



B.C. Wildlife Federation Club Handbook 2024

By supporting the B.C. Wildlife Federation, you are helping to enhance and promote the wise use of fish, wildlife, and habitat for present and future generations.



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Introduction

Whether your club is already affiliated with the B.C. Wildlife Federation, or is considering becoming affiliated, we thank you.

Your participation is essential to the current and future operations of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, and we look forward to working with you to help protect and preserve British Columbia's wildlife and wild places. You and your members are an integral part of our organization, and without you and your support we would not be able to continue our work restoring wetlands, tagging sturgeon, monitoring mule deer populations, opposing resource extraction and development in sensitive ecosystem areas, engaging over 10,000 youth in conservation stewardship education, and advocating for fishers and hunters across British Columbia.

If you have any questions regarding your club membership, or for information about our programs, please reach out to us directly at membership@bcwf.bc.ca or by phone at 604 882 9988 ext. 301.

Sincerely,

The B.C. Wildlife Federation Membership Department

What is the B.C. Wildlife Federation and what do we do?

The B.C. Wildlife Federation is a province-wide conservation organization representing British Columbians whose aim is to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats and to promote the wise use of air, land, and waters for the benefit of present and future generations.

We are comprised of over 43,000 active members and represent the interests of all outdoor enthusiasts in B.C. including hunters and anglers.

The Federation represents the interests of wildlife and fisheries to interested parties. These groups may include governments, service clubs, other non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

The activities of the Federation are grouped into different Board committees and internal departments. Committees are headed by a chair who is appointed by the president and is responsible for coordinating the efforts of club members, regional associations, and direct members with respect to conservation issues relating to fish, wildlife, and the environment for the people of British Columbia.

Internally, the B.C. Wildlife Federation has an incredibly dedicated group of staff and volunteers. From Advocacy, Conservation Stewardship, Education and Membership, we're working on everything. From ensuring your voices are heard regarding matters important to you, improving access and restoring wetlands around the province, educating, and engaging with adults and youth, and providing our members with amazing benefits. All to ensure our members and affiliated clubs have the support they need.

Executive Committee and Board of Directors

Executive

David Lewis, President
 Mark McDonald, Vice President
 Darlene Clark, Vice President

Alli Deelstra, Treasurer
 Jesse Zeman, Executive Director

Regional Presidents

Region 1	Vancouver Island	Douglas Bancroft	Region 5	Cariboo-Chilcotin	Cassy Premack
Region 2	Lower Mainland	Ed George	Region 6	Skeena	Ken Franzen
Region 3	Thompson-Nicola	Jason Bellows	Region 7A	Omineca	Tim Reimer
Region 4E	Kootenay East	Kevin Podrasky	Region 7B	Peace	Gerry Paille
Region 4W	Kootenay West	Terry Hanik	Region 8	Okanagan	Nick Kozub

Directors (2-Year Term)

2023 – 2025

Rob Chipman
 David Oliver
 Pat Whittingham
 Bill Swain

2024 – 2026

Grant Heibert
 Jodi McKay
 Nicole Currie
 Glenn Flynn

Committees

Access
 AGM – Awards
 AGM – Nominations Past Presidents
 Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW)
 Constitution & Bylaws
 Conservation Officer Service
 Communications
 CORE
 CORE Hunter Retention & Recruitment
 Diversity, Equality & Inclusion
 Enforcement/Rewards/Report All Poachers & Polluters
 (RAPP)
 Finance
 Firearms

Fisheries, Inland Interior
 Fisheries, Inland Northern
 Fisheries, Saltwater
 Fisheries, Tidal
 Fishing Forever
 Forestry
 Governance
 Habitat and Sustainability
 Indigenous Relations
 Recreational Sports Shooting
 Resolutions
 Strategic Planning
 Wildlife Disease/Human Conflict

Club Representation at Annual General Meetings

Only Registered Club Delegates in good standing may vote at the B.C. Wildlife Federation’s Annual General Meeting, but all club members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Votes are calculated based on the number of members in good standing for each club as of December 31st of the current year for the following years AGM.

Members

- All B.C. Wildlife Federation members are eligible and invited to attend the AGM yearly.
- Each year, we share details on where the AGM will be hosted as well as other details in the “Notice of Annual General Meeting” both on our website and through the bi-weekly member updates sent via email. Information about our past AGM can be found here:
- Clubs are granted voting rights based on their Club Membership numbers:

100 or less members = 1 vote

101-200 members = 2 votes

201-500 members = 3 votes

Plus 1 vote for every 500 members over 501

Note:

- Family Memberships are counted as two (2) people for AGM voting purposes

Junior (Youth) Members

- Each year, prior to the annual convention, Regional Wildlife Associations (Regions 1 – 8) will communicate with clubs in each region in order to elect one Junior (Youth) Member 18 or under from the Region to serve as a voting delegate at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.
- Clubs should keep up regular communication with both their Junior (Youth) Members and their Regional Boards in order to determine which Junior (Youth) Members

Programs & Initiatives [\(click each title to visit our website for more information\)](#)

The B.C. Wildlife Federation promotes a conservation ethic amongst British Columbians through a variety of educational programs and initiatives.

Initiatives



BCWF Conservation App is a ground-breaking approach to the protection of BC's natural resources. Users can report issues related to illegal use or abuse of our natural resources. The app works both in and out of service using your phone's GPS with reports automatically sent to the appropriate enforcement agency. The current version includes the latest fishing and hunting regulations at your fingertips and can be downloaded for free on iPhones and Androids.



Fishing Forever – Fishing is a skill that can be learned and enjoyed by anyone. Through the Fishing Forever program, the B.C. Wildlife Federation helps spread the message that if you have a disability, you can still get out and enjoy what nature can offer, though it may require some help you didn't need before. The Fishing Forever program provides an opportunity where people with disabilities can learn, or continue, to fish and enjoy the outdoors.

Women Outdoors Programs



The **BCWF's Women Outdoors: Skills & Experience Program** is a program designed specifically for women and offers a variety of 3-to-4-hour workshops such as *Outdoor Safety and Introduction to Map & Compass Navigation*, *Westcoast Field to Forest Foraging*, *Small Game Prep & Introduction to Basic Butchery*, *Westcoast Ocean Interpretive Walks*, and many more. Our workshops will take place mostly outdoors and will feature smaller group sizes to ensure participants enjoy a highly immersive experience with ample access to the instructor. The workshops will not only educate participants on the basics of safe, responsible, and ethical outdoor recreation, but are also intended to increase awareness and self-confidence, fostering a deeper connection and respect for the nature and wildlife of our local parks, mountains, greenspace and public lands.



The **BCWF's Women Outdoors Weekend** is an all-inclusive weekend getaway for adult women that offers outdoor recreation courses like fishing, hunting and shooting. Women's Outdoor Weekend events provide women with the opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor skills in a fun, relaxed and non-competitive atmosphere over the course of a weekend.

Youth Programs



BC National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) teaches grade 4 to 12 students in international-style archery as part of the in-school curriculum to improve academic performance and participation in the shooting sports. BCWF is proud to serve as the regional headquarters for NASP in BC. NASP BC provides teacher training and support to NASP schools, instructors, trainers, volunteers, and coordinates tournaments.



Wild Kidz, Go Wild! And the Young Conservationist Scholarship Program – Youth for Conservation are programs that engage youth in conservation initiatives, help them build solid leadership skills and inspire them to lead future environmental stewardship projects in their communities.

Wetlands Programs



Wetlands Education Program activities result in hands-on habitat restoration, enhancement, and conservation in dedicated communities throughout British Columbia. The pillar programs include the following workshops: Wetlands Institute, Wetlandkeepers, and Map our Marshes — all of which educate BC communities about the importance of wetlands for wildlife habitat and water quality and teach wetland stewardship skills.

Hunting, Angling, and “Learn To” Series



CORE – The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education Program is an outdoor education course that provides students with a basic standard of knowledge and skill for their safe and ethical participation in outdoor recreation. The CORE program is useful for anyone interested in outdoor recreation and wildlife and should be viewed as the foundation for any outdoor recreational user. The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education program, or CORE, is an outdoor education course that is mandatory training for new hunters in British Columbia. In British Columbia, hunter education became mandatory in 1974.



Learn To Hunt and Fish Series – Virtual Learning – Webinars are available via Zoom, making learning accessible no matter where you’re located. The Learn to Hunt and Fish webinars are offered free for members of the BCWF, and for a fee for those who aren’t. We are offering education to teach new hunters how to get started and to give experienced hunters the tips and tricks they need to elevate their skills.



Learn to Hunt and Fish Series – In-person Learning – The Learn to Hunt Academy is a two (2) day, in-person workshop to develop your hunting field skills. The Academy is an immersive hunter education program that will help you gain all the practical skills, knowledge, and confidence to be a safe and successful hunter in BC. Whether you’re brand new to hunting or looking to further develop your hunter competencies, this workshop provides the opportunity to learn hands-on skills from local experts. The inaugural Academy Workshop is being held September 16 & 17, 2023 at the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club located in Abbotsford, BC. Think your club might be interested in hosting a Learn to Hunt Academy Workshop? Reach out for more information to programs@bcwf.bc.ca!

Regions

The Regions of the BCWF act on behalf of their member clubs and are comprised of those participating clubs that wish to support each other over issues that are specific to their geographic region. These region boundaries are usually based on watersheds but in special cases they reflect narrower geographic areas, such as the East and West Kootenays. Regions are sometimes referred to as zones, reflecting the early roots of the Federation.

Regions are responsible for the message on wildlife and fisheries remaining at the forefront of their geographical area. This means working with Regional Districts, all their area MLA's, their Members of Parliament, and provincial government ministries like those involved with forestry, environment, highways, agriculture, and even education.

Regions are governed under the constitution of the provincial BCWF and are run by a delegate-elected board. Regions may have their own constitution and bylaws that address items such as club delegates and membership fees, but any regional constitution should not give less opportunity to the members than that of the parent body. Regions are encouraged to hold meetings of member clubs on a quarterly basis.



REGIONS

- Region 1 – Vancouver Island
- Region 2 – Lower Mainland
- Region 3 – Thompson Nicola
- Region 4E – East Kootenay
- Region 4W – West Kootenay
- Region 5 – Cariboo-Chilcotin
- Region 6 – Skeena
- Region 7A – Omineca
- Region 7B – Peace
- Region 8 – Okanagan

Benefits

Club Membership vs Direct Membership

Category	BCWF Club Dues	Insurance Options*	
		ATV	No ATV
Family	\$36.50	\$14.00	\$10.50
Regular	\$27.00	\$7.00	\$5.25
Senior	\$22.00	\$7.00	\$5.25
Junior	\$16.50	\$7.00	\$5.25

Breakdown of Categories:

- Family:** 2 adult spouses and all dependents 18 and under residing in the same household**
- Regular:** Individual adult aged 19 to 64
- Senior:** Individual adult aged 65+
- Junior:** Individual young adult aged 18 and under, that are not part of a Family Membership

*Insurance options, ATV or NO ATV, costs depend on the options selected by the affiliated club selected based on its membership.

**In Family Memberships, only the two adult spouses will receive B.C. Wildlife Federation Membership cards. For insurance purposes, dependents must always be under the supervision of a BCWF Member.

Individual Member Benefits

Your membership has its perks! Check out all the ways your BCWF membership benefits you.

- **Insurance coverage** tailored to your needs. Excess Third-Party Liability insurance covering a wide range of outdoor activities, plus the use of ATVs and other vehicles while engaged in hunting and angling.
- **Access** to the decision-makers. Effective, timely and trusted advocacy efforts with both federal and provincial governments.
- **Education, outreach** and increasing **awareness** of the value of fish and wildlife management to the public and government, plus discounted registration fees on many BCWF programs.
 - More information about the BCWF's programs and education: <https://bcwf.bc.ca/programs-and-education/>
- **Free access** to all episodes of the Learn to Hunt and Fish Series!
 - More details found here: <https://bcwf.bc.ca/learn-to-hunt-and-fish-series/>
- Regular advocacy **updates** from the BCWF via our website, newsletters, and social media.
- **Member discounts** by presenting your BCWF membership card at Marks Work Warehouse, Bass Pro and more!
- **BC Outdoors Magazine**: six issues of B.C.'s most trusted outdoors publication.
- Complimentary **BCWF vehicle decal**

Club Benefits

- **Advocacy**
 - Representation of club and club members' interests
 - Federal and Provincial Representation
 - Recreational Sports Shooting
 - Lead and Noise Management on Ranges
 - Advocacy for firearms owners
 - Resident Access
 - Fish & Wildlife Management
 - Access to B.C. Wildlife Federation Committee representatives and the opportunity to join committees to represent both your club and the B.C. Wildlife Federation

- **Club Marketing**
 - A link to your Club's website will be available on the B.C. Wildlife Federation website. We can also spotlight your Club's projects, events, or stories in the BCWF Newsletter, weekly Member Updates, and the BC Outdoors Magazine
 - New CORE graduates are encouraged to sign up with their local club and are provided with a list of all B.C. Wildlife Federation Affiliated Clubs
 - For more details, please see the attached document regarding Marketing & Communications for Affiliated Clubs

- **Club Insurance (optional) *Please Note: Capri insurance costs for 2024 will be determined by Capri after completing the renewal document which will be attached to the affiliation renewal email***
 - Flexible Options to suit your club and member's needs (please see attached brochure)
 - \$5,000,000 OR \$10,000,000 Commercial General Liability (CGL) policy limit for all Member Clubs
 - Individual Members Personal Excess Liability \$2,000,000 limit per member
 - \$2,000,000 Director's and Officer Liability limit
 - \$50,000 Accident Benefits Policy limit of for all Club Directors and Volunteers,
 - Club Volunteers are insured under the \$200,000 BCWF Legal Defense Policy and they have access to a free 24-hour Legal Advice Hotline
 - No additional charges for normal club events
 - No additional charge for Guest Passes

Club Information

Once your club has made the decision to become affiliated with the B.C. Wildlife Federation, we will need to know more details about your club and its membership. This includes the names and contact information for your Executive Committee, Board of Directors, as well as details about your members.

The B.C. Wildlife Federation has staff on hand to assist Clubs and Members with questions and concerns, as well as a large volunteer base which includes our Executive Committee, Board of Directors and our many Committees. We understand the value of volunteerism and recognize that many of our volunteers, as well as those of clubs such as yours are also working full or part time jobs outside of the time devoted to the overall success of your club.

As such, we will work with your Executive Committee to determine the appropriate contacts within your club for invoicing and payment, membership details, and other information. This helps to streamline communications and ensure that we are not inundating a single person with all inquiries and requests for information.

Invoicing

The B.C. Wildlife Federation follows the included quarterly schedule:

1 st Quarter:	January 1 st – March 31 st
2 nd Quarter:	April 1 st – June 30 th
3 rd Quarter:	July 1 st – September 30 th
4 th Quarter:	October 1 st – December 31 st

While some clubs may follow a slightly different quarterly schedule, the B.C. Wildlife Federation will continue to invoice based on the above information. At the beginning of each year, specific invoicing and cut off dates will be communicated to the appropriate Executive Committee Member.

Forming A Club

In the event that you do not already have a Club but are hoping to form one, please find information about Societies (Clubs) on the B.C. Government website here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/not-for-profit-organizations>

<https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/complete/statreg/1527898742/15018/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl>

Club Constitution

For clubs looking for a model club constitution, the Government of Canada has an example listed on their website:

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cd-dgc.nsf/eng/cs04999.html> .

Social Media

The B.C. Wildlife Federation has a wide reach using various Social Media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube.

If you'd like to learn more about how the B.C. Wildlife Federation can assist your club using it's Social Media Platforms, please see the included attachment regarding Marketing and Communications.

For more information about our Social Media policies and links to the individual platforms, please visit:

<https://bcwf.bc.ca/social-media/>

BC Outdoors Magazine and Publication Dates

Every active member will receive BC Outdoors magazine, **valued at \$25.95/year**. Issues are published and sent out by the publisher every two months. If a member is not submitted before the cut-off dates, they will not receive BC Outdoors magazine.

January/February Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, November 17th

March/April Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, January 26th

May/June Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, March 23rd

July/August Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, May 25th

September/October Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, July 20th

November/December Issue: BCWF Cutoff: Thursday, September 21st