



2024 Provincial Election Town Halls

PUT WILDLIFE FIRST

Many of British Columbia's fish and wildlife populations are in decline, with species such as steelhead and caribou at risk of extinction. Actions are also needed to keep common species such as moose, mule deer and mountain sheep common. Key watersheds and habitats are in peril. The B.C. Wildlife Federation is offering the next provincial government recommendations built on decades of collaboration, on-the-ground experience, and support for science-based decision-making.

The B.C. Wildlife Federation is 41,000-strong. In addition, B.C. is home to more than 110,000 licensed hunters, 300,000 licensed freshwater anglers, and 275,000 licensed saltwater anglers.

To halt the decline and restore wildlife and habitat, The BCWF is asking parties to commit to the following:

- **Wildlife management should be conducted by an agency independent of government.**
- **Funding dedicated to fish and wildlife management should be increased and driven by legislated objectives.**
- **Public access to public resources must be enshrined in law.**
- **Management decisions must be based on science, evidence, and other knowledge systems.**

The BCWF is hosting Town Halls near you!

- **Castlegar:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Castlegar & District Community Complex – 2101 6th Ave, Castlegar
- **Nelson:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 7:00pm at 801 Railway Ave, Nelson
- **Revelstoke:** Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Revelstoke Rod & Gun Club, 1928 Aspen Cres, Revelstoke

Learn more about what the
B.C. Wildlife Federation
is doing to speak for wildlife at
bcwf.bc.ca/bc2024



ASK QUESTIONS AND DEMAND ANSWERS

Are you prepared to engage with the B.C. Wildlife Federation on wildlife management and science-based management?

Hunting and angling opportunities for B.C. residents are being bargained away behind closed doors. Moose and caribou harvests have been curtailed without the BCWF being at the table. The grizzly hunt was halted across B.C. with no science-based rationale. Wild sheep harvests have been reduced for licensed resident hunters. All appropriate management levers must be utilized instead of focusing on regulating resident hunters and anglers, a solution that has failed time after time.

Are you prepared to commit to dedicated funding for habitat, fish, and wildlife?

Funding for wildlife management in British Columbia as a proportion of the provincial budget has been declining for 50 years. Relative to our size and natural diversity, B.C. spends a much smaller proportion of its budget on wildlife management compared to neighbouring provinces, territories, and states. Nearly every jurisdiction in North America has a dedicated funding model, except B.C. Dedicated funding of \$200 million a year should not only be derived from hunting license fees and charges, but also from any activity that impacts wildlife and its habitat such as forestry, oil and gas extraction, mining, wildlife viewing, ecotourism and backcountry recreational activities.

Are you prepared to support British Columbians rights to hunt, fish, sports shoot and engage in outdoor recreation?

Alaska has enshrined protections for resident hunters and wildlife management into its constitution. Wildlife management and hunting policies must always clearly favor resource sustainability and resident hunters. B.C. can make wildlife a priority with dedicated funding, legislated objectives, and resident hunter priority.

Will you commit to Wildlife Priority natural resource management?

VOTE FOR WILDLIFE AND A WAY OF LIFE

As a charitable organization, we are non-partisan and will not support specific candidates or political parties. Instead, we urge you to vote for candidates who demonstrably share our values. Invite candidates to speak at your local fish and game club. Ask questions and seek assurances that they support science-based wildlife management and fair access to fish and game for resident hunters and anglers. Offer solutions instead of just complaining about the current state.

If you are concerned that your way of life is slipping away, you are not wrong. You are also not helpless. We can influence this election candidate by candidate, vote by vote. Plan to attend campaign stops and events and ask questions of all the candidates. It is vital that they hear our concerns everywhere they go.