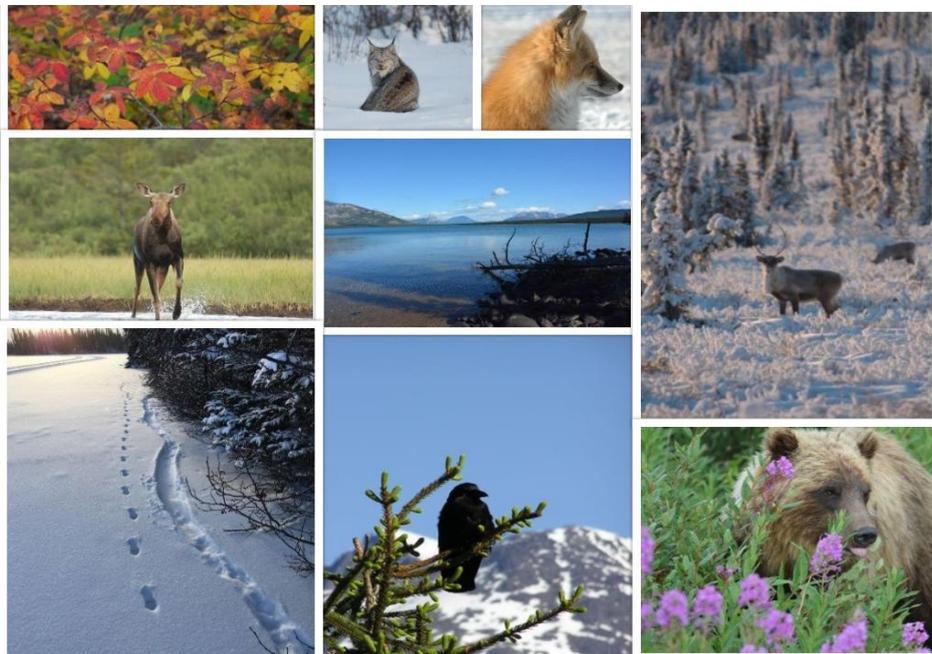# 3Nation-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum: Phase 2 Final Report on Collaborative Governance Review and Research

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9/28/20

Summary Report September 2020, Prepared for The 3 Nations - British Columbia Collaborative Stewardship Forum

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out recommendations on next steps to developing shared decision-making models for wildlife stewardship in the 3N-BC region; the ancestral territories of the Kaska, Tahltan and Taku River Tlingit Nations. It contains a summary of the feedback from the parties on key issues, and additional research that form the rationale for recommendations. The 3N – BC group is seeking recommendations on both short-term/ more immediate steps the group can take while working within current legislative systems and context, as well as mid-term and long-term recommendations on steps to take towards delivering the goal of joint authority.

To that end, we have included in the Background and Context section of this report summaries of key aspects of the discussion, to assist in informing your consideration of the recommendations. That background includes, for example, the many layers of decision-making currently involved in shared stewardship, feedback on capacity issues confronting all of the parties, and summaries of current bilateral arrangements.

We provide recommendations on both shorter-term incremental steps that could be initiated now within the existing system of wildlife management, as well as longer term efforts that would support transforming the system into a truly co-developed and sustainable governance structure. Following each set of recommendations is a summary of the feedback related to those recommendations, as the rationale for making them.

Finally, we have included several appendices with supplemental information. In the course of our literature review and other research we have identified resources which may be helpful as the group considers the recommendations, and how you may implement them. In addition, when a respondent in the interviews mentioned a resource of this nature, we noted it and have included it in the Additional Resource Appendix.

Please also note that BC's *"Together for Wildlife"* strategy released in November 2019 notes the following: "While previous discussion papers referred to 'wildlife management and habitat conservation,' for this strategy, we are using the phrase 'wildlife stewardship'. We define wildlife stewardship' as the responsible care of wildlife and habitat, including protection, conservation, restoration, recovery, regulation of human activities, administration, and enforcement. Wildlife stewardship accounts for the interest of current societies and future generations, as well as ecosystem function."[1] We have attempted to use the term wildlife stewardship, as opposed to wildlife management, throughout this report. This includes "use" in the sense of harvest and consumption.

Any information in this report that is uncited has been provided by interviewees through the interview process outlined in the Methodology section.

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[1]Government of British Columbia. *Together for Wildlife*. 2019. https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/377/2019/11/Proposed-Together-for-Wildlife-Strategy.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the research into existing decision-making for wildlife stewardship in BC and information provided in the interviews, several core themes emerged, which we have used to organize the report, including recommendations and rationale for the recommendations.

We have organized the emergent themes to follow a logic that is intended to support 3N-BC to achieve both short- and long-term goals. Although one aspect of the work does not take priority over the other in terms of their importance, it seems to us that there is a logical order in which to address the issues to support each subsequent set of next steps.

For example, we have proposed work to be done to support constructive relationships as the first theme. The interview informations suggested both helpful current practices that should be kept, and ideas to improve relationships. Next, we recommend steps to take to identify and establish a common set of shared values in order to develop a shared vision, strategies, goals and objectives. Without either good relationships or shared values, it will be immensely challenging to establish a shared decision-making model that is mutually satisfactory.

Thirdly, we highlight a key aspect that supports a framework for shared decision-making in the short to medium term: agreement on information exchange methods and a mutual understanding and appreciation for each other's information and decision-making processes. That will support the fourth step, which is to identify the most appropriate long-term shared decision making models across different aspects of wildlife management and the steps required to achieve that.

Last but not least, we make recommendations regarding the identification and implementation of short term pilot projects to test various aspects of shared decision making and the outcomes, and to synthesize the results to support the long term models that have been identified as desired by the parties.

The following are the themes and primary recommendations that have emerged from the research.

Constructive Relationships:
- Invest time in sharing examples among 3N-BC forum members of what is working well and what could be improved in terms of the relationships at current bilateral tables, as a means to establish and embrace some "ground rules" for the collective regional relationship;
- Commit to maximizing face-to-face interactions of the parties;
- When safe, undertake the in-person community engagement process that was planned prior to the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- See also recommendations under "Sharing Values," and "Exchange of Information".

Identifying Shared Values:
- Engage in a facilitated process to identify shared values in wildlife stewardship as a precursor to determining models and processes;
- Incorporate into that process a discussion of terms and their meanings to the different parties, with a view to achieving clarity, if not consensus, on the terms and approaches used in the establishment of a set of shared values; and
- Develop a process together to maintain the shared values "at front of mind" of the parties through regular review of the values and measurement of the outcomes of the work against the values.

Information used in decision-making processes

- *Information about each other:* Invest time in shared reflection and social/ co-learning, embracing activities of this nature as priorities along with more conventional management activities. This includes sharing information about each of the parties' decision-making processes, the bases for these processes (legislative, policy, traditional or otherwise) and ensuring that this information is available on an ongoing basis to people involved in wildlife stewardship among all of the parties. This may involve embedding these co-learning, information sharing and joint activities into the mandates and workplans of institutional structures and including them in staff workflows.

- *Information-sharing:* Build on developing information-sharing protocols to improve data sharing between the parties, collective harnessing of information-gathering technology, synchronization of data collection and management systems, and use of data in a transparent and safe manner;

- *Capacity:* identify options to increase capacity of the Land Guardians to collect and process data of value to all the parties, including joint data collection initiatives and Indigenous harvest data;

- *Balanced weighting of information:* Explore principles that could be jointly adopted to create greater balance in the use of Western scientific information, traditional knowledge and local knowledge to inform decision-making; and

- *Framework for use of information:* Develop a framework and process for how to jointly identify relevant information to be used to inform future decision-making across a range of wildlife stewardship decisions. Include relevant guidance on how to correctly interpret different types of information from the perspectives or worldviews of the different parties.

A regional framework and shared decision-making

- Having established key relationship requirements and identified shared values on which to base a long-term sustainable regional relationship with respect to wildlife stewardship, confirm the group's long-term governance vision, mission, goals, and objectives for shared decision-making in wildlife stewardship;
- As part of the discussion, ensure that the parties have a shared understanding of each other's terms and interpretation of governance terms;
- Engage in a discussion to confirm that individual rights will not be prejudiced or affected by the adoption of an agreement on regional shared decision-making;
- Consider a diversity of decision-making models and the potential application of components of those models to various levels of decision-making (regulatory, policy, strategic and operational) taking into account factors such as efficient use of resources, capacity requirements, exchange and use of information, and other relevant issues identified in the interviews; and
- If applicable, discuss and identify the most important decisions and priorities for implementation of a shared decision-making model in both the short and the long term.

Define and implement short term "pilot" projects

- Explore development and implementation of a regional, shared decision-making model through focus on a single species, centring a framework on the subject itself (e.g. moose). Within this process, include co-development of a vision, mission, goals, objectives, priority actions and assessment indicators;

- Track which decisions arise as most conducive for a regional table and which are best suited to sub-regional decisions/tables; and
- Test the model at appropriate junctures against the shared values and relationship principles that have been agreed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FINAL REPORT INFORMATION

The final report for this project can be found through the 3 Nations British Columbia CSF, the Government of British Columbia, and the 3 Nations Society.