

Program Framework for the British Columbia Chapter of The Wildlife Society (BCTWS)

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society's (TWS) mission is "To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation" (see <http://wildlife.org/about/>). TWS is the premier professional and scientific wildlife organization with ~10,000 members world-wide. TWS membership enhances networking and learning opportunities, professional and career development, and delivers numerous ways to get more involved in creating a better future for wildlife and their habitats.

A Canadian Section of TWS was created in 2007 with several provincial and student chapters established across the country. The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education in Canada.

The Canadian Section delivers an array of services to TWS members, including social networking sites, online job-seeking and mentoring sites, a leadership training program for young professionals, and much more.

The British Columbia Chapter

The BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society (BCTWS) is a professional society composed of individuals interested in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats in British Columbia. We are dedicated to sound wildlife management and conservation worldwide with a focus on the rich wildlife heritage of British Columbia. Consistent with the vision of The Wildlife Society, the goals of the BCTWS are to:

1. Support a connected, vibrant, and diverse membership of individuals across British Columbia, including professionals, naturalists, students, and First Nations;
2. Serve as the link between the BC membership and the Canadian Section and The Wildlife Society in general in order to bring information to and disseminate the voices of our membership;
3. Support vibrant and active student chapters to build and support future generations of wildlife professionals; and
4. To support policy development and decision making throughout British Columbia that is informed by the best available science.

BCTWS Activities

To support and promote the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats across British Columbia, the BCTWS will place an emphasis on the following activities:

1. To support a connected, vibrant, and diverse community of individuals and professionals (our membership) interested in wildlife and wildlife issues in British Columbia, the BCTWS will:
 - i. provide our members with opportunities for networking, sharing of information, and mentorship both within BC, across Canada, and internationally through:

- a. annual meetings that will: a) encourage interaction in a welcoming environment, b) provide training opportunities; and c) recognize outstanding work in the profession;
 - b. newsletters that contains: a) member content and other information relevant BC; b) promote communications among members;
 - ii. in conjunction with student chapters, host periodic webinars/seminars to keep our members active in the latest techniques, regulations, and science in wildlife management and conservation; and
 - iii. serve as a link between the BC membership, the Canadian Section of the Wildlife Society, and The Wildlife Society by providing members information from Canadian and international chapters and delivering our members voice to the parent organizations.
- 2. To support future generations of wildlife professionals the BCTWS will:
 - a) support vibrant and active student chapters by helping develop programs in their respective schools, assist students in playing a strong role in the BCTWS annual meetings, and provide networking and mentorship opportunities for students;
 - b) promote student chapter recruiting a broader membership base by providing a strong BCTWS chapter (see point #1 Above) that can support student chapter activities; and
 - c) facilitate mentorship opportunities by connecting student and professional members within the BCTWS (i.e., linking mentors and mentees).
- 1) To support policy development and decision making that is informed by the best available science, the BCTWS will:
 - a) support the education and activities of our members in collecting scientific data, communicating findings to decision-makers, and facilitate the translation of science into sound and responsible policy;
 - b) focus on building links between our members and academia, government (including First Nations governments), and non-government groups through an inclusive newsletter, welcome annual meetings, and through direct meetings with the executive.
 - c) promote connections between student chapters that build a broad network of wildlife professionals and individuals who can work across sectors and bridge transitions between academia, government (including First Nations governments), conservationists, and industry.