



**Public Response to
Managing Wildlife to 2001:
A Discussion Paper**

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Wildlife Program
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

March 1993

Additional copies of this report can be obtained by writing to:

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to release this report summarizing the public comment on the Wildlife Program's draft strategy *Managing Wildlife to 2001: A Discussion Paper*. I would like to thank the individuals and groups that reviewed and commented on the draft strategy. It is obvious from the high quality of the comments that much thought and effort was put in to reviewing the draft. The comments will be invaluable in revising the management strategy.

Managing Wildlife to 2001 was released in the summer of 1991. A questionnaire was included in the Discussion Paper asking readers their opinions about the strategy. Readers were also asked to provide other written comments. The views expressed in the questionnaire and the written responses have been taken into account in revising the draft strategy to better reflect the views and needs of the public. It is intended that a revised wildlife strategy will be made available in the spring of 1993. At that time, while not undertaking a full public review of the strategy, key stakeholders, who offered comments on *Managing Wildlife to 2001*, will be provided with an opportunity to express any remaining concerns. Taking into account comments at this stage, it is hoped the wildlife strategy can be in place by the early summer of 1993.

We appreciate the advice you have provided in helping us develop a strategy to manage our Province's magnificent wildlife resource.

D. Ray Halladay, Director
Wildlife Branch, Victoria, B.C.
March 1993

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD. iii

INTRODUCTION. 1

SECTION ONE - COMMENTS. 2

SECTION TWO - QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. 7

SUMMARY. 23

APPENDIX 1 - COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE USED. 24

INTRODUCTION

In 1991, the British Columbia Ministry of Environment released its draft wildlife strategy, *Managing Wildlife to 2001: A Discussion Paper*. This draft strategy and similar management strategies for water, air and fisheries were to supplement and expand the themes set out in the Ministry's strategy document, *B.C. Environment: Planning for the Future*. These draft plans discuss management priorities and strategies for the next 10 years.

Managing Wildlife to 2001 recognizes the threats to wildlife and their habitats such as urbanization, resource extraction and industrial development and proposes major management initiatives to ensure a diverse and sustainable resource. The draft strategy stresses the needs to maintain natural ecosystems and to ensure wildlife use does not exceed the ability of the resource to sustain itself. This approach is needed to protect the abundance and diversity of the Province's magnificent wildlife resources.

Managing Wildlife to 2001 was intended as a discussion paper to be revised and finalized following consultation with the public, organizations and other government agencies and review by Wildlife Program staff. To facilitate comment on the draft strategy, a questionnaire was included in the report soliciting readers' views about the strategy. Also, readers were invited to provide written comments about any aspect of the draft strategy, either in the space provided in the questionnaire or on separate sheets of paper. The returned questionnaires and written comments have been reviewed and the results are being taken into account in finalizing the draft strategy.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the comments received on the draft strategy and present the results of the questionnaire. The first section of the report presents a summary of the comments about the draft strategy and the second section gives the results of the questionnaire.

The report *Managing Wildlife to 2001* is 150 pages long and is a fairly demanding document to read. It is to be expected that the report would be read primarily by individuals with a keen interest in wildlife. As a result, the written comments and questionnaire results cannot be interpreted as representing a cross section of the opinions of the provincial population. Further, approximately 6,000 copies of the report were distributed. However, only a small share of the individuals that received the report either completed the questionnaire or provided written comments. This suggests that the views and opinions expressed about the document are not necessarily representative of the feelings of all readers. Consequently, it should be kept in mind while reading this report that the views and opinions presented below are those of a select group of individuals and organizations. *Managing Wildlife to 2001* was also made available to organizations representing Aboriginal people. Unfortunately, no responses were received from those organizations. As a result, the following comments do not reflect the views of Aboriginal people. Nevertheless, in the future, consultations with Aboriginal peoples will occur, and appropriate revisions to the strategy will be made to reflect that input.

SECTION ONE - COMMENTS

Space was provided on the questionnaire for additional comments (question 11). Most of the approximately 130 individuals who completed and returned a questionnaire included comments in question 11. We also received 44 sets of written comments, separate from those provided on the questionnaire. These varied in length from part of one page to over 20 pages. Concerned individuals, non-profit organizations, industry associations, and federal and provincial government agencies all commented on the discussion paper. Many of these organizations, associations and agencies represent many people throughout the province, so that it is not possible to break the comments down according to region.

Many of the comments were about the goals of the Wildlife Program, the challenges presented by these goals and the activities proposed to achieve the goals. Some comments were about issues not directly addressed in the goals. As a result, comments were summarized for each goal and a few other themes in as complete and objective a manner as possible without the detail of the original responses.

The comments about the goals of *Managing Wildlife to 2001* represent a diversity of views and, on a few issues, a strong polarization of feelings. Generally they were favourable, supportive and constructive. However, there appeared to be a certain amount of skepticism about the ability and will to carry out the proposed goals. Some respondents appeared to appreciate the funding and staffing needed to achieve these goals effectively over the next 10 years. They felt the government needed to place greater priority on the environment with the requisite funding. Some argued that the goals were too use oriented and did not take into account ecological constraints.

Strategic Goal: *To manage the Province's wildlife resources for the benefit and enjoyment of British Columbians—by maintaining an optimal balance among ecological, cultural, economic and recreational needs.*

The strategic goal seemed to be favoured by those who commented on it. A question was raised as to what was meant by optimal in the balance of competing needs and who is to decide what is optimal. Someone also made the comment that wildlife should be managed for its own sake not for human use.

Goal One: *To maintain and enhance wildlife and their habitats, and thus ensure an abundant, diverse and self-sustaining wildlife resource throughout British Columbia.*

More comments were directed towards the first goal than any other goal. Most respondents supported Goal One.

Comments about the threats to habitat, ecosystems and biodiversity and the need to protect them were quite common.

Among the threats identified were logging, agriculture, and mining. Some respondents mentioned the risks posed by herbicides and pesticides. Some also pointed out that oil and gas exploration could impact habitat. They felt that, in some cases, access for logging, mining, oil and gas exploration could have as adverse an impact on habitat as the activity itself.

Those who mentioned habitat felt that there was a need for greater control and protection of habitat. However, there was a diversity of views on how this could be achieved. A few argued that any protected areas should represent ecosystems because management must be by ecosystem rather than by species. One suggested that habitat be protected through acquisition of Crown Land while another felt that administration of Crown Land was appropriate. Some warned that acquisition or control of Crown Land required consultation with other users and should not impact on agricultural opportunities. One also argued that no new Wildlife Management Areas should be created that reduced the amount of available grazing land.

The value of protecting isolated islands of habitat, as suggested in the Discussion Paper, was questioned. It was argued that it would be more effective to connect these islands by protected corridors and buffers. It was also suggested that habitat could be protected on private property by introducing a system of conservation easements. These easements would allow preservation of critical habitat on private property as is currently done in the United

States. It was suggested that economic incentives for private property owners, such as reduced property taxes, could be used to encourage the preservation and restoration of habitat on private property. Some respondents believed that greater control over wildlife users on private property was needed. A few identified a need for a provincial land use strategy.

A more thorough and comprehensive inventory of wildlife and their habitat was identified as a major management need. It was felt the understaffing and underfunding of the Wildlife Program have prevented adequate inventory, which is a prerequisite for the sound management of wildlife. A diversity of views was expressed about the management of wildlife. Most respondents opposed the suggestion that forest companies be responsible for managing wildlife. They felt that there was very little or no incentive for forest companies to undertake this responsibility. It was pointed out that there must be incentives in the tenure for forest licensees to manage non-timber resources or that their costs must be recognized in other ways.

Some supported co-management of wildlife and habitat as well as public involvement but that the Wildlife Program must maintain final responsibility. The view was expressed that wildlife managers need greater say in the development of access plans for logging. On the other hand, it was felt that wildlife managers had failed to provide the forest industry with their habitat management objectives. The present referral system was felt to be inadequate and better communications with forest companies and other agencies are needed. It was suggested that management should be shared more with community resource boards. Management units should be based on ecological zones.

Some respondents felt that stronger legislation is needed for the Wildlife Program to achieve its goals. The legislation must give greater power to protect and control habitat and biodiversity as well as threatened and endangered plants and invertebrates. It was recommended that an advisory board composed of experts be created to designate endangered species and to make plans for their protection. Although supporting statutory protection of habitat for rare species, one respondent felt this should not extend to the species full range.

To carry out the Wildlife Program's mandate, some felt the goals in the Discussion Paper should become statutes in legislation. Suggestions were also made that the legislation should set standards for industries impacting wildlife habitat and that industries be liable for compensation. Another respondent advocated that the law should ensure no net loss of wetlands. Finally, one respondent felt the legislation should provide the Program with veto power over the activities of agencies and private owners that affect wildlife and their habitat.

Goal Two: *To maintain, enhance and promote opportunities to appreciate, study and view wildlife in their habitats.*

Most of the comments on the second goal were favourable. However, a few respondents expressed the view that it was not the Wildlife Program's function to enhance and promote different types of uses but rather to manage wildlife. Also, a respondent expressed opposition to marketing wildlife and adventure tourism. Another respondent was concerned that calling this type of activity appreciative use suggested that other types of wildlife users were not appreciative.

A few respondents cautioned that wildlife viewing can cause damage both to wildlife populations and habitat. They felt that viewing should be discouraged or even prohibited in sensitive areas. Some also were concerned about possible conflicts between viewers and hunters. One suggested that viewing be restricted to non-game species to avoid these conflicts. There was also a recommendation that the figures on the use and value of wildlife viewing be updated. Finally, one respondent suggested that wildlife viewers be more directly charged for their activities by an excise tax on outdoor equipment such as camping gear and binoculars.

Goal Three: *To maintain, enhance and promote recreational opportunities to hunt game species in their habitat*

Goal Three produced a range of comments. A few accused the Discussion Paper of having a pro-hunting bias. Of those opposed to hunting, a small proportion called for an outright ban on hunting feeling it was detrimental to wildlife and opposed by a majority of society. Most of the anti-hunting sentiment called for increased restrictions on hunting. Hunting, according to some, should be regulated but not promoted or enhanced. Other suggestions were that hunting in provincial parks and hunting cougar and grizzly bear be prohibited. Opposition to the use of lead shot was expressed.

Wolf and other predator control programs whether by poison, trapping or aerial shooting were strongly opposed by many of the respondents. It was questioned why control programs were undertaken when concern was expressed in the Discussion Paper for wolves. Opposition to control existed whether it was to enhance game populations or for other reasons. Many

opposed poisoning any wildlife and voiced concern about the dosages used. Some called for a ban on the use of 1080. One respondent pointed out that we should be conscious of the potential conflict between fish-eating predators and aquaculture.

Some felt that the Discussion Paper had an anti-hunting bias and more should be done for hunters such as increased inventory and enhancement. It was pointed out that the goal should be restated because hunting was done for more than recreation. In rural parts of the Province, hunting is a traditional way of life that provides subsistence food. Some respondents mentioned that most of the Wildlife Program's budget is financed through the sale of hunting and commercial licenses. Other types of users should bear more of the costs.

A few activities were identified to support hunting. One felt that hunters should not be allowed to harvest more than one mountain sheep every 5 years. It was also suggested that the provincial bag limit on deer be one. A system of colour-coded signs on private property should be adopted across the Province to indicate whether hunting was allowed or not. Bow hunting should have earlier seasons and be encouraged in no shooting areas. One respondent felt there should be more limited entry hunts (L.E.H.). More research should be conducted on road and rail mortality and attempts made to reduce the loss of wildlife. A few felt that Vancouver Island and northeast British Columbia strongly needed wolf control and that wolf control should be implemented as needed.

Goal Four: *To facilitate the commercial uses of wildlife.*

Again, the opinion was expressed that the

function of the Wildlife Program was to manage wildlife and regulate its use, not to facilitate commercial activities.

The commercial activity most frequently commented on was the guiding industry. Some suggested prohibiting foreign ownership of guide territories. Others felt that foreign ownership should at least be more closely monitored and regulated. One respondent felt that the Wildlife Program should not be contributing to the guiding industry through the Guiding Initiatives Program. Another felt that there was a need to monitor and control a few unethical guides since they reflect poorly on the industry and the Province. One respondent was concerned that guide quotas were being given priority over L.E.H. allocations. Also, one respondent felt that guiding activities should be restricted to viewing. It was pointed out that the definition of guiding at different points in the Discussion Paper was inconsistent and all should include fishing, trail riding and appreciative uses as well as hunting. Finally, the concern was expressed that the value of guide territories was being depressed by logging and logging access roads with no compensation.

The rationale and description of trapping in the Discussion Paper was considered poorly developed. It should have been pointed out that trappers are sustainable resource users, managers and enhancers of wildlife and pest and predator controllers. The adverse impact anti-trapping sentiment has had on the fur industry and trappers should have been pointed out. Some respondents expressed opposition to trapping and called for increased restrictions on the types of traps.

There were a few other aspects of the commercial use of wildlife mentioned in

the comments. Several respondents opposed game farming. Others expressed the view that the sale and trade of bear and other wildlife species parts should be restricted or prohibited. Individual respondents were against the capture of native birds of prey and the holding of wildlife in captivity.

Goal Five: *To protect people and their property from intolerable levels of danger, damage or harassment by wildlife.*

Some respondents pointed out that in most cases humans were responsible for interactions with wildlife. Appropriate preventive measures such as fencing, use of guardian dogs and proper garbage containers would eliminate many of these interactions. One respondent felt that problem bears should be re-located not destroyed. It was also argued that there should be a place for geese and gulls to go where they would not be a nuisance. A few respondents complimented the Problem Wildlife Advisory Board for the job it was doing dealing with problem wildlife. It was also suggested that the role of the Conservation Officer Service in dealing with problem wildlife be described. One respondent felt that dead problem wildlife should be made available to the needy or sold to taxidermists.

A few respondents suggested that individuals especially farmers should be compensated for damage by wildlife. One suggestion was to establish an insurance program to compensate farmers for wildlife damages. It was also suggested that those affected as a result of wildlife transplants and enhancements should be compensated.

Other Comments

Some comments were not directed at the goals of the Discussion Paper. Some

respondents called for stricter laws and stiffer penalties to reduce the amount of poaching. In addition, some believed that there should be more Conservation Officers with a greater amount of their effort devoted to poaching. This could be complemented by more resources devoted to the Wilderness Watch and the Observe, Record and Report programs.

A few respondents mentioned the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) course, Project Wild and other educational courses. One respondent was opposed to the CORE course because it was geared to hunting. Another felt it should be taught in schools. One respondent argued that more should be taught in school about wildlife. In addition, it was felt that the Wildlife Program should have more input to university resource programs.

A few comments were made about public involvement and co-operation in the Wildlife Program. A few respondents had the opinion that the Wildlife Program needed to improve its communication and co-operation with other agencies. Some also felt that increased funding and support for private initiatives directed towards wildlife were needed. Public involvement could be facilitated through wildlife advisory committees and community resource boards. Public education and involvement could be improved by information brochures and open meetings.

One respondent suggested that a description be given of native treaty hunting rights. Another respondent felt that native hunting rights be restricted.

Some responses mentioned wildlife rehabilitation centres and suggested that they needed increased support and funding.

SECTION TWO - QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

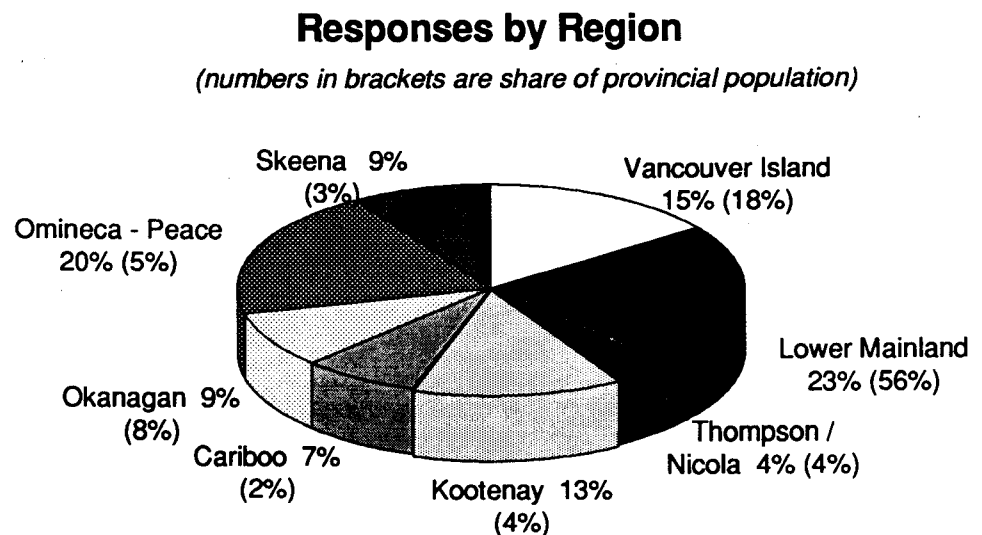
The questionnaire was included in the back of the discussion paper. Respondents were asked to complete the questionnaire and return it in the attached, self-addressed, postage paid envelope. The original deadline for sending in questionnaires was October 31, 1991. However, this was extended to December 31, 1991 to provide readers adequate opportunity to respond.

The questionnaire was intended to determine how readers found the structure and presentation of the discussion paper. More importantly, the questionnaire had the purpose of soliciting respondents views about the contents including the proposed goals and activities of the Wildlife Program.

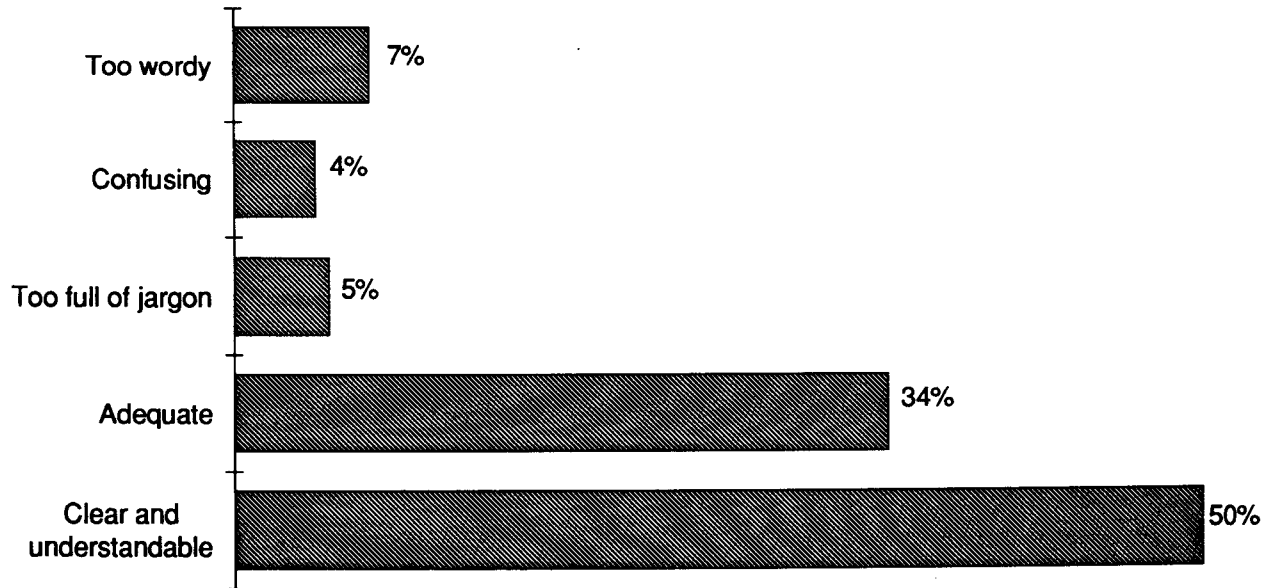
The following presents the results for each question. Also, comments on the questions are listed by topic.

We received 136 responses, mostly from individuals, but also a few from groups and organizations. Because some of the responses were from organizations that represented people from all regions of the province, we could not break down the responses to individual questions and the comments by region.

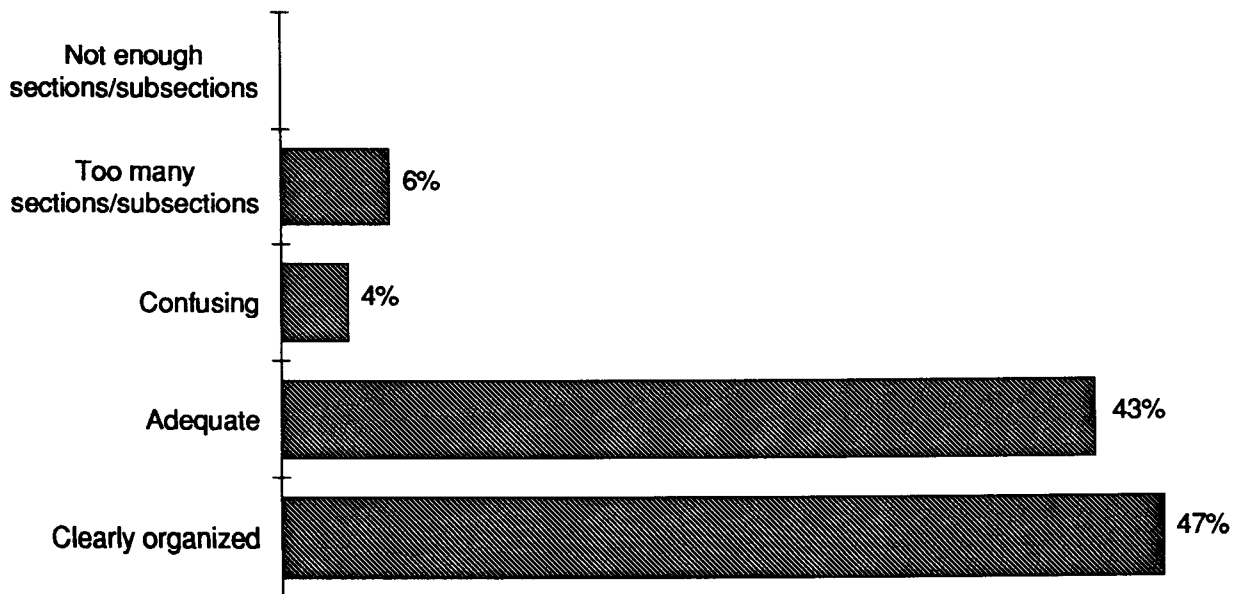
Question 1: What city, town or landmark do you live in or near?
Responses based on B.C. Environment regions are shown below.



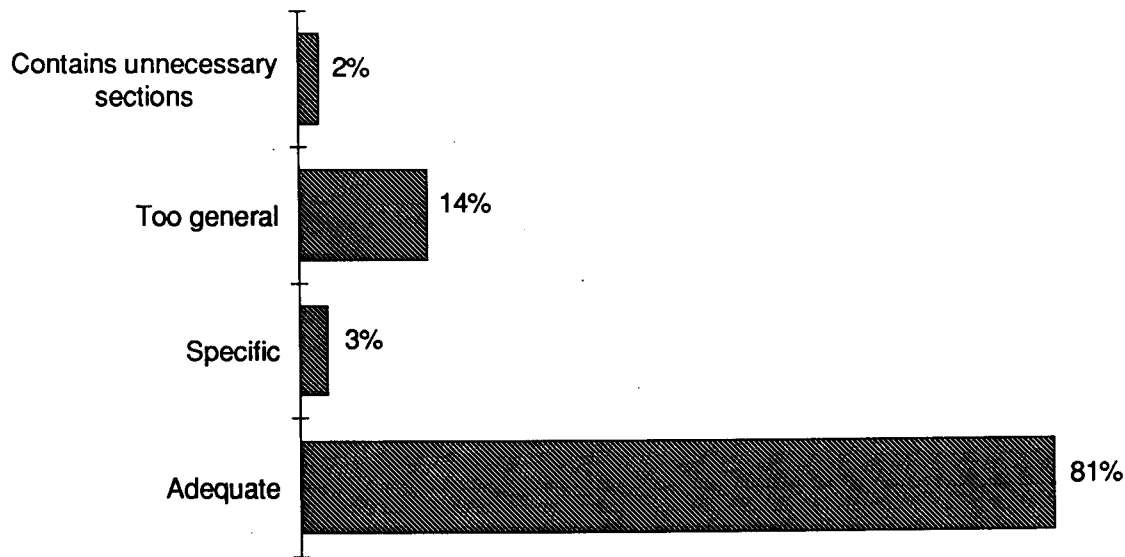
Question 2: What do you think of the writing in Managing Wildlife to 2001?



Question 3: What do you think of the structure of the document?



Question 4: What do you think of the content of Managing Wildlife to 2001?



Comments on Question 4:

General

- Need to see more detailed plan
- As a general direction document going in right direction but need to reserve judgement until specific strategies are developed.
- Propaganda! Garbage!
- Will you live up to the plans?
- Priorities seem to be in correct order but will you live up to them?
- Goals too nuts and bolts, weak in priorities and means of implementation.
- colour coding helpful, good teaching reference for CORE.
- excellent vision, have met the challenge, strategies must be made policy.

Habitat and Biodiversity

- biodiversity and preservation of major ecosystems must be legislated.
- feel that only lip-service being paid to biodiversity; programs, staff and funds must be committed.
- habitat key to wildlife - make solid commitment to save coastal old-growth and estuaries not vague promises.
- do not agree with having old-growth for wildlife. Very little food for them. Forests 20-30 years have all the protection they need. Present forest practice is adequate.
- reduce clear-cutting, need more selective cutting.

Hunting and Commercial

- more about value of resident hunting.

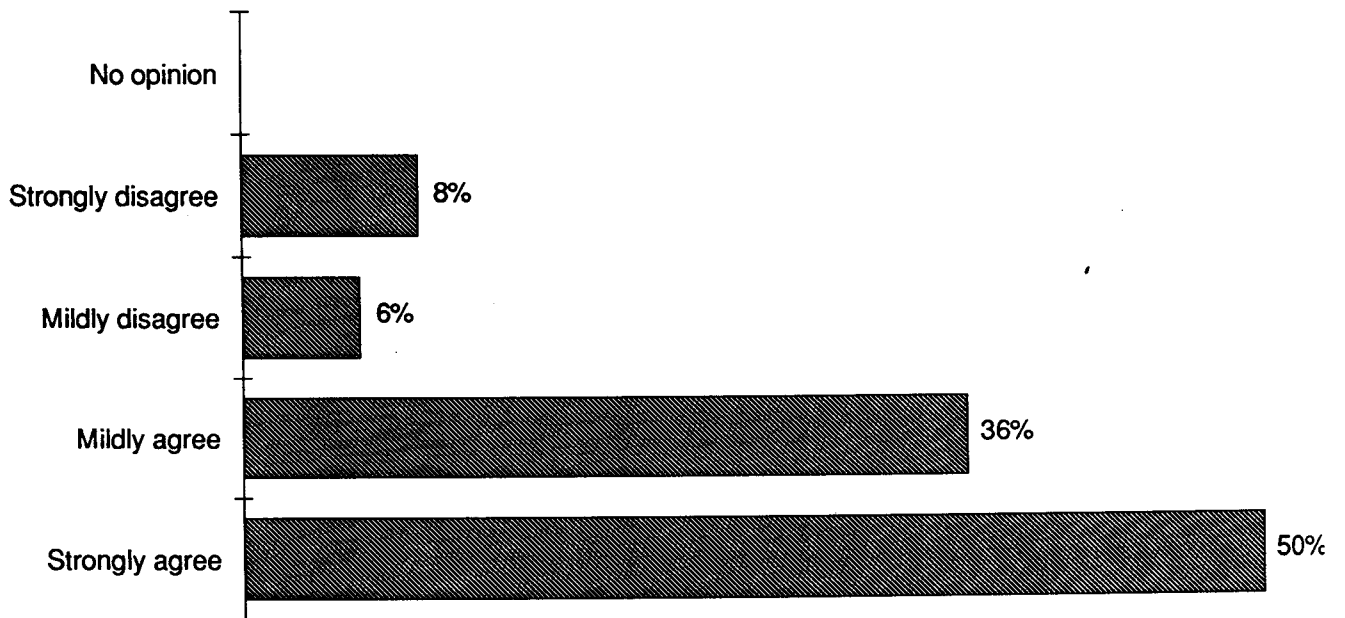
Comments on Question 4, continued

- recognize intrinsic value of wildlife.
- main concern should be for wildlife and not promoting recreational opportunities, i.e., hunting.
- trapping seems to be fading in importance.
- pleased to see recognizing and encouraging versatility of guides in viewing.
- incomplete inventories.
- too hunter oriented.

Other

- appendix 2 - to list is to omit.
- some species not listed as endangered, actually are, i.e., blue grouse.
- appendices more useful than body of document.
- abdicates responsibility, bureaucrats want jobs in industry.

Question 5(a): Do you agree with the wildlife management goals as set out in Chapter 2?



Question 5(b): Do you have any suggestions for revising the goals to better reflect your management views?

General - Strategic Goal: To manage the Province's wildlife resources for the benefit and enjoyment of British Columbians—by maintaining an optimal balance among ecological, cultural, economic and recreational needs.

- emphasize ecological values.
- unique importance of strategic goal and goal 1.
- main goal to benefit the resource - not the economy or people.
- the goals are excellent but lets put them into practice.
- need new legislation - Wilderness Reserve Act and Wildlife and Endangered Species Act with penalties and fines.
- approach wildlife from ecosystem and biodiversity protection perspective.
- goals are vague, what are priorities?
- integrative work with Forests should be a goal.
- goals must show extend of native harvest and how this will be enforced.
- goals are necessary but without funding impossible to achieve.
- require all other government agencies consult Wildlife Branch on all management decisions.
- Environment must be top ministry in government.
- strategic goal should emphasize economic needs, eliminate goal 2.
- strategic goal good but how to make economic decisions.
- opportunities better word than needs.

Goal One: To maintain and enhance wildlife and their habitats, and thus ensure an abundant, diverse and self-sustaining wildlife resource throughout British Columbia.

- emphasis on habitat enhancement.
- restrict herbicides and pesticides.
- research rail winter kill.
- forest companies can't manage trees, not profitable to manage wildlife.
- inadequate habitat and population inventory.
- need political will to protect and promote habitat.
- forest company management - poor idea.
- government has to take stronger role in habitat acquisition and protecting habitat from commercialization.
- greater emphasis on habitat preservation.
- emphasis on protecting wildlife and habitat but not for human, economic reasons.

- too much habitat lost to logging and spraying with herbicides.
- goal 1 should be overriding priority.
- increase emphasis on improved inventories and better mapping of emphasis areas.
- Island old-growth should be thinned out to allow food to grow for deer in winter.

Goal Two: To maintain, enhance and promote opportunities to appreciate, study and view wildlife in their habitats.

- maintain and where appropriate enhance opportunities.
- non-consumptive users should contribute funds as do consumptive users.
- question promoting in goal 2 and 3, has nothing to do with management.
- public must understand wildlife does not stand around to be watched, parks place to go to see game species.
- conflict between goals 2 and 3.
- increase wildlife viewing drive and increase non-consumptive uses.
- goal is fine if habitat is saved for wildlife.

Goal Three: To maintain, enhance and promote recreational opportunities to hunt game species in their habitat

- to maintain, enhance, promote hunting opportunities should be goal 2.

- longer bow season.
- review regulation effectiveness.
- hunter hunt for more than recreation-use opportunities.
- phase out trophy hunting - emphasize viewing.
- abolish hunting for horns and pelts.
- sale of animal parts should be abolished
- heavier fines and more enforcement.
- are we to get better inventories on game herds?
- should strive to increase big game populations.
- need minimum requirements for use of carcass and parts.
- manage wildlife for trophy animals.
- animals on L.E.H. should only be for residents.
- regulations should treat everyone the same and be easier to understand.
- heavier penalties for offenders, control sale of animal parts.
- classify All Terrain Vehicles and snowmobiles with helicopters.
- careful about giving natives free hunting rights - could be end of hunting.
- assess resident and non-resident hunting values and non-hunting values.

- halt all trade in wildlife parts.
- no open seasons on female or young deer.
- LEH for all game.

Goal Four: To facilitate the commercial uses of wildlife.

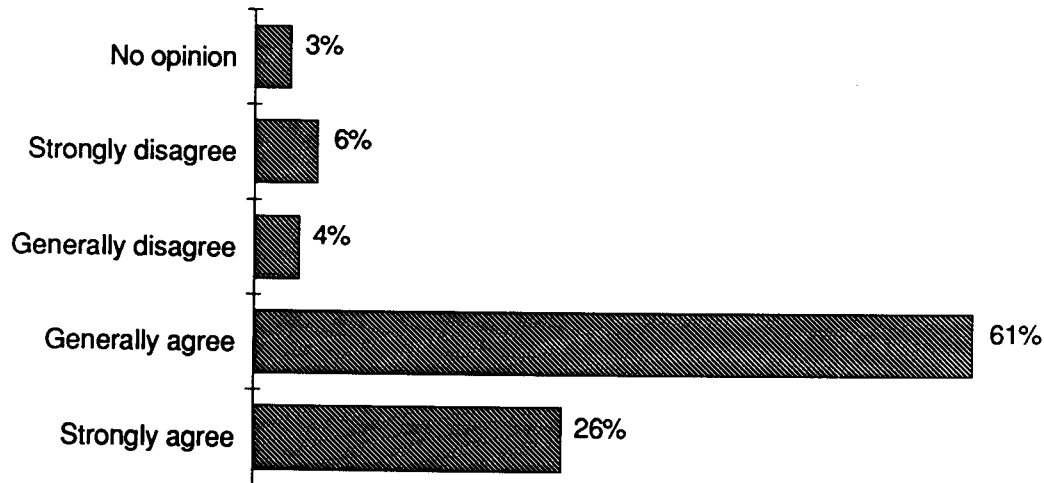
- restrict guides.
- restrict guides on Crown land.
- restate goal - commercial use suggests market hunting - distinguish direct and indirect commercial.
- get out of promotion
- stop commercial until better understanding of ecosystems.
- restrict guiding industry.
- must be revised and reworded to eliminate game farming of native species
- concern with goal if it allows game farming.
- disagree with commercial use of wildlife
- commercial use should be maintained not facilitated.
- low priority to commercial use.
- only objection is commercial use, i.e., guiding.

- goal not defined, government should benefit for habitat inventory and enhancement.
- goal should not include game ranching.
- too much emphasis on guide outfitters benefiting outside clients.
- goal should be removed.
- goal is immoral, unethical and unacceptable in modern human society.
- not supported, reduces other users opportunities.
- commercial uses only allowed where wildlife populations are stable.

Goal Five: To protect people and their property from intolerable levels of danger, damage or harassment by wildlife.

- goal is irrelevant.
- change Wildlife Act so that losses of livestock due to wildlife compensated from general revenue not wildlife budget.
- if misunderstood could create problems.
- add to goal, protection of wildlife from other wildlife species.
- restate, ask people to stop harassing, persecuting and decimating wildlife, control human numbers.

Question 6(a): Do you agree or disagree with the activities that are identified in Chapter 4 to meet the challenges of wildlife management?



Question 6(b): Do you have suggestions for activities that should be either added or removed from the list of activities identified in this paper?

CORE and Education Activities

- encourage public participation in bow hunters education program.
- ecology should be taught in schools.
- more involvement by educators, CORE needs revision, should be taught by volunteers to all community members.
- CORE program has been a good improvement.
- workshops with C.O. service would be useful.
- CORE course should be compulsory for all children.
- CORE and public information course should be taught throughout school system.

- more stress on educational activities.
- CORE program should be enhanced with more time on conservation and firearm use.

Public Input

- do not be swayed by protesters
- is public to have role in regional plans?
- animal "rights" lobbyists of no help for this plan.
- wildlife management must be based on proven, sound, scientific methods, do not give in to special interest groups based solely on emotion.
- allow more time for discussion of papers and improve circulation.

- public input to Crown land management
- Wildlife Branch should take account of world opinion on wildlife uses.
- advisory board including public/ academics.

Conservation Activities

- promote more say in forestry practices.
- use conservation covenants or easements.
- place more emphasis on preventing new hydro dams since they eliminate wildlife.
- more ecological reserves that have representative examples rather than unique.
- do more to reduce amount of clear-cutting and promote selective logging.
- use of poison to control predators should be eliminated.
- do not allow wildlife management by forest companies.
- not in favour of purchasing land for management, should be parks.
- take account of oil and gas exploration and mining.
- effect of 4X4s on wildlife habitat.
- more strict with commercial use of land, i.e., more selective logging.
- Conservation Data Centre must be supported
- identify crucial furbearer habitat.
- promote legislation to protect red/blue listed species.
- emphasize natural systems over artificial

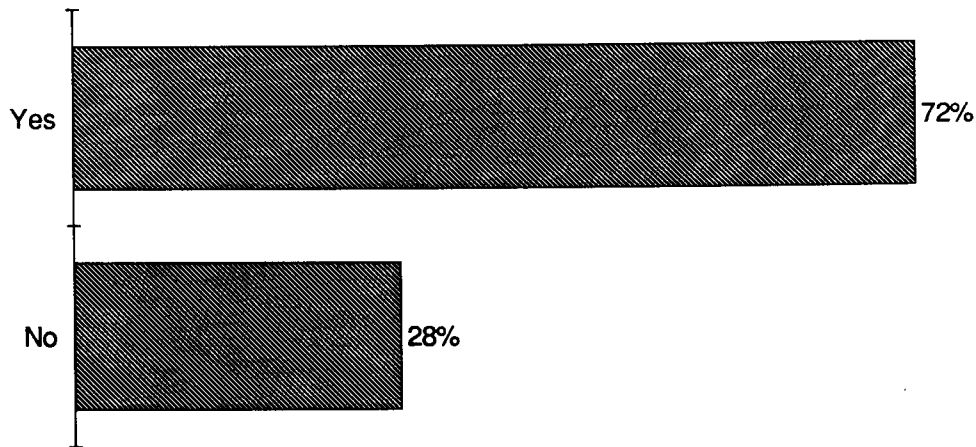
enhancement.

- control predators when critical but maintain populations.
- co-ordinate with fisheries to protect habitat for marine invertebrates.

Use Activities

- no paid hunting on private lands.
- revise draw system for L.E.H.
- refer to "Wilderness Watch" but do not explain. Examine cattle industry program to stop rustlers.
- monitor effects of viewing on the resource.
- involve guide outfitters in inventories.
- prohibit sale of wildlife parts
- stress hunter ethics, heavy fines for infractions, more C.O.s
- improve regulations, layout, make them easier to understand.
- C.O.s should be consistent with interpretations to prevent conflict.
- monitor impact of unregulated native hunting.
- prohibit marketing of animal organs and parts.
- more C.O.s and special force to reduce poaching.
- no appropriate provision and fees for hunting and viewing.
- do not promote hunting, enough already.
- oppose any more parks that prohibit hunting.

Question 7: Are there areas of wildlife management that you feel are not adequately addressed in Managing Wildlife to 2001?



Comments on Question 7:

Enforcement and Conservation Officer Service

- more effective enforcement.
- publicize poachers in local media
- more C.O.s or auxiliaries or citizen patrols
- larger fines and improved methods of collecting fines.
- lack of enforcement, C.O. numbers must be increased substantially.
- C.O.s should do better job of winning friends, treat hunters and anglers as if guilty of wrong doing.
- look at areas covered by C.O.s, increase manpower.
- no mention of conservation officers and getting more to meet increasing involvement with pollution.

- should have more C.O.s to discourage poaching and other illegal activities.
- more visible enforcement, more officers and game checks.
- lack of visible law enforcement in the field.
- increase emphasis on fines/penalties for wildlife abuse.

Native Issues

- more information on native hunting rights.
- native misuse of wildlife, this slaughter must be addressed.
- address native Indian problems.
- determine true impact of the allocation policy for wildlife harvest by aboriginal people.
- native issue is a political issue.

- Natives earning a good wage at full time jobs should not take fish and game at will.

Fees and Funding

- non-hunters not paying fees.
- inadequate funding/staff to meet goals.
- encourage private groups co-financing and undertaking restoration and enhancement.
- current funding and staff inadequate to switch from 'old-style' management to current needs.
- industry should finance studies in areas they impact.
- need to address how and where substantial budgets are to be obtained.
- licence fees for resident hunters are low, should increase 40%.
- give wildlife higher priority in funding.
- address area of getting sufficient funds to achieve desired challenges and activities.
- government does not spend what it should given users expenditures.
- surcharge on binoculars, bird seed, hiking equipment for revenue from non-consumptive users.

Predators

- cougar preys mainly on deer, predator should be kept to minimum levels.
- need law or procedure to protect domestic livestock from predators, be more specific in identifying this, C.O.s disclaim any responsibility.
- predator control on Crown Land by range operators (ranchers and employees)

Land and Habitat Conservation Issues

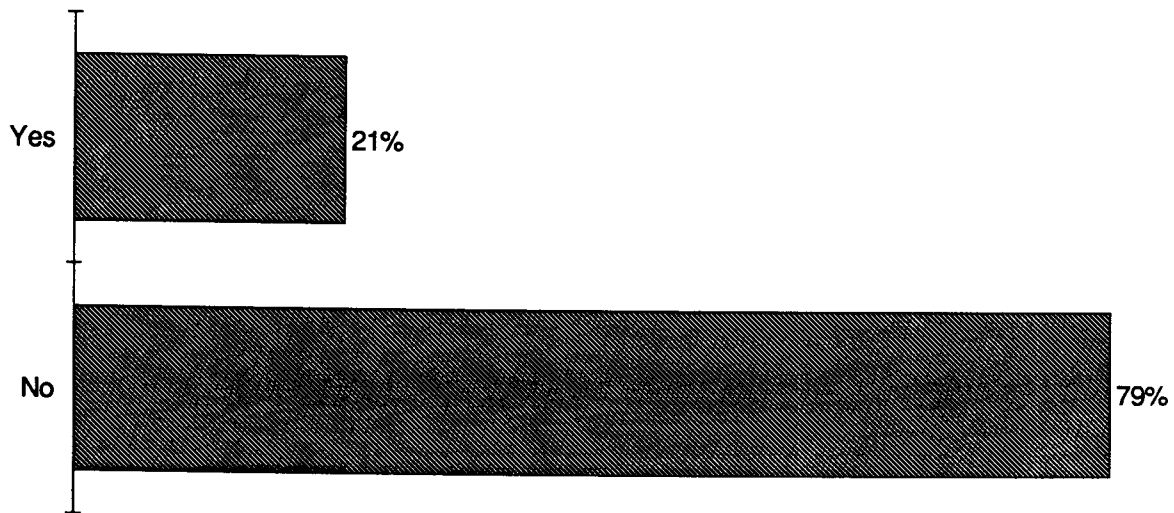
- need legislation to protect habitat.
- more about boreal forest management
- more emphasis on preservation of land base, wildlife is not secondary to forests.
- no coverage of habitat loss due to pollution, poor logging practices, urban sprawl etc., must inform public.
- stress habitat loss preventative measures rather than corrective.
- address management of wildlife on D.N.D. lands.
- more stress on habitat management, forestry, parks and land must answer to wildlife.
- address restrictions on All Terrain Vehicle uses in sensitive areas.
- stop use of herbicides on forests.
- logging proceeding too quickly and without restrictions.
- protection of invertebrate organisms.
- more emphasis on joint integrated management with appropriate funding.

Other Issues

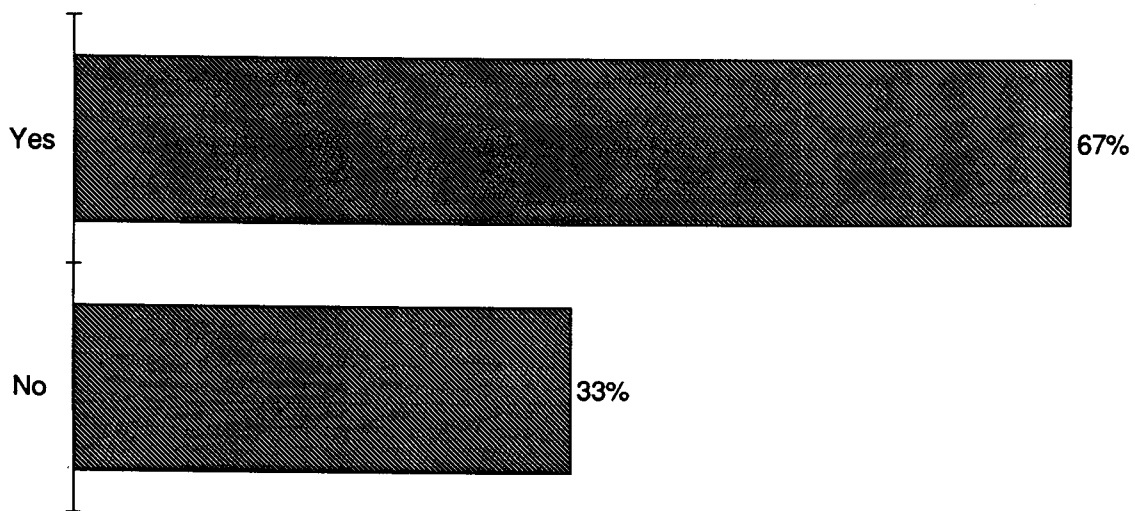
- encourage bow hunting for conservation
- need to address L.E.H. draw system, one hunt every 3 years.
- expand efforts on developing wildlife in private sector, not just games species but others such as songbirds.
- address need for endangered species act for all vertebrate/invertebrates/plants with automatic protection.

- participation in international campaign to counteract anti-trapping publicity.
- aggressive program needed to counter anti-hunting and animal rights activists.
- need to initiate meetings among user groups.
- ban export of bear parts and other wildlife parts.

Question 8(a): Do you feel that wildlife management as the provincial government currently conducts it meets your interests and needs?



Question 8(b): If you answered "No" to (a), do the activities set out in Managing Wildlife to 2001 more closely satisfy your interests and needs?



Question 8(c): If you answered "NO" to (b), please specify the further changes you think should be made in provincial wildlife management.

Comments:

Public Input

- more public involvement in major issues.
- need regional evaluation
- direct input by users before laws or policies changed.
- elicit more input from people in direct contact with wildlife to improve accuracy of information
- more public input, listen to local residents, tap all expertise.

Enforcement and Conservation Officer Service

- more enforcement in wildlife, pollution and forestry.
- additional enforcement staff, heavier penalties for large companies. i.e., oil, logging etc.
- more and stricter enforcement in the field.
- heavier fines to poachers, involve public more in protecting habitat and wildlife.
- more Conservation Officers needed to enforce laws.
- restrictions placed on individuals who drink while hunting. No alcohol in a vehicle with firearms.
- C.O.s must have a say in wildlife management.

Staffing and Funding and Responsibilities

- management and enforcement understaffed
- need ability to restrict herbicide and pesticide spraying.
- need a greater vision, legislation and funds to protect and enhance wildlife, lands and water.
- government must make wildlife a priority and protect habitat.
- increase staff to enforce laws and do research, fund and equip non-profit groups to do research.
- increase funding, fill vacancies
- Wildlife Branch needs desire and guts to do proper management i.e., predator control, habitat protection etc.
- distinguish roles of federal and provincial governments and interaction with private agencies.
- need more powerful role in biological research to save habitats i.e., watersheds, old-growth forests, grasslands and wildlife.

Priorities

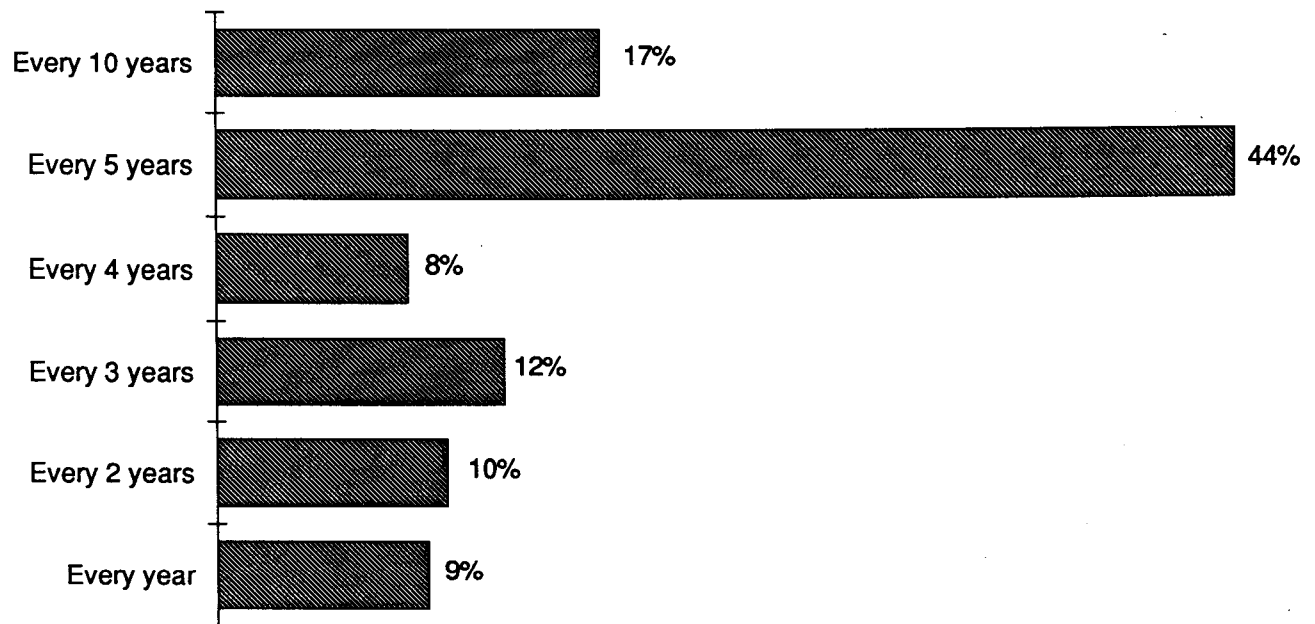
- Environment must be given higher priority in political arena.
- public land base must be protected and access to public land guaranteed.
- more opportunities to bow hunters, pre and post season in parks with no shooting.

- forest companies must not manage fish and wildlife.
- new endangered species/wildlife act with strong penalties for habitat destruction and illegal hunting.
- higher priority to habitat protection, wildlife viewing and education.
- stop campaign against agriculture and rural settlement.
- stop pampering the hunting lobby.
- stop bending to anti-hunting sentiment, try to educate them.
- rights of trappers better protected, traplines ruined by logging and mining.
- develop programs to inventory biodiversity and plans to protect ecosystems.
- abolish Indian treaty rights for hunting
- guide territories to be sold only to B.C. residents.
- encourage farmers, ranchers to keep cover strips, compensate them if they permit hunting.

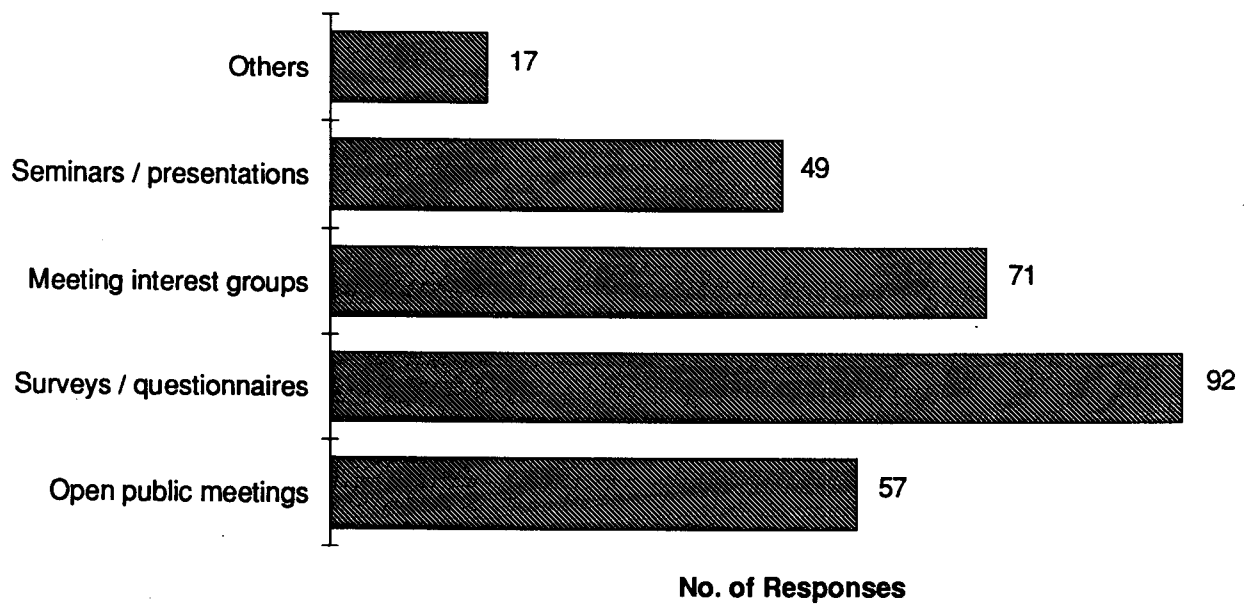
Others

- involve guide outfitters when taking inventories.
- close M.U.s periodically to build populations.
- appears to be difference in policies between ministries of Forests and Environment.
- L.E.H. for Canadian hunters only.
- northern half of Stikine region should be managed from Dease Lake.
- maximum harvest on bear, sheep and goat of one every 5 years.
- work with Forests to protect grizzly habitat.
- phase out hunting and trapping.
- manage forests for all resources.
- no calf hunting seasons.
- no shooting areas for one-half mile either side of forestry access roads.
- stop killing predators.
- leave green space when cities and towns expand.

Question 9: How frequently do you feel a provincial wildlife strategy should be prepared and reviewed by the public?



Question 10: What do you feel is the most effective way for wildlife management to find out the views and opinions of the public?



SUMMARY

It is obvious that most individuals and organizations completing the questionnaire or providing written comments put a good deal of effort and thought into their replies. For the most part, the comments were supportive of the directions suggested in the draft strategy and constructive in suggesting means of achieving the goals and meeting the challenges of the plan.

A frequently mentioned opinion was the need to manage on an ecosystem basis and to preserve biodiversity rather than concentrating on selective species. A number of respondents felt there was a need for expanded authority to manage and protect wildlife habitat and that the resources must be made available to carry out this function. While there was strong opposition to forest companies managing wildlife, it is felt there is room for increased co-management efforts not only with forest companies but also other organizations. However, final authority must remain with the Wildlife Program. Greater effort needs to be made to consult with and inform the public.

Some cautioned that wildlife viewing needed to be controlled to avoid jeopardizing sensitive habitat and populations. There should be increased restrictions on hunting according to some respondents. Others felt that more should be done to support hunting opportunities since revenues from hunting license fees represent a major share of the Program's budget. There was some opposition expressed to foreign investment in guide territories and a need for increased monitoring and regulation. It was felt that appropriate measures such as fencing, guardian dogs and proper garbage containers would prevent unwanted interactions with wildlife.

In conclusion, the written comments and questionnaires provide a number of insights and suggestions that will be invaluable in managing the wildlife of British Columbia over the next 10 years.

APPENDIX 1 THE QUESTIONNAIRE USED

Managing Wildlife to 2001: A Discussion Paper

The purpose of this questionnaire is to seek your comments and suggestions about Managing Wildlife to 2001. We would be grateful if you would complete the questionnaire and return it in the attached self-addressed envelope. You may enclose additional sheets of paper if required. We will carefully review all the comments received.

Thank you for your co-operation and advice in planning for the future of this magnificent resource.

1. What city, town, or landmark do you live in or near?

2. What do you think of the writing in *Managing Wildlife to 2001*?

- _____ Clear and understandable
 _____ Adequate
 _____ Too full of jargon
 _____ Confusing
 _____ Too wordy

3. What do you think of the structure of the document?

- _____ Clearly organized
 _____ Adequate
 _____ Confusing
 _____ Too many sections and subsections
 _____ Not enough sections and subsections

4. What do you think of the content of *Managing Wildlife to 2001*?

- Adequate
- Too specific
- Too general
- Contains unnecessary sections (specify)

5.(a) Do you agree with the wildlife management goals as set out in Chapter 2?

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

5.(b) Do you have any suggestions for revising the goals to better reflect your management goals?

6.(a) Do you agree or disagree with the activities that are identified in chapter 4 to meet the challenges of wildlife management?

- Strongly agree
- Generally agree
- Generally disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

6.(b) Do you have any suggestions for activities that should be either added to or removed from the list of activities identified in this paper?

7. Are there any areas of wildlife management that you feel are not adequately addressed in *Managing Wildlife to 2001*?

_____ No _____ Yes (please specify)

8.(a) Do you feel that wildlife management as the provincial government currently conducts it meets your interests and needs?

_____ No _____ Yes

8.(b) If you answered no to (a), do the activities set out in *Managing Wildlife to 2001* more closely satisfy your interests and needs?

_____ No _____ Yes

8.(c) If you answered no to (b), please specify the further changes you think should be made in provincial wildlife management.

9. How frequently do you feel a provincial wildlife strategy should be prepared and reviewed by the public?

- Every year
- Every 2 years
- Every 3 years
- Every 4 years
- Every 5 years
- Every 10 years

10. What do you feel is the most effective way for wildlife managers to find out the views and opinions of the public?

- Open public meetings
- Surveys/questionnaires
- Meeting interest groups
- Seminars/presentations
- Other (please specify)

11. Do you have any additional comments about *Managing Wildlife to 2001*?

If you wish to receive a copy of the results of this questionnaire please fill in your name and address below.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
