

Guidance Document Key Comments

January to March 2017

Many comments were received on the Guidance Document during our January to March 2017 information sessions. We have reduced the Guidance Document to address only the WHFs that occur in the Kootenay Boundary region. However, we have chosen not to make any edits to the content of each WHF chapter of the Guidance Document because we anticipate receiving many more comments through the consultation process. The table below summarizes the comments received during the information sessions and the consideration being given. We continue to seek comments on the clarity and comprehensiveness of the guidance document for identifying WHFs and possible mitigation strategies.

Comment	Consideration
Fisheries Sensitive Feature (FSF): Current definition within the guidance document is too broad. Literal interpretation would result in all freshwater areas with depths less than 10m defined as a fisheries sensitive feature, regardless if it contains fish or not.	The definition of FSFs is taken directly from the FPPR 1(1) and cannot be changed at this time. Steps are underway by Ministry staff to identify which habitat features under the current FPPR definition have the highest regional significance and should be targeted for management actions. These areas could include the littoral zones of fish-bearing lakes and habitats adjacent to lotic systems that are either perennially or seasonally occupied by fish. Target fish species for protective measures are also being reviewed. This information will be added to the final Guidance Document to address regional priorities.
Include guidelines on recommended buffer sizes	Under consideration. The Order does rely on professional reliance and is designed to provide flexibility to agreement holders however we recognize that providing some advice may be helpful.
Provide information on other applicable legislations and which features are covered	A section will be added to the introduction identifying other applicable provincial and federal legislations that agreement holders should be aware of.
Create a customizable document so that users aren't required to print all features	The final document will be set up with each WHF as an individually downloadable section so that a user can print/save only those WHFs needed.
Provide information that will help narrow down which WHFs might occur where such as BEC associations	Information will be added to each WHF section to provide more detailed regional guidance on where species/features can be expected to be found.
The definition of and guidance for "significant" for licks and wallows needs to be more clear regarding how to determine significance.	Under review
Breeding bird windows are not always consistent with Migratory Bird Convention Act guidance	Under review. Consistency with Migratory Bird guidance from federal government will be checked. Guidance may differ from Migratory Bird recommendations as we will be providing regional specific guidance. Breeding bird windows will vary from region to region within the province, across a region and from year to year.
Provide a better definition or additional information on the considerations for meeting due diligence	Under consideration for further clarification in Introduction section of the document.
Can additional Wildlife Habitat Features be added to the Order?	Additional Wildlife Habitat Features may be added in the future. We are not accepting proposals for additional Wildlife Habitat Features at this time.