Heart of the Fraser. With the changes included in Bill C-68, we now look forward to having much of the Heart of the Fraser designated as sensitive fish habitat. Returning the Fraser River salmon, sturgeon and steelhead trout populations to abundance levels of yesteryear and reclaiming its world renown status is in the best interests of all citizens in this province. The BCWF salutes Fisheries and Oceans Minister Wilkinson for his vision in starting the process of greater protection and restoration of this invaluable, iconic resource.



Glyphosates

At the 63rd Annual General Meeting, delegates voted to pass the resolution to oppose the spraying of glyphosates and other systemic herbicides. The position of the BCWF is that clear cuts be burned or manually prepared, as has been done in the past, rather than aerially treating them with herbicides. The former post-harvesting treatments help the new seedlings get established without the habitat damage and potential contamination with glyphosates and other herbicides.

The BCWF also opposes the current professional accountability model. Under this model, the responsibility to manage habitats with various forest treatments, including herbicides, was turned over to the forest companies. The BCWF would like to see the permitting and approval of post-harvesting silvicultural treatments returned to an accountability to impartial experts in government.

The sad state of our ungulate populations (especially moose) in the B.C. interior is partially linked to the alteration and disruption of their habitats that are largely managed commercially by the forest industry for wood fibre production and extraction. The provincial government should provide the resources needed to evaluate and monitor the impacts wrought by chemical applications on both wildlife and fish habitat under the current accountability model.

The BCWF suggests forest management move to a natural systems model, by which all elements are valued, managed and integrated, rather than simply optimizing conifer growth in chemically treated and established plantations. Such integrated models are currently in use in Britain and Sweden.



Federal Election

Finally, the federal election is just around the corner and the BCWF is in the process of preparing some key questions we will be asking the candidates. Stay tuned for the questions. Once they become available you will be able to find them in our next member update, in the next edition of the BC Outdoors Magazine or on our website under the News & Updates. It's time government and industry recognize that fish, wildlife and habitat need to be respected.

You can keep up to date on our other current initiatives by visiting our website or reading our Member Updates that go out bi-weekly via email.



63rd Annual General Meeting and Convention in Fort St. John

The 63rd Annual General Meeting and Convention was hosted in Fort St. John by the North Peace Rod and Gun Club from May 8 - May 11. Forty expert speakers presented research and answered questions based on the theme of this year's AGM, "Predator-Prey Dynamics." Two hundred delegates, direct members and guests from 10 regions of the province spent three days voting on resolutions, conducting business and electing the 2019/2020 Board of Directors.

Bill Bosch from Kelowna was elected president of the BC Wildlife Federation. Bosch has a lengthy background of volunteer leadership within the BCWF. It is Bosch's second time in the president's role as his first term was from 2012-2014. Bosch has been past president and treasurer of the BCWF, and is past regional president and was an Oceola Club executive member for 22 years. He is the current chair of the BC Conservation Foundation and BCWF representative to the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Bosch's executive committee of the BCWF board of directors is made up of vice-presidents Dave Carleton from Summerland and Chuck Zuckerman from Port Coquitlam, treasurer Alison Carleton from Summerland and past-president Harvey Andrusak from Nelson.

Andrusak was president of the BCWF from 2017-2019 and was instrumental in leading the campaign to save sturgeon and salmon habitat on the gravel stretch of the Fraser River, known as the Heart of the Fraser.

As the new treasurer, we asked Alison Carleton why she submitted her name, "I am a bookkeeper by trade, an avid outdoorsperson and I strongly believe in the BC Wildlife Federation, that is why I put my name forward."

Chuck Zuckerman is newly elected to the executive as Vice-President. Chuck has been co-chair for the Recreational Sports Shooting Committee over the past year, he spoke in front of the Senate Standing Committee on National Security over Bill C-71 and is Regional President for Region 2: Lower Mainland. Zuckerman believes that we should leave the planet better than it was and it is time to give back to future generations. "Every day is a gift and that is why we call it the present and we must fight to preserve our noble way of life. We are the only voice for everything that walks, flies and swims. My goal here at the BCWF is to educate and advocate."

Two first time directors have been elected, Rob Chipman from the North Shore and Alan Dabb from New Westminster.

Rob Chipman grew up camping, fishing and hunting in BC and cherishes the memories and opportunities that BC's wild landscape offers. Chipman has operated a successful Vancouver real estate and property management company for the last three decades. "It's very important to me that future generations have the same opportunity to make the same sort of memories I have, and it's even more important to me that we maintain functioning, intact natural systems as much as possible while coping with an ever expanding and heavy human footprint."

Chipman hopes to help the BCWF change the electoral math so that politicizing wildlife policy generates negative results, and promoting sound policy pays off at the voting booth. "We can do that by continuing to be political while not becoming partisan, by sharing fact based, scientifically supported knowledge with the urban voter, and by continuing our calls for more funding, clear objectives, the application of science to policy and increased social license."

Alan Dabb was born and raised in BC and has been hunting and fishing from a young age. He got a BA in political science and went to law school. He practiced law in Vancouver for 10 years. He is now Vice President of Legal Services for Telus. "I really believe in the BC Wildlife Federation. I believe it is the voice of hunters and anglers in British Columbia. Secondly, I believe in what they stand for. Hunting and fishing are a very important part of my lifestyle and I think they support that better than any other organization in BC. I hope to bring a business perspective and to apply the business and legal skills that I have. I want to assist the organization to get to the next level so they can make a more significant impact on hunting and fishing issues and wildlife management issues in the province."



63rd Annual General Meeting & Convention Highlights Awards



The keynote was delivered by Dr. Virgil Moore, director of Idaho Fish and Game. Moore emphasized that any progress requires multiple collaborative efforts and that opinion leaders need to be brought into the process to get policy into legislation.

Other speakers included Jennifer Psyllakis, provincial director of Wildlife and Habitat Branch, Chad Day, president of the Tahltan Central Government, Shane Berg, executive director of the Chief Foresters Office, Dr. Sophie Gilbert, Dr. Andrew Weaver, leader of the Green Party, John Rustad, opposition, and many more amazing speakers. All of the speaker presentations are now available on the BC Wildlife Federation website.

The Club Fun Night was hosted by the North Peace Rod and Gun at their range on Friday, May 10th with trap shooting, rifle raffles and a delicious roast beef dinner. On Saturday night the awards gala dinner was held at the Pomeroy hotel to celebrate the achievements of members and wrap up the three-day convention.

Inspector Len Butler of the Conservation Officer Service of BC was awarded the Conservation Officer Award of the year. Dean Kuny was awarded the Bert Palmer Memorial big Game Trophy Award. Rick Morley was presented the Art Downs Memorial Award for his article "The Case for Compensation". Cameron Grywachski won the Biggest Sheep taken in BC for his Big Horn harvest measuring 154 2/8. Lastly, Yvonne Foxall, Deputy Director of the Fish & Wildlife Branch of FLNRD was awarded a print for thanks of all her years of assistance to the Federation



Youth Awards

There were two winners for the youth awards. Wyatt Cleverley was awarded the Youth Big Game Award as well as the Youth Outstanding Big Game Award. Noah Dalla Lana won the Lee Straight Award for Fishing and the Youth Fishing Award.



Next Year's AGM

The Convention concluded with the announcement that next year's BC Wildlife Federation AGM and Convention will be held in Nanaimo, BC.

Please visit bcwf.bc.ca for the full list of the Board of Directors and to access the presentations given by this year's AGM speakers.

Thank You to the 2019 AGM & Convention Sponsors!





Chronic Wasting Disease

With the recent detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Montana, near the B.C. border, questions have been raised on what this means for B.C. Wildlife. The BC Wildlife Health Program has released the following to provide more information on CWD and what this new detection in Montana means for B.C.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a degenerative neurological disease that affects species in the deer family (cervids) and is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. The origins of CWD are not known but the disease was first described in captive mule deer and elk in Colorado and Wyoming in the 1960s, followed by positive diagnoses in free-ranging deer and elk populations. CWD has now been diagnosed in captive and free-ranging cervids in 24 US states, 3 Canadian provinces, 3 countries in Europe and Korea. The recent detection of CWD in Montana (near the BC border) has increased the risk significantly for B.C. wildlife.

Symptoms of CWD may take months or years to develop in a newly infected animal. In early stages of the disease animals look normal. In later stages, infected animals may show signs of extreme weight loss, drooling, difficulty swallowing, increased drinking and urination, poor coordination or stumbling, trembling or depression. An infected animal can shed the infectious agent (prions) throughout the course of the disease, even before symptoms develop. There are no vaccines or treatments; the disease is fatal in all cases.

There is no direct evidence that CWD can infect humans and there has never been a human case of CWD. However, there is much that is not known about the disease, so a precautionary approach is recommended. The World Health Organization and other human health experts recommend that all products from animals known or suspected to be infected with CWD are not used for human food.

CWD has not been detected in B.C. The B.C. Wildlife Health program has been doing surveillance for CWD in free-ranging cervids since 2002. To date, over 3900 samples have been tested and there have been no CWD positive cases in B.C. wildlife. CWD may enter B.C. through natural animal movement or the import of an infected carcass, tissue or contaminated biological products such as urine-based scents, all which can contaminate the environment with the CWD prion.


What can you do to help?

If you hunt in an area outside B.C. that is affected with CWD, please leave the high risk tissues (brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes and organs) where you harvest the animal and return only with the meat, antlers with cleaned skull plate and/or hide (in a sealed container) with all tissue removed.

Surveillance is key to confirm B.C.'s CWD-free status and to detect the disease as early as possible so we can respond in the most effective way possible. Hunters in B.C. are encouraged to submit their cervid heads to the BC CWD Surveillance Program at one of the drop off locations.

If you wish to keep the skull or antlers, remove all brain tissue from the skull and connecting bone plate and disinfect with a 10% bleach solution. If you wish a hide tanned, remove all tissues, enclose in a plastic or sealed container, freeze and submit for tanning as soon as possible.

Please report any sick or unusually thin animals to the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.



Three primary concerns regarding the proposed South Okanagan National Park Reserve:

- **The loss of local investment and control** – Properties purchased through donations and licence surcharges from the BCWF membership, and resident hunters and anglers, are at risk of being expropriated. Parks Canada has a history of managing for different agency-based objectives which are often inconsistent with the intent of protected areas and/or local objectives.

- **Parks Canada's failure to protect and enhance biodiversity** – Parks Canada has a history of commercialization, and privatization within wilderness areas. Through this commercialization there has been a failure to adequately protect endangered species in national parks located in B.C.

- **Parks Canada's exclusion of traditional activities such as hunting** – The Province's framework states existing users are protected, yet there is no evidence that traditional activities are protected in national parks.

The South Okanagan national park reserve proposal: Is a national park reserve the right way to go?

In October 2017, the federal and provincial governments, along with representatives from southern communities of the Sylix/Okanagan Nation, announced their "renewed commitment" to work together to establish a national park reserve. There are three areas in the proposed national park reserve in the jurisdiction of the Lower Similkameen, Penticton and Osoyoos bands.

The proposed national park reserve has raised concerns amongst the citizens in the region. Especially upsetting is the five years spent in honest negotiations with stakeholders to put together a Land and Resource Management Plan – the plan sets an overall strategic direction for the management of crown lands within the region – which was signed off by government and stakeholders, yet was never implemented, despite considerable public objection.

The BCWF supports the idea of protecting the rare and endangered ecosystem of the South Okanagan – Similkameen, as it is home to 30 federally-listed species-at-risk, but the BCWF does not believe the best way to protect these species-at-risk is to put them in a national park reserve.

Putting this land in a national park reserve would isolate other conservation partners such as the Nature Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Over the years, these organizations have purchased private lands within the proposed national park boundaries with the goal to conserve and enhance the sensitive ecosystems there.

Parks Canada's exclusion of traditional activities, such as hunting, is also a major concern. Being able to hunt and fish is a proud outdoor heritage for many British Columbians, and it is likely this would be restricted if a national park reserve is established. A process must be established for parks that is inclusive of all communities in the area.

Although, the online consultation period has ended, your voice can still be heard. **Take a moment to visit our website bcwf.bc.ca and submit your letter in opposition to the proposed national park reserve to your federal and provincial representatives.**



Investing to create a legacy of fish and wildlife diversity and abundance:

The BC Wildlife Federation's Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

On behalf of our 43,000 plus members, The BC Wildlife Federation welcomed the opportunity this month to address the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on the vital issues that relate to natural resource management sustainability in British Columbia.

Throughout its history and under various names, British Columbia's fish and wildlife management agency has been among the most understaffed and underfunded of any of the fish and wildlife agencies in North America.

While the provincial budget increased nearly five times, the budget for natural resource management barely moved. When we bring this up with our elected officials, we are told that all the money goes to the big three; health, education and social services, yet when we remove the big three from the budget, we find out everything else tripled. From 1998-2011 the renewable resource ministry budgets declined by nearly 56 per cent and from 2002-2010 the number of full-time equivalent employees declined by 27 per cent. It isn't that health care, education and social services are taking up the entire budget; it is that everything other than natural resource management takes up the entire budget.

We are seeing a lack of investment in many of our fish and wildlife populations. Mountain caribou are in decline across most of the province; some populations are so low they will likely disappear in the next two decades. Chilcotin and Thompson river steelhead, once iconic runs in British Columbia, have gone from 3,000 to 4,000 fish returning annually with a catch and kill fishery, to being under threat to imminent extinction. Moose populations in the central interior have experienced 50-70 per cent declines in the last decade. Mule deer and elk populations are also declining in parts of the province. British Columbia is failing to adequately protect its natural resources, which is being exacerbated by the mountain pine beetle epidemic, forest fires and climate change effects on forest ecosystem structure and productivity.

While most jurisdictions in North America have dedicated funding models for Wildlife, B.C. does not. Currently 100 per cent of freshwater fishing licence fees are dedicated between the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC; only \$2.6 of \$14.5 million of hunting licence fees are dedicated to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

The following BCWF recommendations to the Standing Committee of Finance come at a critical time. Economic diversification is highly desirable especially during this current period of environmental uncertainty in rural B.C. Socially, we need to continue to have our youth connected to nature. Furthermore, now more than ever we must address the increasing human footprint on our province and work collaboratively to ensure conservation of our landscapes and watersheds for future generations.

Recommendation #1 – Establish a Wildlife Governance of Funding models in 2020

The BCWF supports the establishment of a Wildlife Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister on wildlife policy issues. The fund would be a means to leverage community technical and financial support from both indigenous and non-indigenous communities that would support multiyear initiatives.

The following principles should apply:

1. Those who contribute funds should have a say in how they are allocated and be provided clear information on how those funds were spent.

2. Allocating funds must be transparent and accountable and will be subject to freedom of information requests.

3. First Nations must be included in allocations, in their role as wildlife and habitat managers.

Recommendation #2 – Improve the Forest and Range Practices Act

- Improve landscape level management of forest resources through the introduction of regional management planning.
- Establish objectives that support the sustainability and resilience for important forest values at the landscape level.
- Ensure governments has the authority and capacity to manage B.C. public forest resources including the ability to evaluate revise and approve operational plans and requirements that require forest tenure holders to protect the environmental, social and cultural values.
- Increase public confidence in forest and range management by increasing transparency and public access to forest management information.

Recommendation #3 – Natural Resources Practices Board

- Increase the effectiveness of water and land management through the establishment and funding independent Natural Resources Practices Board reporting to the legislature.
- Independent performance and compliance audits and reporting should be provided by the Natural Resources Practices Board to the public on key sustainability issues at a landscape and watershed scale.
- Establish and fund a science secretariat to serve as a resource for research and knowledge to assist the Natural Resources Practices Board.

Recommendation #4 – Water Sustainability Fund

Establish a 75 Million-dollar BC Watershed Sustainability Fund to invest in initiatives and efforts that deliver long-term water and watershed sustainability across B.C.

- Collaborative partnerships at the watershed scale
- Modernized watershed-based land-use plans
- Community-driven restoration initiatives
- Innovation supporting province-wide advancements in watershed protection

The importance of these watershed services will only increase as water quality becomes a critical issue and be more expensive to deal with in the face of climate change.



British Columbia is fortunate to have a rich diversity of fish and wildlife resources, but it is starting to disappear. We are adding more people to British Columbia's population every day, putting more stress on our natural resources, and at the same time cutting funding and capacity to steward those natural resources. Without proper funding this downward trend in our natural capital will accelerate. We invite the B.C. government to join us in maintaining the province's wealth through sound strategy in conserving our diverse wildlife and fish resources and providing education and awareness in conservation and the outdoors. We look forward to working together on the recommendations made on behalf of the membership of the BC Wildlife Federation.





Wetlands Education Program

Submitted by Alyssa Purse, Wetlands Education Program Coordinator

It's that beautiful time of year where the sun is shining, tourists are out in full force, and the Wetlands Education Team is scarce in the office because we are all over the province hosting wetland-related workshops.

Our whirlwind of workshop excitement started in May where myself, the Program Coordinator, Neil Fletcher, our Program Manager, and two eager interns travelled to various events on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. In Squamish, we supported the Squamish River Watershed Society with an outreach event where we engaged 500 students in a fish and watershed game, then we took off to Nanaimo to host a training session for the new Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP). This program was recently adopted by the Provincial Government to assess the health of wetlands near forestry cut blocks. Following these events, we were off to the beautiful Comox Valley to host a weekend Wetlandkeepers workshop and co-host a two-day Roundtable Discussion and Conference about development protection for wetlands in the Cumberland area.

Another notable event in May was the meeting for Moberly Marsh - Burges James Gadsden Provincial Park Project. This meeting was kindly hosted by the Golden District Rod and Gun Club at their club house which is adjacent to the proposed site. The meeting was held as an opportunity for local First Nations, community members, including members of the Rod and Gun Club, and BC Park staff to provide input in the preliminary stages of developing a wetland enhancement plan. Moberly Marsh was previously managed by Ducks Unlimited, but it is no longer cost effective to manage the eroding dike system so BCWF is proposing an enhancement of Moberly Marsh to complement the decommissioning of the dikes. The active Golden District Rod and Gun Club is keen to collaborate with the BCWF and BC Parks with this project and has generously offered the use of their boats to access the site, provided access to their club house as a venue for education and training on wetland restoration techniques, and offered hands-on help from its club members. Thank you Golden District Rod and Gun Club in all your help with this initiative!

June saw us journey up to Region 7A & 7B to host Map our Marshes workshops for three remote communities in Tsay Keh Dene, Fort Ware, and McLeod Lake. We also constructed a wetland at Morfee Elementary in Mackenzie, which will act as an outdoor learning lab for education in science, technology, engineering, and math.

We continued to Prince George to host another FREP training session, and then down to Kamloops in Region 3 to host a Wetlandkeepers workshop in partnership with BC Parks, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc First Nation, and the Kamloops Fish and Game Club. Every workshop we host is tailored to the needs of the community, and this one was no exception. The Kamloops workshop focused on wetland restoration design and techniques, while also touching on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and wetland conservation. We also participated in a 2-day reconnaissance in Kamloops with our partners to evaluate degraded wetlands in Lac du Bois and on Tk'emlúps reserve lands and developed recommendations for future restoration works.

July will be just as busy as its predecessors, with one FREP training session in Nelson, and two more tailored Wetlandkeepers Workshops in Rossland and Cawston, respectively. We have a moment to catch our breath in August, and then it's off to the Kootenays for our annual Wetlands Institute, which will be held September 30-October 6. This 7-day environmental stewardship workshop is coming to Rossland, Creston, and surrounding areas. It is with great pleasure and excitement that we bring this valuable course to the area free of charge for those that live in BC and have a wetland project that benefits the province. This course is free of charge thanks to our numerous sponsors.



Registration is still available for the following events:

- **Rossland Wetland Keeps Workshop**
- **Cawston Wetlandkeepers Workshop**
- **Wetlands Institute Southern Kootenays Area**

To signup for these events, or to learn more please visit our website bcwf.bc.ca

THESE PROJECTS WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF:



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Reel Fishing Kicks off

Submitted by Tobias Roehr Program Assistant

Our first Reel Fishing workshops launched this spring. The first workshop at the end of April had a strong attendance with participants ranging from Intermediate anglers to never having fished before. Some of the topics that were introduced and explained during this workshop were lake fishing, river fishing, lure and bait fishing, float fishing as well as an overview on rods and reels. Participants were also encouraged to ask questions and give their input during group breakout sessions.

We visited Cougar Creek in Delta for the conservation aspect of the workshop. This is an urban creek that receives Coho and Chum runs in the fall as well as cutthroat trout and other species of fish. In addition, the area provides habitat for riparian insects and amphibians as well as other wildlife. During the habitat restoration portion of the workshop participants learned about the history of the canyon and its importance to local wildlife, fish and returning salmon. To aid the local wildlife we removed invasive plant species such as English Ivy, that is slowly taking over the canyon.

We were able to remove several tarps loads of ivy! To ensure bank stability and provide more shade opportunities for fish and other wildlife in this canyon we were able to plant 50 new plants which included Sitka Spruce, Snowberry and Sword fern. The restoration project was a real success and the Cougar creek Stream Keepers appreciated our help.

On the second day, we met bright and early at Buntzen lake for the fishing portion of the workshop. Here, participants were able to gear up their own rod and gain first hand experience on reading the lake to find fish, all while angling. In total we caught close to 25 fish. This workshop encourages catch and release, however some first-time anglers were able to take home their first fish to fry up and enjoy that evening. While doing this, participants also gained experience in how to prepare the fish for transport (i.e. Gutting and cleaning) as well as different cooking ideas.

Overall, we are very happy with the turn out and success of this workshop. We are looking forward to the following workshops.

Please visit bcwf.bc.ca to learn more about Reel Fishing.



3 EASY STEPS

FOR LEAVING A GIFT TO THE BCWF IN YOUR WILL



Step 1:

Contact the BC Wildlife Federation and inquire about the Canadian Free Wills Program. We will then provide you with a list of participating lawyers in your local area.



Step 2:

Contact the lawyer and your financial planner to get advice for creating or updating your Will. With their advice, depending on the type of gift you make, your estate can benefit from certain tax advantages.



Step 3:

Provide your lawyer with the correct details for the BCWF:
BC Wildlife Federation
Attn: Development Coordinator
#101 – 9706 188th Street
Surrey, BC V4N 3M2
Charitable Business Number:
11880 1315 RR0001

To find out more about this limited time offer, contact Jessica Vestergaard at giving@bcwf.bc.ca or call 1-888-881-2293.

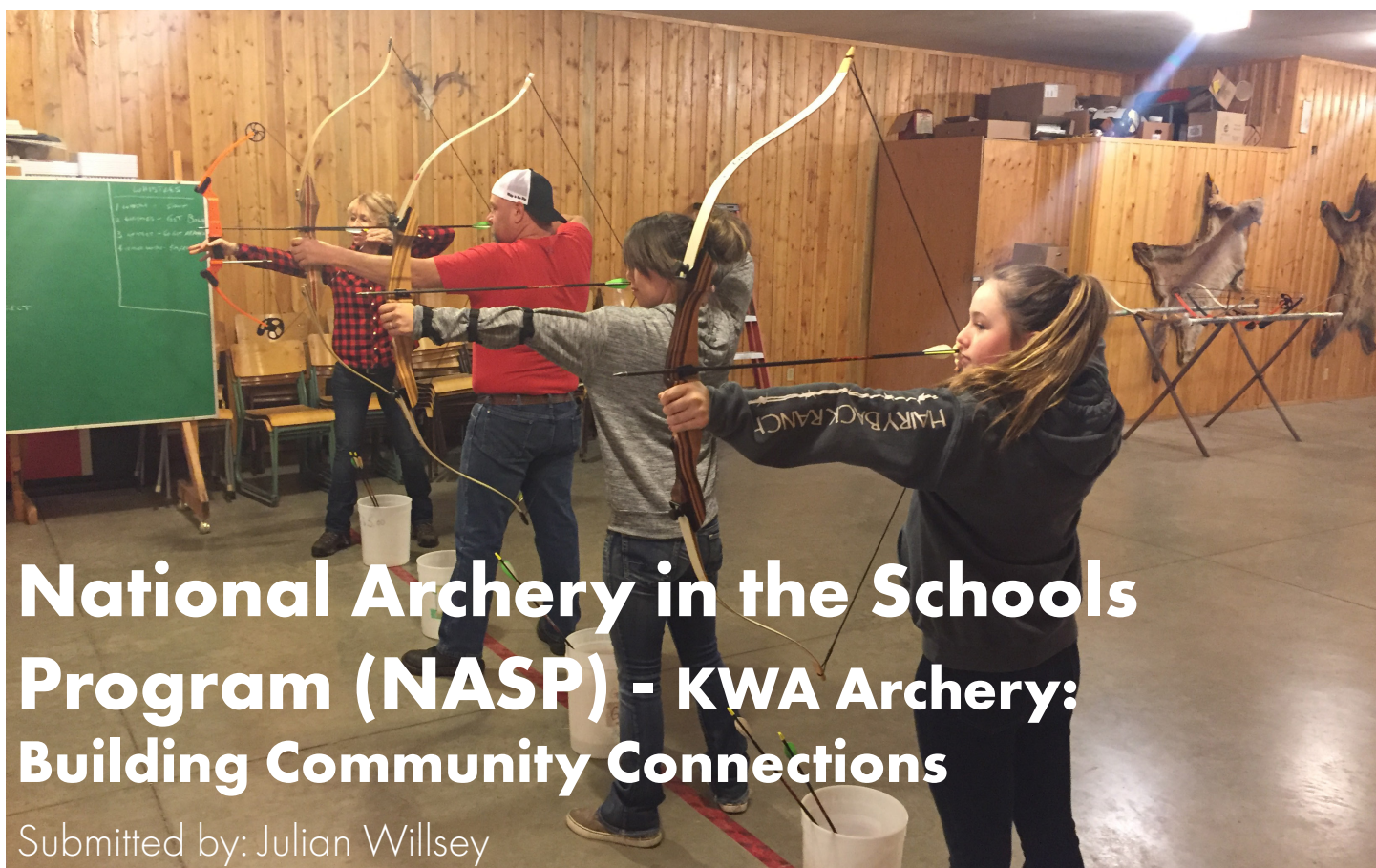
FREE WILLS.... REALLY?

It's true! The BC Wildlife Federation is offering our members and valued donors aged 55 or older the opportunity to have a sample Will prepared or updated by a local, qualified lawyer for FREE!

Making a planned gift is one of the most generous ways a supporter can show their dedication to their favorite charity. You can make a profound difference in the conservation of British Columbia's fish, wildlife and habitat by supporting the future work of the B.C. Wildlife Federation.

While there's no obligation to include the BC Wildlife Federation in your Will, please consider the impact your gift will make in protecting and conserving British Columbia's fragile wildlife and habitat. You will never make a more important investment in the future of our province!





National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) - KWA Archery: Building Community Connections

Submitted by: Julian Willsey

Some of the criteria my wife and I had when moving into the Rock Creek area was that there had to be a good rifle range and there had to be an archery range. Upon visiting the KWA facility at Rock Creek we knew we had met that set of criteria. They have an excellent trap and rifle/pistol range as well as an indoor archery range. KWA, it turned out, hosts many prestigious archery events but, unfortunately, there was very little local archery happening. The indoor range had not been used for some time. Together with two other KWA members we decided to get archery happening again. Myself (Julian Willsey), Scott Douglas and Les Best, all KWA members, took the NASP instructor's course and set out to get archery happening again.

We offered a kids' session from 3:30-5:30pm and an adults' session from 7:00 to 9:00pm. It was a slow start with only about three kids and a handful of adults coming out. However, word soon spread, and we are now up to 10 kids and 12 adults, on average, participating. Our last session saw 14 adults attending. It has become a great social night with a great crowd and lots of laughs.

At the same time, I spoke to the principal, Bo Macfarlane, at Boundary Creek Senior Secondary (BCSS) in Midway about our archery program. He was very excited at the prospect of re-introducing archery and we planned out a three-week Phys Ed course at BCSS. It was very successful, and we reached 72 students daily for three weeks. We tried out 3D archery outside and also had a fun competition at the end. The competition was optional, but most students participated and really enjoyed the course.

Because of the interest and the principal's commitment to archery, he was successful in getting a \$4,100 grant to purchase archery equipment for the school. Archery has now become part of the PE curriculum at BCSS!

It was interesting to note that many students came to me and told me they did archery at home, and also hunted with their parents with their bows. They were very pleased to be able to come to school and hone their skills.

There were also some students at BCSS with severe learning disabilities who participated. They were apt students and with the help of their teacher aide, Andrea Kohler, who also happens to be an accomplished archer, had some very good confidence-building sessions. They were very proud of their new skills and couldn't wait for their next class.

KWA is hosting the Traditional Bowhunters of British Columbia rendezvous in May. The principal has requested that we leave the course up so that he can bring his students to KWA for a day and walk and shoot the 3D course. In exchange they will take down the 3D targets when finished. Our KWA connection to the community and schools is complete.

For more information about the NASP program please visit bcwf.bc.ca to learn more!



Thank You for Supporting the 2019 Conservation Lottery!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Conservation Lottery. 16 dedicated BCWF clubs stepped up from across the province and together they sold over 1,500 tickets. We can't thank you enough for all your time and hard work selling lottery tickets this year! With your help we were able to sell the most Conservation Lottery tickets in BCWF history! For the first time ever we sold out of our online tickets! Overall, we sold 99% of the 20,000 tickets this year.

A special thank you goes out to the three clubs who sold the most tickets this year. Thank you to **Nanaimo and District Fish & Game Protective Association** who came in 1st place, **Kamloops & District Fish and Game Association** who came in 2nd place, and **Parksville - Qualicum Fish & Game Association** who came in 3rd place. In appreciation of their contribution, each of these clubs will be receiving a special BCWF prize pack.

With 10 great prizes we had 10 lucky winners from all over British Columbia. And the winners were:



Our grand prize winner of the 2018 Dodge Ram was Wendy Titchkosky from Langley. Wendy and her husband Lawrance were very excited to get the call that they won a new truck! They are proud members of the BCWF and they said that they buy tickets every year! Our second place prize winner of the Swellfish Outdoor Equipment Co. 470 Angler Boat & 20hp motor was Sandra Sorensen from Nanaimo. Sandra and her family came to the BCWF office to pick up their brand new boat!



Our other prize winners were:

3rd Prize WestJet gift of Flight - Jerad Dry, Gold River

4th Prize Rambo Electric Bike - Andrew Dumont, Scotch Creek

5th Prize 14 x 16 Deluxe Wall Tent - Gay Nordstokke, Vanderhoof

6th Prize Vortex Viper Binoculars - Chris Bayley, Duncan

7th Prize Italian Sporting Goods Gift Card - Debbie Cunning, Powell River

8th Prize Mark's Commercial Stormtech Jacket and Gift Card - Peter Carter, Surrey

9th Prize Backroad Map Books Adventure Package - Adam Instant, Williams Lake

10th Prize Husky Gas Gift Card - Matthew Breten, Vernon

Upcoming Events

Events

- **August 1st to August 4th** – Rockin' River Music Festival
- **August 16th to August 18th** – Okanagan Hunting and Outdoor Show
- **August 28th to September 1st** – Interior Provincial Exhibition

If your club has any events coming up, we would like to hear about it! Please email us at communications@bcwf.bc.ca with any stories or event information. Thank you!



CONTACT US

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