



Wildlife Management

A Complex Issue

A Brightwater/Nutana Collegiate Inquiry
Teri Clark 2012



Rational

Why is it important to gain a better understanding of wildlife management?

- Impact of human activity
- Natural environment as our “Source”
- Informed opinions verses solely from emotional platforms

Overview

- Basic knowledge
- Various perspectives
- Brightwater Wildlife Management Inquiry
- The “Game” Plan

Wildlife Management

- What does it mean?
- What is meant by the term “Wildlife”?
- What is meant by the term management?

Wildlife

- All forms of animal life that are not domesticated
- Includes farmed wild species

Management

- directing a group of people or entities toward a goal
- Implies a human dimension
- Involves planning, learning, researching, leading or directing, and controlling

Wildlife Management

- Process of problem solving
- Long term viability of spaces, species and ecosystems
- Economic and social benefits of wildlife for present and future generations

Wildlife Management Perspectives from History

- Ancient practice:
 - Noah's Ark – reintroduction of species
 - Moses – regulatory management
- Indigenous Peoples pre-contact (< 1534)
 - Sustenance, clothing, shelter
- Indigenous/Metis post-contact (> 1534)
 - Trade (beaver, bison)

The Beginning of Modern Wildlife Management

- Early legislation (late 1700 – 1900)
 - Wolves (1793) - Predator control (bounty)
 - Game (1821) - Regulatory management
 - Snowshoe Hare (1864) - Stocking (introduction)
 - Wildlife Resources (1867) – Provincial jurisdiction
 - 1917 Migratory Bird Treaty
 - Migratory Bird Convention Act

Managing Wildlife is Complex

Decisions involve the consideration of several perspectives:

- Ecological
- Cultural
- Economic
- Social
- Political

Ecological Perspectives

- Population ecology
- Maintain a healthy ecological balance
- Responsible stewardship involves habitat management
- Preservation – Hands Off
- Conservation – Wise Use

Cultural Perspectives (Indigenous Peoples)

- Historical dependence on wildlife for sustenance
- Intimate knowledge led to self imposed limits
- Treaties signed prior to wildlife management regulations
- Wildlife source of livelihood

Economic Perspectives

- 1500's Atlantic coast fishing industry
- Fur Trade an adjunct to fishing industry
- 1980's Canada world leader of fish exports
 - (1992 collapse of Cod population)
- Hunting and trapping
 - economic status
- Economic goals
 - (short-term resource exploitation a priority)

Social Perspectives

- Recreation
- Hunting/Fishing – sustainable harvesting
- Pests and Disease
- Since mid 70's socioeconomic influence
- Preservation – Wildlife Sanctuaries
- “Wise use” - long term consequences of the impact of human activity

Political Perspectives

- Responsibility of:
 - the Ministry of the Environment (Environment Canada)
- Democratic Society – all stakeholders
- Dynamic balance of other 4 perspectives

The “Game” Plan

Wildlife Management Decisions

- Responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment
 - Federal and Provincial Laws and Regulations
- Recommendations from Research
 - scientists/biologists, public interest groups, cultural considerations
- Enforcement Division

Conventions and Legislation for Wildlife

- *Migratory Bird Convention Act 1917/1994*
- *Canada Wildlife Act 1973/1985*
- *WAPPRITTA 1996*
- *SARA 2003*

Migratory Bird Convention Act 1917/1994

***Conservation of migratory bird
populations by regulating potentially
harmful human activities***

- Migratory Birds Regulations
 - Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations
 - Bird Hunting Permit 1966
- Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

Canada Wildlife Act ***1973/1985***

Creation, management and protection of wildlife areas for wildlife research, conservation or interpretation

- *Preservation of critical habitats*
- *Wildlife Area Regulations*

International Wildlife Act

- ***WAPPRITTA - Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Inter-provincial Trade Act (1996)***
(CITES Convention 1975)

The Species at Risk Act ***2003***

(SARA) Recovery and Protection of Wildlife Populations from becoming extinct

- Recovery
 - Protection
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- Includes prohibitions against killing, harming, harassing, capturing or taking species at risk
- Enforcement exclusive to federal land

Enforcement Division

- Prairie and Northern Region (AL,SK,MN)
- Responsible for border controls
- WAPPRIITA Federal law that forms bases
- 12 Federal Officers (NPR)
- National and international collaboration
- Provincial Conservation Officers
 - Game Wardens
- 3 Functions:
 - Inspection
 - Investigation
 - Intelligence

Conclusion

- **Wildlife Management is**
- Ancient practice - Complex human dimension
- Efforts to right the wrongs is a balancing act
- We all have a responsibility

Brightwater Wildlife Management Inquiry

Should the beavers that occupy the Brightwater SPS site be managed? How?

- **The Purpose:**
 - Better understanding
 - Become aware of the complexities
 - Develop and express knowledgeable recommendations – student voice
- **“5W’s of Managing BH20 Beaver Population”**
 - Who, What, When, Where, Why and How
- **Inquiry Phases:**
 - Investigation
 - Discussion
 - Recommendations

Inquiry Phases

- Investigation Phase:
 - the 5 influential perspectives
- Discussion Phase:
 - Wildlife Symposium: “Should the beaver that Occupy the Brightwater SPS site be Managed? How?”
- Recommendations Phase:
 - Written Recommendations (Report)
 - Presentation to the Brightwater Committee

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Thank You!

