Membership Guidelines
Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Coalition

The Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition (FWHC, the Coalition) is a voluntary coalition of civil-society organizations working to advance the conservation, restoration, and responsible stewardship of fish, wildlife, and habitat in British Columbia.

FWHC exists as a public-interest Coalition, bringing together organizations in the conservation space to provide a credible, science-based voice in policy and management discussions. Members are the decision-making body and the Coalition's public voice. They guide priorities, set policy positions, and ensure FWHC's activities reflect science-based conservation principles.

Membership Criteria

Coalition membership is open to established organizations representing a defined constituency, sector, community or conservation interest whose work materially relates to fish, wildlife, habitat, conservation, stewardship or the sustainable use and enjoyment of British Columbia's natural resources.

Members recognize that conservation and sustainable wildlife management may include a range of management tools and lawful consumptive and non-consumptive uses, where supported by science, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, conservation objectives and appropriate management.

Membership Application & Review

Applications will be reviewed collectively by the Coalition against its membership criteria, objectives and principles. Applications may be approved, deferred pending further information or consideration, or declined.

Membership Commitments

Members will:

- Support and work towards the FWHC's objectives
- Respect diverse perspectives and work collaboratively
- Act in the best interest of fish, wildlife and habitat
- Support population- and species-level conservation
- Support sustainable use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife populations (i.e. viewing, birdwatching, hunting, trapping and angling)
- Support science-based management and decision-making
- Support on-the-ground conservation and stewardship activities

All members must uphold the FWHC Terms of Reference and adhere to the FWHC Code of Conduct.

Roles & Responsibilities

Members are the decision-makers in FWHC and:

- Set Coalition priorities and positions
- Approve letters, submissions and public statements
- Represent FWHC to government and media
- Participate in FWHC-branded lobbying events
- Meet with elected officials
- Have their organization's logo displayed on the FWHC website and in correspondence

The Coalition will have four designated Coalition representatives who serve as designated points of contact and may be identified in Coalition correspondence. There should be a representative for each of the following sectors:

- Non-consumptive ENGOs *(currently Aleesha Switzer)*
- Consumptive ENGOs *(currently Jesse Zeman)*
- Consumptive tourism *(currently Kathy MacRae)*
- Non-consumptive tourism *(currently Scott Ellis)*

Participation and Communication

Each member organization may designate up to two active representatives. Member organizations are responsible for identifying their representatives and notifying the Coalition of any changes.

Participating in general bi-weekly meetings is encouraged and members are responsible for monitoring communications, including emails and meeting materials, and keeping informed of matters under consideration.

Decision-Making Process

- **Consensus:** The Coalition will make decisions by consensus among member organizations. Consensus means general agreement following discussion, to achieve unified positions grounded in conservation science and stewardship principles.

- **Voting:** Each member organization has one vote. Voting rights apply where a vote is required to resolve a decision that cannot be reached by consensus.

- **Decision-making process:** Decisions may be made during bi-weekly Coalition meetings, or through email, with clear deadlines provided for feedback.

- **Approval of Coalition communications:** Members are expected to review proposed letters, submissions, and public statements within the stated timeframe. Unless a member raises concerns or requests changes before the deadline, they will be considered supportive of the communication.