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Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores			

This Procedure Replaces:

4-7-04.01.1 - Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores (2001)

Staff and Organizations Affected:

Director of Fish and Wildlife
Regional Wildlife Managers
Wildlife Management Staff
Ministry of Environment, BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

Policy Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Policy Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection: 04.01.3 Control of Species

Procedure Manual Cross-References:

Ministry Procedure Manual, Volume 4, Section 7
Subsection: 13.02 Translocations of Wildlife and Non-Native Species

Other Cross-References:

British Columbia Ministry of Environment. 2015. Provincial Red and Blue Lists.
(<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/red-blue.html>). Accessed 28 September 2015.

British Columbia Ministry of Environment. 2015. British Columbia's Bear Smart Community Program. (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/>). Accessed 28 September 2015.


Hopkins, J.B., S. Herrero, R.T. Shideler, K.A. Gunther, C.C. Schwarz, and S.T. Kalinowski. 2010. A proposed lexicon of terms and concepts for human–bear management in North America. *Ursus* 21(2):154–168.

Hunt, C. L., et. al. 2003. Wind River Bear Institute - Bear Shepherdung Guidelines For Safe and Effective Treatment of Human-Bear Conflicts. Wind River Bear Institute, "Partners-In-Life" Program, Heber City, Utah. January 2003.

IUCN. 2013. Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland. 72 pp.

Targeted Predator Control.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/Targeted%20Predator%20Control.pdf>

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WPLP Best Management Practices for Cattle.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/WPLP%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20for%20Cattle.pdf>

WPLP Best Management Practices for Sheep.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/bcac.localhost/files/WPLP%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20for%20Sheep.pdf>

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Human - Bear Conflict Response Matrix

Appendix 2 Human - Cougar Conflict Response Matrix

Purpose:

This procedure outlines recommended actions to be followed when responding to conflicts between large carnivores and people that threaten human health, safety or property.

The following principles will be used to guide the prevention of and response to conflicts with large carnivores:

1. Human safety is the first priority.
2. There are many variables that can influence the response to conflicts with large carnivores and officer discretion is not superseded by policy or procedure. An officer must be prepared to rationalize their decision-making when it varies from this procedure.
3. The conservation value of the animal(s).
4. Animal care should meet or exceed accepted standards, including methods of animal capture, immobilization, handling, and transportation, release, and during delivery of any method of hazing or aversive conditioning.
5. Where appropriate and timely, conflict responses are accompanied by clear articulation of provincial legislation regarding the provision of attractants and the consequences to wildlife, and the delivery of appropriate prevention and mitigation techniques.
6. Timely, accurate and readily accessible records, summaries and maps.

This procedure applies only to human-large carnivore conflicts. It does **not** apply to the control of large carnivores for conservation of red or blue-listed species (e.g. removal of large carnivores to protect species at risk).

There are three sections to this procedure:

1 Roles and Responsibilities

2 Preventing Conflicts with Large Carnivores



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- 2.1 Prevention of Conflicts
- 2.2 Bear Smart Communities
- 2.3 Carcass Redistribution
- 2.4 Enforcement
- 2.5 Agriculture and Industry

3 Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

- 3.1 Conflict Response Priorities
- 3.2 Non-lethal Responses Outside of Bear Smart Communities
- 3.3 Lethal Responses
- 3.4 Methods of Control
- 3.5 Wolves and Coyotes
- 3.6 Relocation
- 3.7 Orphaned Bears

Definitions:

authorized rearing facility – a wildlife rehabilitation facility that is permitted by the province to rear and release orphaned bears.

aversive conditioning – the training of an animal through the consistent delivery of unpleasant stimuli (deterrents and repellents) until the animal ceases to engage in undesirable activities (Hunt 2003).

Bear Smart Community – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, a community that has successfully met the requirements of the Bear Smart Community Program and that has been formally designated by the Ministry of Environment as a Bear Smart Community. The Bear Smart Community Program is a voluntary, preventative conservation measure that encourages communities, businesses and individuals to work together on a goal. The goal is to address the primary causes of bear/human conflicts to reduce the risks to human safety and private property, and to reduce the number of bears destroyed due to conflict.

blue-listed species – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, includes any ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies considered to be of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in British Columbia. Species are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly



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sensitive to human activities or natural events. Blue-listed species are at risk, but are not extirpated, endangered or threatened.

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) – the ECC manages the “RAPP” (Report All Polluters and Poachers) Program, a toll free tip-line and web-based service that allows the public to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk and known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws.

carcass redistribution – moving road-killed carcasses or dead livestock to areas where large carnivores can feed on them temporarily to avoid being drawn into proximity with people or livestock.

Conflict Management Plan – a plan that outlines measures that industrial companies can take on-site to avoid and reduce risks of potentially negative human-large carnivore interactions and provides recommendations and options for managing industrial facilities and human action at those facilities.

Conservation Officer – as defined in the *Environmental Management Act*, a person described in section 106(2)(a) or (b) and includes, in relation to a specific power or duty, an auxiliary conservation officer and a special conservation officer who has been authorized under section 106 (3)(b)(iv) to exercise the power or perform the duty.

control – (a) killing of wildlife by shooting, trapping or poisoning, (b) hazing or aversive conditioning of wildlife by use of pepper spray, noise makers, rubber bullets, dogs, etc., or (c) capture and release.

dangerous wildlife – as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, means (a) bear, cougar, coyote or wolf, or (b) a species of wildlife that is prescribed as dangerous wildlife.

grizzly bear population unit (GBPU) – identified areas that define individual Grizzly Bear populations for the purposes of management and conservation.

harassment of livestock – the act of worrying, stalking or chasing after livestock but not an actual attack on livestock resulting in death or injury; it does not mean the mere presence of wildlife near livestock.

hazing – random, inconsistent, or one-time application of a repellent/deterrent to cause an animal to alter its behaviour at that moment (Hunt 2003).

large carnivore – for the purposes of this procedure, large carnivore means bear, cougar, wolf, or coyote.

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large carnivore conflict – an incident involving a large carnivore that threatens human safety or property.

livestock – as defined in the *Livestock Act* means cattle, goats, horses, sheep, swine and game and includes any other animal designated by regulation.

Officer – as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, (a) a constable, a conservation officer, the director, an assistant director or a regional wildlife manager, (b) a park ranger appointed under the *Park Act*, or (c) an employee of the government designated by name or position as an officer, by regulation of the minister.

red-listed species – as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment includes any ecological community and indigenous species and subspecies that is extirpated, endangered or threatened in British Columbia.

relocation – the deliberate capture, transport and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals within the animal's home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010).

threatened GBPU – a Grizzly Bear Population Unit (GBPU) whose population estimate is less than 50% of the area's estimated minimum habitat capability.

translocation – the deliberate capture, transport, and release of individuals or groups of wild or captive-bred animals beyond the animal's home range (Hopkins *et al.* 2010) and includes:

- reintroduction** – the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared (IUCN 2013).
- reinforcement or supplementation** – the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of conspecifics (IUCN 2013).
- conservation introductions** – the intentional movement and release of an organism outside its indigenous range to avoid extinction of populations of the focal species or to perform a specific ecological function (IUCN 2013).

wildlife monitor – synonymous with "Bear Guard" and defined for the purposes of this procedure as a person who has been hired to keep resource workers safe by (a) increasing wildlife safety awareness and education, and (b) acting as an on-site field monitor who watches for potentially dangerous wildlife, recognizes potentially dangerous situations with wildlife, acts to pre-emptively avoid dangerous situations, and deals effectively with dangerous wildlife situations when encounters do occur.

Procedures:

1 Roles and Responsibilities

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- 1.1 The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), Fish and Wildlife Branch (F&W) and the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Ecosystems Branch provide science-based direction regarding wildlife management to prevent or reduce negative effects of human-wildlife encounters including risks to public safety and damage to property.
- 1.2 The Conservation Officer Service (COS) takes actions to minimize the risk that conflicts with large carnivores pose to public safety and property through conflict prevention outreach, training, enforcement and both non-lethal and lethal responses.

2 Preventing Conflicts with Large Carnivores

2.1 Prevention of Conflicts

- (a) The emphasis of government efforts will be to prevent or reduce conflicts with large carnivores and will include encouraging and promoting agricultural standards of good husbandry, management of attractants, community planning, and the delivery of public education.

2.2 Bear Smart Communities

- (a) Priority will be given to conflict prevention in order to increase public safety and maximize the protection of property and the protection of the wildlife resource. Preventive methods include encouraging communities and residents to become "Bear Smart".
- (b) The Ministry of Environment designates communities as "Bear Smart" based on the recommendation of the Provincial Wildlife Conflicts Prevention Coordinator.
- (c) Once a community has been designated as "Bear Smart", the ministry is committed to working with local governments, other law enforcement agencies and stakeholder groups, to develop a response plan for human-bear conflicts. The response plan must take into consideration:
 - i) Available resources and partnerships with other agencies (i.e. Parks Canada, RCMP, local government, etc.),
 - ii) Non-lethal control of bears including short distance relocation (i.e. <10km, within home range), hazing, aversive conditioning and on-site soft and hard release will primarily be used in communities that have been formally designated as "Bear Smart". Officers must be trained and equipped to deliver non-lethal control. Long distance, outside of home range translocation of conflict animals, is not supported,

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- iii) All short distance, within home range relocations should satisfy the criteria in Section 3.6 in terms of risk of future conflicts, and
- iv) The conflict history of all bears being considered for non-lethal control should be evaluated.

2.3 Carcass Redistribution

- (a) The regional wildlife manager and regional COS Inspector can authorize carcass redistribution in cases involving high conservation value animals (e.g. female Grizzly Bears in threatened GBPU's) where the local circumstances indicate that carcass redistribution could be effective in temporarily reducing conflict.

2.4 Enforcement

- (a) In situations that involve the intentional or negligent feeding or attraction of dangerous wildlife, charges may be laid under Section 33.1 of the *Wildlife Act*. This does not apply to farm operations, as defined in Section 1 of the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, to people that operate a facility for the disposal of waste, that is operated in accordance with the *Environmental Management Act* by a municipality, or to people hunting or trapping wildlife in accordance with all other applicable provisions of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations.
- (b) In situations where a Conservation Officer suspects that dangerous wildlife is, or may be, attracted to any land or premises, other than a private dwelling, the officer may conduct the necessary investigation and issue a dangerous wildlife protection order if warranted under Section 88.1 of the *Wildlife Act*.

2.5 Agriculture and Industry

- (a) Crops
 - i) Reports of crop damage by large predators (e.g. Black Bears in grain, blueberry or orchard crops) should be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for information regarding conflict prevention and compensation.
- (b) Livestock
 - i) Unless evidence warrants otherwise, property (livestock) damage complaints alleged to be by large carnivores will be investigated as soon as possible on-site by the Conservation Officer Service, giving consideration to other priority duties and the availability of partners to take on this responsibility.



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- ii) In situations where large carnivore harassment or attack cannot be confirmed through field investigation and, in the opinion of the investigating officer, predation did not take place, then no further action will be taken.
 - iii) Large carnivores feeding on dead livestock will not be considered as evidence of large carnivore attack or harassment unless other evidence confirms that large carnivores caused the death of the animal.
 - iv) In situations where faulty or negligent husbandry practices (e.g. carcasses not removed, remote and uncontrolled lambing/calving grounds, obvious malnutrition of livestock) encourage large carnivore harassment or attack on livestock, control may be denied by the investigating officer until the situation is corrected.
 - v) Where the investigating officer requires more information about the adequacy of husbandry practices or the cause of death of livestock than can be obtained above, the investigator will consult with the Wildlife Veterinarian, the local or regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Range Division of the Forest Service, and/or a private veterinarian for assessment of the livestock and advice on what constitutes good husbandry practices in the particular situation (whichever is appropriate).
 - vi) In situations where improved husbandry is difficult to achieve or is refused by the complainant or producer, and where this causes a continuing threat from large carnivores to neighbouring farming operations, the matter may be referred to local livestock organizations (where present) and to the Regional Wildlife Conflicts Advisory Committee (where present) for review and advice.
 - vii) In areas where chronic large carnivore/livestock or large carnivore/property conflicts arise from conflicting land use practices, the matter should be discussed as soon as possible by the Regional Wildlife Conflicts Advisory Committee, and, if necessary, referred to appropriate government agencies for assessment and possible action.
- (c) Industry
- i) The Environment Assessment Office may require human wildlife conflict management plans to be developed for industrial projects. The conflict management plan should focus on the conservation risks to large carnivores and their populations, and large carnivores as a potential hazard to humans or human property, and describe proactive management strategies and actions to be taken on-site to avoid and reduce risks of potential negative human-wildlife interactions that could

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lead to human injury or property damage or the destruction or relocation of large carnivores.

- ii) Industry may utilise wildlife monitors to train field workers and monitor large carnivore activity at the field site. Wildlife monitors must be properly trained and may require permitting through FLNRO for this activity.

3 Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores

3.1 Conflict Response Priorities

- (a) An officer will respond to wildlife actions that threaten human safety as their first priority.
- (b) All other human-wildlife conflicts, including wildlife actions that threaten property or have caused property damage, will be responded to in accordance with:
 - i) Other work priorities,
 - ii) Available time,
 - iii) Available resources (manpower, funding, equipment, etc.), and
 - iv) Regional and provincial wildlife conservation and management priorities as per annual program and business plans.
- (c) Decisions regarding response to conflicts with bears and cougars will consider Appendix 1 Human-Bear Conflict Response Matrix and Appendix 2 Human-Cougar Conflict Response Matrix of this procedure.

3.2 Non-lethal Responses Outside of Bear Smart Communities

- (a) There may be limited opportunities to deliver the full spectrum of non-lethal responses to a large carnivore conflict in areas that are not designated as "Bear Smart" communities. Hazing, short distance, within-home range relocation, on-site capture and hard release, and other effective means of preventing the escalation of conflict behaviours may be warranted in the circumstances outlined below.
- (b) Non-lethal responses to conflict may be appropriate where:
 - i) Officers are trained and equipped to deliver non-lethal responses,
 - ii) High conservation value animals are identified (e.g. female Grizzly Bears in threatened GBPU),



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- iii) Animals are deemed healthy and vigorous individuals that are not injured, malnourished, or otherwise compromised,
- iv) Early contact has occurred with low level conflict animals or situations, and
 - There is no long history of conflict with humans, property or livestock, and
 - It has been determined that there is potential to reverse the conflict behaviour through management intervention.
- v) There is an immediate need to ensure human safety and lethal methods are not practicable.

3.3 Lethal Responses

- (a) Where human-made changes in the environment (livestock, orchards, etc.) have caused unusually high concentrations of large carnivores, emphasis should be placed on the use of licensed hunters and trappers to harvest carnivores during open seasons. Open seasons, bag limits and other regulations should be adjusted, either in regulation, or by Minister's Order, to allow for effective harvesting where that action is deemed appropriate or where public consultation suggests that these actions would be effective in reducing high populations of carnivores.
- (b) Provisions of Section 3.3(a) above will not be used to create a permanent large carnivore-free area in any part of the province excluding the localized and temporary space created through the removal of large carnivores involved in conflicts.
- (c) Large carnivores shall be destroyed under any of the following conditions:
 - i) The animal is aggressive towards humans,
 - ii) There is evidence that the animal has gone through human food-conditioning to an extent that, if moved, would attempt to return to human activity areas where foods are expected,
 - iii) The animal presents a threat to humans, other animals or the environment due to significant infectious disease(s) (e.g. rabies). Where the investigating officer requires more information regarding infectious agents, the investigator will consult with the Wildlife Veterinarian.
 - iv) The chances for survival in a natural habitat are low and it is considered inhumane to leave in situ, e.g. animal is in very poor body condition, is

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exhibiting very abnormal behaviour, or has an obvious and severe injury or illness;

- v) Local conditions prevent the safe capture, transport and release of the animal and available capture methods may even increase human safety hazards; or
 - vi) Areas for safe and humane release are not available.
- (d) Officer actions in this regard will, at all times, take officer and public safety into consideration.
- (e) Whenever possible, ministry staff in the field shall inform the public present of the method to be used to resolve the conflict, briefly explain the reasons, the likely causes of conflict, appropriate behaviour to avoid conflict, and encourage the public to leave the immediate area for reasons of safety. Where immobilizing equipment is used to capture bears and cougars, the presence of qualified back-up personnel capable of ensuring officer and public safety is required.
- (f) All uses of immobilization chemicals must be recorded by the responding officer(s) and reported, as requested, to the Wildlife Veterinarian.
- (g) Each Grizzly Bear and Cougar that is destroyed must be recorded on a compulsory inspection (CI) data sheet and the number of that CI recorded on the human-wildlife conflict report form.

3.4 Methods of Control

- (a) Control action by an officer, where warranted, will immediately follow confirmation of a large carnivore conflict wherever possible. All control must be directed to the effective removal, hazing or aversive conditioning of individual large carnivores (or groups) involved in conflicts while taking precautions to minimize harm or risk to non-target species (including people) and the environment.
- (b) Control actions can include the deliberate trapping of large carnivores involved in conflicts prior to their destruction, using culvert traps and other live-holding traps and snares.
- (c) In all situations in which it is necessary to destroy individual large carnivores involved in conflicts, shooting with an appropriately sized firearm is preferred. The target site may vary with the situation and species but a quick and humane death is the goal. Kill trapping will only be used for control of Wolves and Coyotes.



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- (d) Where it is determined that large carnivore control is necessary it will be conducted by the safest and most efficient method suitable to the local circumstances.
- (e) The reported presence of large carnivores in grazing areas will not be considered as a reason for control except as allowed under Section 3.4(f) below.
- (f) Notwithstanding Section 3.4(e), the control of large carnivores in response to confirmed harassment reports might be affected in the absence of confirmed livestock kills or injury.
- (g) Large carnivores threatening human life, or attacking livestock on private lands (includes leased land) may be destroyed through shooting or trapping by the landowner or manager of the stock or their employees as per the *Wildlife Act* Section 2(4) and Section 26(2). Where wildlife is destroyed in this manner it remains the property of the Crown unless the individual (employee, owner or manager) takes the animal during hunting or trapping seasons under licence. An individual that kills wildlife in defence of life or property must promptly report the killing to an officer (*Wildlife Act* Section 75).
- (h) Land leased from the Crown for the purpose of raising livestock is considered as private property for the purposes of this policy; grazing permit areas are not considered as private property.

3.5 Wolves and Coyotes

- (a) Producers are required to follow best management practices for cattle and sheep to reduce the risk of conflict with Wolves, Coyotes and other large carnivores. Good agriculture practices are preferred over control actions.
- (b) Where a conflict caused by a wolf pack has been confirmed the pack may be removed.
- (c) Denning Wolves or Coyotes (adults and young of the year) can only be removed if the den is established within an area actively used by livestock during the spring and summer seasons, and where livestock losses and harassment of livestock by these animals is confirmed.
- (d) Where circumstances prevent the immediate removal of Wolves or Coyotes (individuals or packs) involved in conflicts, control is permitted within a 12 month period following the livestock loss, in response to confirmed harassment reports within the same area. Whenever possible individuals or packs identified as involved in the conflict should be the priority for removal.

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3.6 Relocation

- (a) Decisions to relocate large carnivores in response to conflict with humans should be made by the regional FLNRO office in consultation with the Large Carnivore Biologist and Wildlife Veterinarian.
- (b) Capture and relocation of Cougars and Wolves will not occur, other than juveniles that may be taken into permanent captivity, if appropriate. Capture and relocation of conflict bears should be considered only in a few, limited circumstances. Adult bears will not be moved outside of their natural home ranges, or, in the case of dispersing subadult males, they will only be moved within distances that approximate their natural dispersal distances from natal home ranges. Bears will only be relocated short distances where all of the following conditions are met:
 - i) There is no or very limited indication of food-conditioning and no indication of aggressiveness. Animals considered to be dangerous to the public will not be relocated,
 - ii) The animal appears healthy, in good condition, and is not expected to need parental care to survive if relocated without its female parent,
 - iii) Dependant young animals are relocated with the female parent, and
 - iv) Animals that are handled and released are marked with an ear tag, permanent electronic tag, tattoo (lip and groin) and, preferably, a VHS or GPS transmitter. Those animals relocated under recovery programs will be outfitted with a radio transmitter and assigned to a monitoring program in accordance with standards prescribed by FLNRO and under an approved capture permit or by government staff only.
- (c) Factors that may improve the success of within home range relocation include:
 - i) The presence of natural, alternative forage,
 - ii) Security and thermal cover (e.g. climb trees for females with young),
 - iii) Lower than saturation densities of native, resident bears,
 - iv) Low levels of human habituation and no food conditioning history, and
 - v) Attractant issues that may have led to the within home range relocation are resolved.

3.7 Orphaned Bears

- (a) Grizzly Bears



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- i) All suitable orphaned Grizzly Bear young of the year in British Columbia may enter a collaborative pilot program between the Province and an authorized rearing facility.
- ii) Only young of the year are candidates for the program. Orphaned yearling Grizzly Bears will be left in the wild if appropriate.
- iii) The authorized rearing facility must have a valid permit in place that permits housing Grizzly Bear young of the year for rearing and release.
- iv) Any Grizzly Bear young of the year found without its mother must not be assumed to be orphaned and should be given every reasonable opportunity, or 48 hours, to re-join its mother.
- v) When an orphaned or injured Grizzly Bear young of the year is reported to or found by staff, the closest FLNRO regional office must be notified immediately. FLNRO will subsequently notify the Large Carnivore Specialist and an authorized rearing facility.
- vi) If the authorized rearing facility receives knowledge from the public or a wildlife rehabilitation facility about an orphaned/injured Grizzly Bear, they must immediately contact the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and the regional FLNRO office.
- vii) As soon as possible after capture, the animal should be transferred to the authorized rearing facility after an initial health assessment and treatment of any urgent issues by a veterinarian, including euthanasia if warranted after consultation with the Wildlife Veterinarian. Further evaluation of the young of the year's health will take place at the authorized rearing facility by staff in consultation with the local veterinarian, and/or the Wildlife Veterinarian. This assessment will determine the initial suitability of the animal as a candidate for the project.
- viii) If medical treatment is necessary, it should be done in consultation with the Wildlife Veterinarian.
- ix) Evaluation of any orphaned Grizzly Bear for entry into the pilot project must involve discussion of the following criteria and will include input from the Wildlife Veterinarian, FLNRO regional and/or headquarters biologists, and other professionals experienced in rearing orphaned bears. Ideally, these criteria should be met before an orphaned Grizzly Bear is admitted into the pilot project. However, discretion may be used based on the knowledge and experience of those involved in the evaluation:

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- Young of the year must not have any obvious injuries or disabilities preventing a reasonable chance of recovery and post-release survival.
 - Any treatable medical conditions or injuries must not create irresolvable pain or other inhumane conditions nor result in conditioning to human presence through increased handling.
 - Bears from the wild with no known previous experience with people will have priority over bears that have become food conditioned or exhibit imprinting behaviour.
 - Preference will be given to more than one young of the year in the facility at one time to enable socialization between animals.
 - Young of the year that are unsuitable candidates for rearing may be brought to an authorized rearing facility as a companion for suitable young of the year if there is a need and if there are no demands for that young of the year from a Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) approved captive facility.
- x) If a young of the year is judged to be unsuitable for initial or continued rearing, the disposition of Grizzly Bear young of the year will be determined by FLNRO and may include:
- Possible transfer to CAZA accredited facilities for display in British Columbia,
 - Possible export from British Columbia to a CAZA accredited facility for display in Canada (or equally accredited facilities in the U.S.),
 - Transfer to an authorized rearing facility as a companion for suitable rearing candidates, and
 - Euthanasia.
- (b) Black Bears
- i) Provided that permitted rearing facilities can provide adequate facilities to rear, release and monitor bears, consideration should be given to the rearing and release of orphaned Black Bear young of the year that are considered suitable candidates.
 - ii) In order to be considered as candidates for rearing and release:



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- Any Black Bear young of the year found without its mother must not be assumed to be orphaned and should be given every reasonable opportunity, or 48 hours, to re-join its mother.
 - Only young of the year are candidates. Orphaned yearling Black Bears will be left in the wild.
 - Young of the year must be in good health (of adequate size for that age class with no serious injuries or obvious illnesses), and
 - Young of the year must not display high levels of habituation to humans or conditioning to human food sources. If there are any questions regarding the physical or behavioural condition of the bear the Wildlife Veterinarian or FLNRO regional/headquarters biologists will be contacted for advice.
- iii) Young of the year that are brought to rearing centres must be examined by a veterinarian, after which FLNRO regional staff, in discussion with the facility, will decide whether the young of the year should be euthanized or reared by the rearing facility for later winter or summer release.
- iv) Adequate and suitable facilities must be available at a rehabilitation centre that meet provincial standards for the rearing of bear young of the year for release into the wild.

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Appendix 1 Human - Bear Conflict Response Matrix

		Level of Conflict/ Bear Behavior					
		Level 1 Wary of human (leaves on approach)	Level 2 Habituated (indifferent to presence of humans)	Level 3 Assertive behavior or causes property damage (including livestock and pets)	Level 4 Follows/bluff charges humans (threatening behavior) or is fed by humans	Level 5 Causes human injury (defensive/surprise attack) or enters unoccupied building	Level 6 Predatory or non-defensive attack or enters occupied buildings
Habitat Type and Feeding Source	Level A Bear is feeding on natural foods in natural area or continuous bear habitat	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Manage	Destroy
	Level B Bear is feeding on natural foods in area adjacent to continuous bear habitat	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	Level C Bear is feeding on natural foods in sub-urban or residential area with immediate escape route	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	Level D Bear is occasionally feeding on non-natural foods in remote area (camps, etc.)	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy
	Level E Bear is frequently feeding on non-natural foods in residential area with immediate escape route	Manage	Manage	Remove	Remove	Destroy	Destroy
	Level F Bear is frequently feeding on non-natural foods in confined/urban areas with no immediate escape route or enters an occupied building	Manage	Remove	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy



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In any incident where an imminent threat to public safety exists, any appropriate and necessary action may be applied. In the event that the health or well-being of any particular bear is determined to be compromised (sick, injured, emaciated, etc.), humane euthanasia will be considered.

See Section 3.7 of the Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores procedure regarding response to orphaned bear cubs.

Long-distance translocation of bears will not normally occur. Under some circumstances, immobilizing and removing animals off-site for assessment may be appropriate.

With all incidences relating to livestock depredation, husbandry practices should be assessed and communicated to the producer by the responding officer.

LEVELS 1-2 LOW RISK

EXAMPLES OF WARY OR INDIFFERENT BEHAVIOUR

- Leaves on approach/presence of a human
- Stands ground on approach but then leaves
- Leaves after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.
- Stands ground after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc. but then leaves

LEVELS 3-4 MODERATE RISK

EXAMPLES OF ASSERTIVE OR THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Stays and approaches after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.
- Stays and (bluff) charges after yelling, honking, firecrackers, bear bangers, etc.

LEVELS 5-6 HIGH RISK

EXAMPLES OF DEFENSIVE OR PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR

- Confrontations as a result of a sudden encounter with a bear protecting its space, cubs or food.
- Continues to approach, follow, disappear and reappear, or displays other stalking behaviors. Attacks a person that is in a tent or other structure.

DEFINITIONS

Monitor – Provide advice regarding attractants, appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter, safety advice if a person did encounter a bear, and bear behavior. Continue to monitor for further reports. An officer may attend to investigate the reliability of the report.

Manage – Provide advice regarding attractants and appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter. Non-lethal management (hazing) may be delivered in appropriate circumstances. May include:

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Manage Attractants – ensure that all non-natural foods are removed from the conflict site or stored in a bear-proof manner (such that the bear cannot access them).

Manage Bear – use non-lethal tactics (bear aversion; hazing) to move the bear away from the conflict site to suitable cover or a more desirable location away from people or busy urban areas, preferably back to a natural area or bear habitat.

Manage People – ensure that people in the area of conflict are kept a safe distance from the bear; educate people as necessary to ensure the circumstances that lead to the conflict aren't repeated.

Manage Site – this may include stopping traffic or heavy equipment while a bear is being shepherded away from the site; or if conflicts are expected to reoccur at this site, this may require closing the area, with signage and/or barriers.

Remove – The animal is considered a risk to public safety and must be removed. There may be an option to relocate following Section 3.2 of the Preventing and Responding to Conflicts with Large Carnivores procedure. Otherwise the animal must be destroyed.

Destroy – The animal is considered a high risk to public safety and must be destroyed.

Bear habitat – an area away from human development that contains suitable food sources, travel corridors, cover and denning spaces.

Confined urban area – a heavily populated human-use area in a city.

Defensive attack – A bear that makes full physical contact by either swatting or biting and has exhibited defensive behaviour prior to contact.

Escape route – a clear route free of obstacles.

Natural area – an area that is not landscaped, but where plants grow naturally/wild.

Natural foods – native or non-native species plants (or their parts i.e. roots, fruit, seeds, nuts) that grow naturally/wild in an area (not landscaped plants); insects; fish and small mammals (wild not domestic).

Non-defensive attack – a bear that attacks exhibiting offensive aggressive behaviour.

Non-natural foods – garbage, human food and other odorous products that have attracted a bear (not including fruit trees, crops etc.).

Occupied building – A four-sided structure in which people live/work.

Predatory attack – A bear that attacks a person with predacious interest or intent.

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Appendix 2 Human - Cougar Conflict Response Matrix

		Level of Conflict/Reported Cougar Activities						
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
		Unconfirmed sighting	Confirmed sighting	Confined or treed	Habituated or day time sighting	Follow or stalk a person	Attack or kill pets or livestock	Attack on a person
Location and Public Risk	Level A Wilderness setting- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy
	Level B Rural setting- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level C Front country habitat- Human presence MINIMAL	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level D Wilderness setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy
	Level E Rural setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy
	Level F Front country habitat- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy
	Level G Urban setting- Human presence HIGH	Monitor	Manage	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy	Destroy

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In any incident where an imminent threat to public safety exists, any appropriate and necessary action may be applied. In the event that the health or well-being of any particular cougar is determined to be compromised (sick, injured, emaciated, etc.), humane euthanasia will be considered.

If the option exists, orphaned kittens may be transferred to a CAZA accredited zoo. Otherwise they will be euthanized. There are no rearing facilities in BC permitted to rear orphaned cougar kittens.

Translocation of cougars will not normally occur. Under some circumstances, immobilizing and removing animals off-site for assessment may be appropriate.

With all incidences relating to livestock depredation, husbandry practices should be assessed and communicated to the producer by responding officer.

Dispersing juveniles are a potential elevated risk as they roam widely in search of unoccupied territory and have poorly developed hunting skills. This is when cougars are most likely to conflict with humans.

A cougar will demonstrate various levels of behaviour throughout any given day depending on many different variables. These behaviours are often not reported nor observed by humans however may be taken into account if presented within a report.

LEVELS 1-3 LOW RISK EXAMPLES OF NON-THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Viewing from a distance
- Flight
- Lack of attention, various movements not directed towards a human
- Ears up, intent attention, shifting of positions, following behaviours

Examples

Subject is walking in wildland/rural area, subject observed a cougar, the cougar observed subject, the cougar moves off.

Cougar seen crossing a paved road on the edge of a subdivision in a green belt at night.

LEVELS 4-5 MODERATE RISK EXAMPLES OF MODERATELY THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

- Day active in the presence of people
- Intense staring, following and hiding
- Hissing, snarling and other vocalizations

Examples

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Urban: cougar is sighted in a town, residential development, including any green belt or public area adjacent to or within this identified environment or other areas that are not within the specific urban setting, such as a large park, river valley or golf course.

Rural: where a cougar is observed in amongst the vicinity of residences, farmyards, livestock or other domestic animals.

Defensive encounters: a cougar is on a kill, it defends the kill site and does not retreat or leave area when human presence is known.

Backcountry: a cougar follows a person when they are out hiking or working.

LEVEL 6-7 HIGH RISK

EXAMPLES OF THREATENING OR ATTACK BEHAVIOUR

- Crouching, tail twitching, intense staring, ears flattened like wings, body low to the ground, head is up
- Crouching, tail twitching, body and head low to the ground, rear legs "pumping", fur standing out

Examples

Human safety: A cougar attacks and kills or injures a person.

Domestic livestock and pet, property loss: A cougar attacks and kills or injures domestic livestock or pets.

DEFINITIONS

Monitor – Provide advice regarding attractant management, appropriate behavior to avoid an encounter, safety tips when a cougar is encountered, and cougar behavior. Continue to monitor for further reports. An officer may attend to investigate the reliability of the report.

Manage – Gather further information by contacting complainant or directly responding to the complaint. Manage based on assessment of risk to public safety. All options may be considered (educate, manage attractants/cougar/people/site, destroy). May include:

Manage Attractants – ensure that all attractants are secured at the conflict site or stored in a wildlife-proof manner, including night-time containment of livestock.

Manage Cougar – provide space to allow the cougar to move away from people or busy urban areas, preferably back to a natural area or continuous cougar habitat.

Manage People – ensure that people are aware of cougar safety and cougar conflict reduction information.



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Manage Site – this may include closing the area, with signage and/or barriers or moving a kill that is being defended.

Destroy – the animal is considered a high risk to public safety, pets or livestock and must be destroyed.

Confined – cougar is in fringe habitat or urban area with no immediate escape route.

Euthanasia – following Canada Council on Animal Care Guidelines, the animal will be euthanized by the most humane and expedient method and where possible, away from public scrutiny.

Front country habitat – the interface between wilderness/rural and urban settings, usually dominated by medium-sized properties such as acreages and/or small hobby farms.

Habituated – when a cougar approaches humans or remains in human frequented areas, and displays behaviors that are a cause for public safety concerns (e.g. daytime sightings) and fails to avoid humans or human frequented locations and structures.

Natural area – an area that is not landscaped, but where plants grow naturally/wild.

Natural foods – native or non-native prey species that occur naturally/wild in an area (wild not domestic).

Non-natural foods – domestic animals (pets and livestock), that may attract a cougar.

Nuisance – a cougar the repeatedly frequents and is observed in residential areas or areas of high human use, or a cougar that has attempted to attack pets or livestock.

Rural setting – an area dominated by very large land holdings and commercial agricultural use.

Urban setting – a densely populated human-use area in a community.

Wilderness setting – an area away from human development that contains suitable food sources, travel corridors, cover and denning spaces.

