



Wildlife Stewardship Council

“To be a voice for wildlife and an advocate for the ecosystems that sustain all life.”
December 13th, 2014

The Wildlife Stewardship Council (WSC) commends all Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff for their consultative approach to the provincial allocation review process as well as the groups and individuals that participated with information and recommendations.

Throughout the consultation and review phases of the policy discussions, the WSC has consistently recommended to government to set a balanced, equitable, province wide share per species. This was based on the 2007 agreed upon starting point of a 75/25 harvest allocation split between recreational and commercial users respectively. Our recommendations followed the principles established in 2007 of meeting conservation needs first, followed by the sustenance, cultural and ceremonial rights of First Nations, then a priority percentage on all species for the resident hunter, and lastly the economic viability of the guide outfitting industry. We believe that the move to fixed harvest allocation percentage splits enshrined in the *Wildlife Act* will simplify the process, is solution-oriented and moves us all away from self-interest, frequent adjustments, and negative impacts to wildlife.

The WSC's first priority is the well-being of BC's wildlife. We believe the December 10, 2014 decision on Harvest Allocation is a big step forward in that direction. It will allow all those with an interest in BC's wildlife to move forward united in the important work of fostering healthy, stable and sustainable wildlife populations. British Columbia enjoys a unique, diverse and vibrant ecosystem with more opportunity for all users than anywhere else in North America. We can further that opportunity through stewardship of the resource, whether it is for cultural, social or communal purposes, filling the freezer or creating the hunt of a lifetime.

We at the WSC are excited about the future of wildlife management in BC. We look forward to assisting in the development of a roundtable, consultative approach involving all groups willing to put wildlife first.

Sincerely, Ron Frank

Executive Director, WSC