



BC CHAPTER SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Spring is finally here! While many of us stay active throughout the winter hitting up the hard water for trout or cruising the birch woods for small game, the longer days and ever increasing layers of greenery entice the rest of us out from hibernation. While COVID continues to restrict get-togethers and boots-on-the-ground efforts, we have been keeping members engaged by converting local happenings into province-wide events. Hundreds of members tuned into virtual presentations and meetings; including CWD in BC, Float Fishing Steelhead 101, Camera Trap Project for Human-Wildlife Coexistence in BC Parks, and Bighorn sheep Habitat Enhancement in the SE Kootenay among others. A big thanks to everyone who participated and even bigger thanks to the speakers and presenters. We hope to see you all in person soon

Provincial News

As your voice for BC's wild land, waters, and wildlife we have been working hard to advocate for our public lands by raising issues with the government, providing comments on development proposals, and writing letters to our elected officials to make our voices heard. As our wild backcountry is continuously inundated with industrial, commercial, and recreational development, responding to these activities can be time consuming and we thank our dedicated members for representing our values on these issues. Recent examples include:

- Advocating for Protection of Class 1 Ungulate Winter Ranges and Grassland under the Wildlife Act.
- Commenting on resort proposals for the Big White Ski Resort expansion and Zincton Resort, as well as numerous backcountry recreation proposals.
- Engagement with Teck Resources as a stakeholder for the Fording Coal Expansion project and cross border water quality concerns with Montana BHA.

BCBHA would like to congratulate our raffle winners Brad R. who won the Weatherby Mark V 6.5 Creedmoor package and Shane W., winner of the Custom Fly Rod Build

Raffle. We would like to thank Reliable Gun, Weatherby, and our own Region 7a Chair Chad St Amand of Black Pine Creative for making these raffles possible. All funds raised will go toward future conservation initiatives in BC.



Anglers beating the winter blues and trying their luck on the hard water

Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition

British Columbia Backcountry Hunters and Anglers are excited to announce our participation in the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Coalition. The Coalition represents 26 diverse groups including environmental NGOs, hunting and angling guides, conservation organizations, wildlife viewing, ecotourism, naturalists, hunters, anglers, and trappers, with a combined membership of over 206,000 and representing over 900 businesses across the province. The coalition is rooted in four guiding principles:

- The conservation (management, restoration and protection) of habitat across BC is fundamental to the needs of fish and wildlife
- That all native species should have abundant, self-sustaining populations
- That restoration, conservation, policy and management of species and habitat is guided by science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- The coalition recognizes and respects the constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous peoples and our collective commitment to advancing reconciliation in British Columbia. We will support the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, by seeking agreement on the protection, enhancement and utilization of fish, wildlife and habitat.

The purpose of the Coalition is to unite and strengthen our collective voices and achieve the following objectives:

- Enshrine fish, wildlife and habitat protection into outcome-based legislation
- Review and modernize other existing related legislation to integrate the needs of fish, wildlife and habitat
- Increase (sufficient) funding for fish, wildlife and habitat management
- Create a new governance model

Region 1

The Island table held their first annual Treasure Hunt to engage members to get outside and shake off the winter rust. Clues were given to the location of golden pine cones that could be exchanged for prize packages. Congratulations to the winners and big thanks to all participants, stay tuned for more hunts to come!

Thirty copies of "Beyond Fair Chase" were donated to the ROAM program (Rivers, Oceans and Mountains) at Qualicum Beach High School. Students in the program come away with many outdoor certifications including there CORE.

Recent events involving hunting and poaching attracted negative attention to the hunting and trapping community. Region 1 Chair Steve Nikirk was quick to reach out to Minister Katrine Conroy and local MLAs to discuss the issues and reinforce that the particular actions of the individuals are not representative of hunters and trappers in BC. Creating dialogue and developing relationships with elected officials are instrumental in protecting our wilderness, wildlife, and outdoors heritage.



Happy treasure hunters and the coveted golden pinecone!

Region 3

The Thompson Region table hosted the Beat the Winter Blues photo contest, encouraging folks to get outside and showcase what BC's winter has to offer. Congratulations to all the winners.

Region 4

Both East and West Kootenay regions have secured a seat on the Kootenay Wildlife Harvest Advisory Committee which is a stakeholder group that influences decisions made regarding regional hunting regulations.

The East Table has been engaging local biologists in camera projects and habitat improvement projects, and aiding Park Officials in monitoring for non-motorized compliance for the Elk Lakes Provincial Park. They hosted a virtual presentation on bighorn sheep habitat and management in the region. The table is also actively engaged in discussions, feedback, and legislative suggestions with Teck and the Government regarding the Fording River Extension project as well as bigger-picture conservation opportunities with Teck in the Elk Valley.

The West Table held a Lower Columbia River mountain goat survey on April 14. Volunteers were delighted to see 17 goats including 3 kids as the setting sun lit up the sheer cliffs above the Columbia. Information was reported to the B.C. Mountain Goat and Wild Sheep Natal App.

Region 7a

The Omineca table partnered with the Northern Branch of BC Steelhead Society to set up receptacles at local river and lake access points for anglers to recycle used fishing line with clearyourgear.ca. The used lines will be sent to Berkley to be recycled into things

such as tackle boxes. BHA will be the BC directors of this program, and we hope to spread this sustainable practice across BC. The table along with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC put together an ice fishing kit, including an auger, and 20 Beyond Fair Chase books for 20 kids to access.



Ice Fishing kit and Beyond Fair Chase copies ready to go!

Collegiate Club – UBCO

The UBCO club collaborated with the Secwepemcul'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society (SRSS) on the multi-faceted Indigenous-led restoration project called the Elephant Hill Wildfire Riparian Restoration Project. UBCO Club Members were excited to assist the SRSS on a streamside cottonwood replanting effort, restoring habitat for endangered Steelhead and Salmon. The SRSS shares our vision for viable and sustainable ecosystems, and we look forward to sharing more about this initiative in the future.

What We're Listening To

[The Cutbanks Conversations - Episode 21: Fish, Wildlife, Habitat Coalition / Episode 23: Get Off My Lawn \(BCBHA representatives featured\)](#)

[The Hunting Collective – Ben O'Brien](#)

Bear Grease - Clay Newcomb

What We're Reading

The Man Called Red: An Autobiography of a Guide and Outfitter in Northern British Columbia – N.B. Sorensen

The Hunter Chef Cookbook – Michael Hunter

The Omnivore's Dilemma – Michael Pollan

Tenth Legion – Tom Kelly

Be sure to check the [BCBHA Chapter Page](#) for upcoming events and details.

Don't forget to check out the [BCBHA Webstore](#) for memberships or BCBHA swag.

British Columbia BHA
<http://www.backcountryhunters.org/>

