



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9360 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

8 June, 2018

Dear Minister Heyman,

The British Columbia Chapter of the Wildlife Society (BCTWS) would like to commend the government of British Columbia in developing endangered species legislation. We would like to offer our support to, and our perspective in, developing this legislation. We request the opportunity to be invited as a stakeholder in future discussions on developing endangered species legislation.

The BCTWS is a diverse and growing group of wildlife professionals and student organizations (www.bctws.ca). We currently comprise over 50 members that reside throughout British Columbia, and we support three University student chapters, each with tens to hundreds of members, based out of the University of Northern British Columbia, University of British Columbia Okanagan, and University of British Columbia Vancouver. In addition, as an official Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TWS) we are a part of an organization with close to 10,000 members from across the globe. TWS has an active Canadian Section and provincial Chapters from across Canada. Our organizations mission is to: "To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation."

Clearly, endangered species legislation will have a broad, diverse and in many cases significant influence on British Columbia's wildlife, landscapes, and peoples. The BCTWS also recognises that such legislation will have a significant impact on the day-to-day lives of wildlife professionals, including our members. Members of the BCTWS consider species-at-risk in all forms of our work and for most of us they are an integral part of our personal lives.

At this moment, the BCTWS would like to highlight four things we would like to see as prominent pieces of any endangered species legislation:

1. Science-based decision making in the listing, recovery, and delisting of endangered species. This includes acknowledging the potential for uncertainty in scientific information for some species, but not allowing such uncertainty to hinder or delay the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. Building uncertainty into decisions, rather than allowing it to derail the process, is a primary component of science-based decision making.
2. Facilitation and support of partnerships and collaboration among federal, provincial, First Nations, and local governments, private landowners and non-government organizations in the recovery of endangered species.

3. Dedicated and adequate funding to support endangered species recovery, including research and monitoring of delisted species, and to support partnerships involved in such recovery.
4. The use of market-based strategies, such as conversation offsets and credits or tax incentives, that encourage the conservation and recovery of endangered species.

Our hope for this legislation is that it will provide a simplified, unified and effective framework for the protection of species-at-risk in British Columbia and allow British Columbians to thrive economically and socially. We look forward to hearing from you, and for the opportunity to discuss endangered species legislation in British Columbia in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod L. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rod Davis, PhD, PAg
President, British Columbia Chapter of the Wildlife Society
tw.bc.chapter@gmail.com

cc. Alec Dale, Executive Director – Ecosystems Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy