

Landscape and Wildlife Sustainability Questions

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?

While we must always ensure that the cost of permits and fees are affordable for those who enjoy these sports and activities, the use of license and permit fees is something that many hunting, trapping and angling organizations and conservation organizations across Canada agree is essential to the sustainability of our wildlife. For too long, conservation groups were left trying to manage conservation efforts on their own. Jagmeet Singh's New Deal will ensure that those working to conserve our land, air, and water, finally have a true partner in Ottawa. We've committed to increasing the amount of land, air, and water that's conserved across the country and we'll work with local conservation groups to ensure those efforts incorporate local knowledge and work that's been underway for years.

2. There is a 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?

British Columbians know that we don't have to pit the economy and the environment against each other – we can take strong action to protection species at risk like the caribou while still ensuring that our forestry and natural resource industries, and the good jobs they provide, can continue to thrive. But for too long Liberals and the Conservatives have put wildlife recovery and protecting our land, air, and water, at the bottom of their priority list. After years of inaction it's time for strong action to protect species at risk in Canada. New Democrats will use all the tools available under the Species at Risk Act and ensure the implementation of recovery strategies to preserve biodiversity for generations to come.

3. Although the 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 personal 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 provincial governments?

A New Democrat government will work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to ensure that our land, air, and water is protected for generations to come. While previous governments have failed to make the climate crisis a priority, Jagmeet Singh's New Deal will keep real, concrete solutions at the top off our priority list to protect our health and our ecosystem .

4. The government has announced that they will become involved in grizzly bear management. How will the federal government become engaged 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?

New Democrats believe that the best wildlife policy should always be developed in partnership with anglers, hunters, trappers, First Nations and other stakeholders — and not imposed by governments without proper consultation. Jagmeet Singh's New Deal would ensure that conservation groups and provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments finally have a true partner in conservation and are involved in every step of the 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 defunct companies?

The Mount Polley mine tailings spill was a disaster not only for the people in the Caribou, but a disaster for our land, air, and water as well. Five years later and the community is still facing serious uncertainty about cleanup plans that are slated to continue to 2022. The Liberal government must be accountable to Canadians for the biggest environmental disaster in Canadian history. They talk a big game, but their action shows that time and time again their priority is protecting and siding with big business against communities like these. The Conservatives worked to roll back environmental standards when they were last in government and show that they'd do the same thing again, to devastating consequences. New Democrats will introduce an Environmental Bill of Rights to ensure that remediation of sites like these are a requirement of the polluters.

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?

We know that the good jobs that come with ecotourism are important to the economy and to the livelihood of local guides. New Democrats have always had the backs of workers, but we must always ensure that we're balancing this economic development with our duty to protect our land, air, and water. We've seen what happens in these pristine areas when Liberals and Conservatives put the needs of their rich friends and wealthy corporations first. Only Jagmeet Singh and the New Democrats can be trusted to stand up to the interests of big developers and big businesses. We will ensure that the need to create good jobs for local communities is always in balance with the need to protect our land, air, and water for generations to come.