



Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

Suite 103, 19140 – 28th Avenue, Surrey, BC Canada V3Z 6M3 Telephone: (604) 541-6332 Facsimile: (604) 541-6339 Email: info@goabc.org

Species at Risk Engagement

Discussion #1: Species at Risk Legislation in B.C. – What does it mean for me?

Species at Risk legislation must include:

- carrying out activities where there are species at risk might require permission from a government agency that wasn't required in the past;
- changes to the rules you currently follow for doing things like cutting trees, developing land, managing agriculture, or building and maintaining roads;
- new decision-making processes, or changes to existing decision-making processes for allowing or denying new activities on the landscape; and
- new processes to consider harmonizing the needs of a species at risk with other values.

It needs to be at a landscape level/eco-systems based. It must be grounded in objective science, incorporate local knowledge/citizen science, and put wildlife first – not social opinion, and party popularity. We must be willing to make the tough, unpopular decisions as required, e.g., predator control.

Managers need objectives to manage to, and be held accountable for the results in their regions.

“Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.”

~Cree Indian Proverb

Discussion #2: Stewardship of Species at Risk on private land

There needs to be financial incentives to encourage participation as well as mitigation for those financially impacted.

Transparent, straight-forward information and easy-to-access/use resources.

Discussion #3: Exploring an ecosystem or multi-species approach

We see the ecosystem approach to be the most viable for effecting the most good for the broadest number of species. It must be included within the scope of species-at-risk legislation. Every species needs food and a place to live to survive, so it only makes sense to focus on the ecosystem as a whole. No one species is more or less important than the next one.



Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

Suite 103, 19140 – 28th Avenue, Surrey, BC Canada V3Z 6M3 Telephone: (604) 541-6332 Facsimile: (604) 541-6339 Email: info@goabc.org

Discussion #4 – Information Needs for Species at Risk

Local knowledge is invaluable and should be made use of.

A centralized, minable, easy-to-search and GIS-enabled database would be a great tool where data is collected and shared.

People are more likely to engage if they understand why the rules are in place, and the results of the restrictions. The ability to see what factors are having the most impact, both negative and positive. Overall, access to transparent, easily-digestible information will help create a sense that we're united for a common cause, all pulling in the same direction.

Discussion #5 – How can we make protecting species at risk fair for everyone?

The first four suggested examples of how to approach the issue of fairness have merit. However, farmers need to protect the species for however long they remain a SAR. The last suggestion is too subjective, especially in a competitive environment between farmers.

Farmers need to be incentivized to participate, with mitigation provided to landowners as required.

Landowners need to be involved in the process as a respected and valued member of the team, so that there is a sense of ownership and accountability, where they are able to see the impacts of their actions, both positive and negative.