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of the environment for the benefit of
present and future generations.***

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Watershed and Fisheries Sustainability Questions

There are a large number of fish species in British Columbia recommended for Species at Risk Act (SARA) listing by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Since 2002, COSEWIC has concluded that 62 marine fish species were “at risk,” but the government has only listed 12 for SARA protection. 33 of 44 (75%) of COSEWIC assessed salmonid populations in BC are found to be at risk of extinction.

1. How will you support the recovery of wild salmon? Please include objectives, funding levels, and ministry, governance, legislative, regulatory and on-the-ground actions you will take.

2. Will you support the Province of British Columbia's watershed sustainability fund and strategy with matching federal funding commitments?

The BCWF is calling for:

- **Funding for fish habitat restoration and enhancement** in key watersheds where values are at risk, and proactively providing funding for the protection of watershed functioning and resilience, particularly in light of climate change.
- **Acting on** the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recommendation to list the Interior Fraser Steelhead as Endangered under the Species at Risk Act.
- **Funding support for roundtable** co-management of fish and wildlife with Indigenous, local, provincial, and federal government involvement.
- **Participation** in landscape and watershed sustainability planning by setting objectives, aiding in the planning framework, and investing resources (particularly from carbon taxes) towards environmental sustainability and adaptation.



Landscape and Wildlife Sustainability Questions

The BCWF is calling for:

- **Higher funding** allocations from general revenue to fish and wildlife conservation activities.
- **Investment** in fish and wildlife enhancement funding programs that would support grassroots conservation organizations delivering on-the-ground projects that benefit fish and wildlife.
- **Development of standards and protocols** for measuring and evaluating the value of natural capital assets and the impact of projects to ensure compensation and offset programs (e.g. Environmental Damages Fund) are appropriately assessing costs to industry.
- **Establishment** of an initiative that would fully assess models for conservation financing that could be applied in Canada. This task could be undertaken by a newly established Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel.
- **Investment** in promotion of fishing, hunting, and trapping as important sustainable development activities that also contribute to financing conservation activities.

British Columbia is seeing a disturbing trend of vanishing 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. Moose populations in the central interior have experienced 50 – 70 percent decreases in the last decade. Mule deer and elk are also declining in parts of the province.

1. The B.C. Wildlife Federation supports the protection of land and waters for conservation purposes as long as the protection initiatives include established uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, camping and hiking. **When moving to increase protection or conservation of lands and waters, what will your policy be on including stakeholder groups, such as the B.C. Wildlife Federation, in discussions about the selection and setting of objectives for new protected areas?**
2. The B.C. Wildlife Federation believes that funding for wildlife and habitat management is woefully inadequate across Canada. **Will you support an increase in budgetary allotment to fish and wildlife management? If so, what are your ideas for new sources of funding for wildlife and habitat management?**



Firearms Questions

Arbitrary classification and general firearms bans are becoming increasingly common around the world based on emotional, social responses to the appearance or perception of a firearm. **Prohibitions on firearms should only be implemented through a consistent, transparent, and evidence-based classification process that fully consults responsible firearms users.** The BCWF Firearms and Recreational Sports Shooting Committees have provided the following questions for federal MP candidates and parties regarding the Firearms Act.

1. Bill C-71, an Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, received Royal Assent on June 2019. Do you support repealing Bill C-71? Yes / No
2. Do you support or oppose Bill C-21, now before parliament?
3. Do you support or oppose the May 2020 Order-in-Council prohibiting 200,000 firearms owned by RCMP-vetted Canadians?
4. Do you support or oppose allowing municipalities to ban handguns?

The BCWF is calling for:

- **Repeal of Bill C-71**
- **Commitment** to take a strong position and action on organized crime, gangs, other illegal firearms activities and the associated root causes of firearms-related crime
- **No implementation** of any general bans on firearms.