

Stakeholder Cooperation and Wildlife Management in BC

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Stakeholder Cooperation and Wildlife Management in BC

- History
- The New Zealand Model
- Potential approach for the future

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- **History**

- **The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund**
- **The Recreation Stewardship Panel**
- **The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC**
- **Wildlife Act Amended**
- **Erosion of Resource Management Budgets**

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Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Created 1981

- based on the principle that dedicated funds, agreed to and generated by resource users through a surcharge , should be used to do vitally important fish and wildlife enhancement work and habitat conservation
- more than \$125 million has been invested through the HCTF with incalculable benefits to wildlife populations.

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- **The Recreation Stewardship Panel**
 - All conservation functions are the responsibility of the provincial government, to be funded through general taxation.
 - Users should pay the costs of providing recreation opportunities, including the costs of operation and annual facility repair. User-fee revenue should be directed to a special purpose account of the consolidated revenue fund and dedicated to the ministry's provision of recreation opportunities.
 - Contributions (the voluntary payments of money, goods, services or time) should be used to support enhanced levels of conservation and recreation beyond the base level provided through general taxation and user fees.

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Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC

- Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC was created in 2003 in response to a cabinet directive to move fish culture program out of government
- The society is funded through a long term contract between the ministry, recreation services are funded by licence fees and the conservation services by general revenue consistent with the Recreation Stewardship Report recommendations
- The Society is governed by a Board of Directors nominated for their expert experience
- Beginning in April 2003 54 percent of the licence fees were directed to the newly formed freshwater Fisheries Society of BC 25 percent of the fees in the form of surcharge fees go to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund now Foundation and the remaining 25 percent go the Ministry

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- ***Wildlife Act Amended March 1, 2005***

- These amendments will ensure that the trust fund remains independent from government.
- Therefore, the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection will no longer be the trustee for this fund.
- Instead, a board composed of stakeholders with a variety of expertise will make the decisions as to where and when trust fund money should be spent. The new trustee will be bound to follow the directions of this board.
- This new governance structure will allow the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (Foundation) to continue to provide funds to assist in maintaining healthy ecosystems and diverse populations of species that rely on those ecosystems.

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- **Erosion of resource management budgets**
 - Ministry of Forest Lands and Regional Operations , and their predecessors have seen a continual erosion of staff and capacity over the last ten years.
 - The reductions in budget is reflected in their service plan for 2010-11 69,240M, 2011-1012 45,665M 2012 -2013 43,378 M.

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- The revenue for the Habitat Conservation Funds projects comes primarily from hunting and fishing licence surcharges . This has been stable at approximately 6 million dollars per year (3.5M Fishing and 2.5 million dollars hunting)
- The budgets of FFSBC Revenue to the society from angling was \$6.9 M Conservation services were 1.2M and other revenue .9M in 2003- 2004. Six years later the funding to the society has increased from angling revenues to \$7.2M and the government conservation grant of \$1.443 M

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• **Lessons learned**

- All conservation functions are the responsibility of the provincial government, to be funded through general taxation.
- Users should pay the costs of providing recreation opportunities, including the costs of operation and annual facility repair. User-fee revenue should be directed to a special purpose account of the consolidated revenue fund and dedicated to the provision of recreation opportunities.
- This experience with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC are that their budget are stable or increasing compared to the management agencies due to competing priorities government priorities within the consolidated revenue account of government.

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• **Lessons Learned**

- The HCFTF and the FFSBC are able to partner and leverage financial technical and community support to more effectively outside of government.
- The nature of the societies gives them financial advantages to carry over funding to support multi year activities
- The organization are able to focus on their goals and have low costs of administration approximately 15%.
- If stakeholders collaborate the though the creation of and operation of these types of societies the efficiencies and delivery of the services that stakeholders can be maintained.

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- **The New Zealand Model**

- Councils employ professional staff to carry out their work. The total number of people employed by Fish & Game Councils around the country is about 70. There are also have about 500 volunteer rangers who give up their time to ensure that fellow anglers and hunters have licences and follow fishing and hunting regulations.
- The total budget from the licence sales in New Zealand is 3.257 Million dollars in 2010.
- The Fish & Game councils are Public Entities, established under the Conservation Act 1987. Although they report to the Minister of Conservation, they are not funded by taxpayers. Almost all Fish & Game money comes from the sale of fishing and hunting licences.

Fish & Game NZ is covered by the Official Information Act and must produce management plans and annual reports to the legislature.

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• The New Zealand Model

- The New Zealand Fish and Game Council and 12 regional Fish and Game Councils established in 1990 to represent the interests of anglers and hunters, and provides co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game
- Fish and Game councils are the statutory managers of sports fish and game bird resources and their sustainable recreational use by anglers and hunters New Zealand wide.
- New Zealand has 12 regional Fish & Game Councils with regional offices. The national council, with an office in Wellington, coordinates regional activities and speaks for anglers and hunters on issues of national importance.
- Each council has 12 members, elected from the licence holders of the region. An election is held every three years,. Every regional Fish & Game Council selects one member to sit on the New Zealand Council

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- **Potential Wildlife Management Model**
 - BC Wildlife Society with elected 9 from regional advisory groups 5 independent members.
 - Regional Advisory groups from Guiding Trapping Fish Wildlife and First Nations organizations .
 - Implement through legislation as with HCTF.
 - Government retains legislative and regulatory oversight for crown resource.
 - BC Wildlife Society delivers program functions within this framework.
 - Funding from Licence revenue.
 - Collaborative approach with stakeholders to achieve common goals.