

RESOLUTION MANUAL 1995 – 2005

Introduction

The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN) is a family of naturalist clubs whose twin goals are voiced in our motto:

To know nature and to keep worth knowing

The goals of education and conservation are inextricably bound to one another, as further explained in our four objectives:

- 1) To provide naturalists and natural history clubs of British Columbia with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues.
- 2) To foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations.
- 3) To encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout British Columbia.
- 4) To provide a means of communication between naturalists in British Columbia.

The FBCN believes that negotiation, cooperation and consensus are ways to build a lasting conservation strategy in British Columbia. Through partnerships with other organizations and governments we strive to further conservation and natural history education in the province of British Columbia. We will, however, petition government at all levels to achieve our goals.

Specific policy comes from the resolutions that the FBCN passes at Annual General Meetings, and occasionally at a Fall General Meeting or Executive Meeting. This Resolution Manual covers the eleven year period from, and including, 1995 - 2005. Two previous Manuals were previously compiled, *Resolution Manual 1988-1994*, and *Policy Manual 1988* which provides resolutions from 1979-1988.

This Resolution Manual was compiled summer 2005 by Bev Ramey.

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How to Read the Manual

The resolutions presented are in shortened format with only the ‘Be It Resolved’ section of the resolution printed. In a few instances for clarity, a passage from the ‘Whereas’ statement or other background information has been included in italics. If you would like a copy of the entire resolution, please contact the FBCN office.

The resolutions are first presented in a chronological listing year by year. Each is given a number at its end, starting with the last two digits of the year in which it was passed. For example resolution number 00-03, is from the year 2000, and is number 3 from that year.

The second half of this manual presents the resolutions by subject. There, only the resolution title and number is listed. With the resolution number you can refer back to the chronological listing to read the resolution. In this subject section of the manual, resolutions may be listed under more than one subject heading.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF RESOLUTIONS BY YEAR

1995 – AGM at Naramata

ABORIGINAL TREATIES

(Protection of natural ecosystems is most secure when their protection is the responsibility of all humans of the surrounding area. Depending on a natural area's significance the provincial, national, and even global human population may have a right and duty to act on its behalf.)

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the negotiating parties to affirm that such management (*treaties which put natural areas or resources under the management of a Band*) is a delegation of control from all Canadians, which stays in effect as long as accepted environmental protection standards are met.

(95-01)

COQUITLAM RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Be It Resolved that the FBCN congratulate the Government of British Columbia on the designation of the Coquitlam River Wildlife Management Area as one of only 14 wildlife management areas now established within the province, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of British Columbia to complete the designation process by amending the acts and passing the regulations necessary to legally protect this important wildlife area.

(95-02)

HABITAT PROTECTION FOR THE PACIFIC WATER SHREW

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to immediately establish a recovery program for the Pacific Water Shrew and to work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to establish regulations for urban development which will protect and ensure connectivity of the remaining Pacific 'Water Shrew habitat in the Lower Mainland.

(95-03)

SPOTTED OWL CONSERVATION AREAS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Greater Vancouver Regional District to protect 100% of suitable Spotted Owl habitat identified in Vancouver's watersheds, and to cease all road-building and logging activities in specified areas of the watersheds.

(95-04)

MT. DUFFERIN WILDLIFE HABITAT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request that the government of British Columbia, acting through cabinet, include the B. C. Building Corporation lands and the Crown lands at Mt. Dufferin (*City of Kamloops*) as an urban wildlife habitat park for the Province of B.C.

(95-05)

NEW MINING CLAIMS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN petition the Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum to prohibit the staking of new mining claims in areas that have been designated as “Areas of Interest” by the Regional Protected Areas Teams until such time as their status is determined.

(95-06)

OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK

Be It Resolved that a five-year moratorium on hunting in the Okanagan Mountain Park be imposed to allow for a study to determine the appropriateness of hunting in that area, and its impact on the safety of other recreational users, and its impact on wildlife populations.

(95-07)

HUNAKWA LAKE ECOSYSTEM

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Government of British Columbia in its land and resource management plan to establish a Class A Provincial Park to include the Hunakwa Lake area (*in the Thompson ecoregion*).

(95-08)

CRESTON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Be It Resolved that the FBCN strongly urge both governments to reinstate adequate funding to ensure that the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area will remain a Wetland of International and National Importance.

(95-09)

DONATIONS OF ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE LAND (FEDERAL)

(Income and Capital Gains Tax)

Be It Resolved that the FBCN write to the Federal Minister of Environment and the Federal Minister of Finance to:

1. congratulate them on the legislative initiative (*changes to Income Tax Act*)
2. ask them also to include changes to the Act that would free donors of ecologically sensitive lands from taxation of capital gains attributed to such lands, and
3. urge them to seek swift passage of the proposed legislation.

(95-10)

DONATIONS OF ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE LAND (PROVINCIAL)

(Municipal Land Tax)

Be It Resolved that the FBCN write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to request that the system of property taxation be reviewed and modified so that it encourages rather than discourages protection of ecological values of land.

(95-11)

1996 – AGM at Abbotsford

HOUSEBOAT CONTROL

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the appropriate provincial or federal ministry to introduce strict regulations and enforcement to control sewage and household waste disposal from all houseboats on British Columbia lakes by legal installation of specially sealed tank outlets, or a stamped ticket system showing where and when disposal of waste took place.

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the appropriate provincial or federal ministry to prepare legislation requiring all houseboats to be licensed and clearly numbered for easy identification.

(96-01)

FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION

Be It Resolved that the FBCN congratulate the federal government for recognizing the importance of protecting endangered species by drafting a proposed Act in 1995;

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal government to enact strong, effective endangered species legislation which would:

- seek to conserve all species, sub-species and distinct populations in Canada, to the full extent of the federal government's jurisdiction,
- list all species at risk based on scientific criteria,
- prohibit any actions that would harm an endangered species,
- prohibit any actions that would damage or destroy natural habitat which an endangered species needs to survive
- require an advance review process for any activity that could affect an endangered species or its habitat,
- require species recovery plans,
- provide incentives and assistance for private landowners who protect endangered species on their property,
- impose stiff penalties for violating the act, and
- promote cooperation with provinces, territories and First Nations, and encourage them to develop equivalent legislation.

(96-02)

TRANQUILLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to expand the Tranquille Wildlife Management Area to include:

- Riparian habitats along Kamloops Lake westward to include Cooney Bay, and
- An adequate buffer strip on either side of Tranquille Creek from the creeks' outlet at Kamloops Lake through the Tranquille property to the Crown lands beyond.

(96-03)

SALMON ENHANCEMENT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to restore funding on salmon enhancement projects that were cut from the active project list during

the past two fiscal years, and at the earliest possible time to direct additional staff and funds to such enhancement.

(96-04)

RE-OPENING SEASON ON ANTLERLESS DEER

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Wildlife Branch to not further pursue the opening of antler-less deer in Region 8, Management Units 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (*Similkameen River area*), and in the Fall of 1996.

(96-05)

PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR FORESTLANDS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN congratulate the Government of British Columbia for introducing the Forest Practices Code;

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of British Columbia and its Ministry of Forests to develop an amendment to the Code, which includes parts of the Code to enable forestry officials to monitor harvesting, the management of soil and riparian habitat, clean-up and re-planting practices on private lands;

Be It Further Resolved that this amendment will enable forestry officials in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Forest Land Commission to charge private landowners when they are in violation.

(96-06)

CANADA OCEANS ACT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to immediately reintroduce the Canada Oceans Bill C98 in the House of Commons (*the draft Canada Oceans Act represented a first significant step towards empowering Canadians to manage the marine activities within Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone in a sustainable, integrated, and precautionary fashion using a variety of tools, including the establishment of marine protected areas*);

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to proceed as expeditiously as possible, to third reading, senate debate and Royal Assent of the Bill in order that efforts to develop a national Ocean Management Strategy, as stipulated in the draft legislation, can begin as soon as possible.

(96-07)

TIRE RECYCLING LEVY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to adhere to the original intent of the legislation and use the tire levy funds for tire recycling and salvage.

(96-09)

1997 – AGM at Princeton

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the government to enact legislation in 1997 for the protection of groundwater.

(97-01)

OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the BC Government to take immediate action on amending the Occupier's Liability Act and other related Acts to adequately relieve occupiers of liability in order that use of private land for recreation and conservation purposes is not discouraged.

(97-02)

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN requests BC Parks to prepare a model draft agreement between NGOs and BC Parks which outlines roles and responsibilities of each partner for a stewardship agreement for the purpose of subsequent discussion and agreement with NGOs including the FBCN, and for determination of related objectives. *(background – concern that the present Volunteer Warden system is not well coordinated and accountability for monitoring and follow-up is unclear)*

(97-05)

SQUAMISH ESTUARY CONSERVATION

Be It Resolved that the FBCN supports the Squamish Estuary Conservation Society in its opposition to development of wetlands in the Squamish River Estuary and in its request for full public participation in a review of the Squamish Estuary Management Plan.

(97-06)

REVISING THE MINING ACT OF BC

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Employment and Investment to develop legislation to ensure that all proposed mining operations be subject to a public hearing process and conform to local Land Use Planning By-Laws.

(97-07)

LOGGING IN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Forests to withhold approval of cutting permits *(in areas which were zoned Low Intensity Forestry, and recently renamed Special Management Zones)* until the completion of appropriate ecological studies.

(97-08)

FUNDING REDUCTION TO MINISTRY OF FORESTS RECREATIONAL SECTOR

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Forests to restore the funding to its Recreation Sector to its former level.

(97-09)

1998 –AGM at Kelowna

PHASE-OUT OF BEEHIVE BURNERS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the provincial government to set an early and firm replacement deadline for the total phase out of beehive burners in the Province.
(98-02)

PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks to put aside political expediency and all considerations other than the welfare of wildlife and enact legislation, policy and programs agreed to in the National Accord, and this be done even without the cooperation and parallel action of the Federal Government.
(98-03)

ENDANGERED SPECIES BILL

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal Minister of Environment to put aside political expediency and all considerations other than the welfare of wildlife and enact legislation, policy and programs agreed to in the National Accord, and this be done even without the cooperation and parallel action of the Provincial Government.
(98-04)

USE OF TOPOFILE

Be It Resolved that the FBCN strongly urge the BC Ministry of Forests to recommend to forest companies and contractors that they 1) use forms of topofile that degrade relatively quickly or 2) gather up topofile immediately after use.
(topofile is hip chain string used extensively for forest inventory and silviculture surveys)
(98-05)

MINING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT 1998

Be It Resolved that the FBCN demand that the proposed legislation be withdrawn and a process of public consultation be undertaken prior to bringing the proposed act back to the Legislature.
(98-06)

ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN enjoin the provincial government to provide such resources in both funding and staffing sufficient to ensure that suspected infringements can be effectively investigated and, where necessary, prosecuted to the full extent of the applicable law.
(98-07)

COMMERCIAL HUNTING IN OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Premier and Cabinet to oppose the issuance of this hunter/guide outfitter license until a review of the Okanagan Mountain Park Master Plan is completed.
(98-09)

1999 – AGM at Qualicum

BC PARKS UNDER FUNDING

Be It Resolved that the FBCN call on the Government of BC to immediately implement the following recommendations made by the Parks Legacy Panel:

- Recommendation 22, to establish base line funding that fulfills government obligations to protect and manage the protected areas system,
- Recommendation 23, to develop a fixed funding formula to guide annual appropriations, and
- Recommendation 24, to prepare a multi-year strategic plan for increasing funding for the protected area system.

(99-01)

WILDLIFE PROGRAM BUDGET

Be It Resolved that the FBCN work to convince the provincial government of the need to increase financial and staff resources to the Wildlife program, and

Be It Further Resolved that the campaign strategy to achieve this should include, but not be limited to consideration of the following: cessation of budget/staff cuts at the 98/99 levels, replacement of resources to the 1995 levels, phased in over 2 to 5 years, discussion with Conservation groups as to the best means of augmenting Wildlife program budgets to avoid problems during difficult financial periods.

(99-02)

AMENDING THE BC WATER ACT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of BC to pass legislation amending the Water Act to license the use of ground and shallow waters, as is done for surface waters.

(99-03)

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN strongly urge the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia to draft and promulgate comprehensive, stand alone “Endangered Species Acts” which will effectively protect habitat and species at risk in Canada and British Columbia, and

Be It Further Resolved that both government develop this legislation in keeping with international standards and within a short timeline, so that Canadians and their descendants will be assured of a bio-diverse Canada and British Columbia.

(99-04)

PROPOSED PROTECTED AREAS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Premier and Cabinet to ensure that those Proposed Protected Areas recommended by consensus Plans and having received government approval be designated under the Park Act by Order-In-Council immediately.

(drafted with specific reference to the Entiako Proposed Protected Area)

(99-05)

FEDERAL LEGISLATION RE: CONSERVATION

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of Canada:

- a) to take the initiative for the establishment of a joint Federal-Provincial committee to determine if the legal and institutional system of Canada can be amended in such a manner that the objectives and responsibilities for protection and conservation of natural resources are clearly defined, and
- b) these responsibilities are assigned to the various jurisdictions in Canada in a manner that will create an efficient and effective legal framework and corresponding institutional management structure for Canadian natural resources, and

Be It Further Resolved that a comprehensive state of the Environment Report including a Natural Resources Account be presented to Parliament each year.

(99-06)

PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE NEST TREES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Environment, Land, and Parks to review Section 34 of the Wildlife Act with the objective of providing adequate protection for designated and newly discovered Bald Eagle nest trees in the Georgia Basin area, whether or not a nest is present, with substantial and meaningful penalties for removal or damage of these trees without a written permit issued by the Ministry.

(99-07)

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN call of the governments of Canada and BC and First Nations to:

- a) Move forward quickly with their joint strategy to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); and
- b) Ensure that these MPAs include large, representative and biologically diverse ‘no-take’ zones for marine nursery and sanctuary purposes; and
- c) Require minimum protection standards within the MPAs which prohibit the following activities:
 - ocean dumping and dredging;
 - exploration and development of non-renewable resources;
 - bottom trawling and dragging;
 - open net-cage fish farms, particularly those using acoustic disrupters;
 - introduction of alien species;
 - environmentally hazardous tanker traffic; and
 - military practice range uses; and
- d) Require high water quality standards to be maintained within the MPAs; and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN call on the government of Canada to:

- a) Immediately pass its proposed legislation, Bill C-48, an Act Respecting Marine Conservation Areas; and
- b) Proceed immediately with an open public consultation process directed at the establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area in the southern Gulf Islands, and, together with the government of British Columbia, continue its

acquisition of waterfront lands in the southern Gulf Islands as part of the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program; and
Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN call on the governments of Canada and British Columbia, First Nations and other interested stakeholders to set up an MPA in Indian Arm of Burrard Inlet as a practical pilot project by the year 2000.
(99-08)

SOUTHERN INTERIOR GRASSLAND

Be It Resolved that the FBCN call on the Minister responsible for Parks Canada to establish one or more National Parks in Natural Region Three (the Interior Dry Plateau of BC) to protect natural history values.
(Natural Region Three is bunchgrass, Ponderosa pine and interior Douglas fir zones)
(99-09)

2000 – AGM at Osoyoos

GRIZZLY BEAR VIEWING

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the BC Government to:

- a) undertake a detailed inventory of potential Grizzly Bear viewing sites in coastal BC, and thereby identify those sites having significant capability for viewing programs, and
- b) terminate Grizzly Bear hunting in areas having high capability for viewing, and
- c) promote safe Grizzly Bear viewing, and
- d) become more actively involved in establishing safe Grizzly Bear viewing sites and facilities, and in regulating and managing bear viewing activity.

(00-01)

WILDLIFE AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the BC Ministry of Transportation and Highways to:

- a) adopt a policy that a minimum fixed percentage of the total budget of future highway improvement projects will be dedicated towards wildlife mitigation/compensation efforts, and
- b) where it is not practical to carry out on-site mitigation for wildlife that the minimum percentage should be held in trust towards off-site mitigation (i.e. purchasing habitat), and
- c) take appropriate measures to secure important landscape-level linkages where highways have created significant barriers to wildlife movement.

(00-02)

HABITAT IN THE WILDLIFE ACT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the BC Government to amend the Wildlife Act to:

- a) expand the definition of wildlife to be more comprehensive and to allow listing of endangered and threatened species for all animals, plants, and fungi native to British Columbia, and
- b) define clearly and protect all critical habitat for species-at-risk (Endangered, Threatened, Red- or Blue-Listed, or of Special Regional Concern).

(00-03)

BIODIVERSITY IN FOREST DISTRICTS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the provincial government to:

- a) immediately appoint full-time, permanent Rare and Endangered Species Specialists in all Forest Districts and, furthermore, clarify that one of the duties of these Specialists is to identify and nominate potential Wildlife Habitat Areas for identified species, and
- b) immediately provide these Rare and Endangered Species Specialists with adequate funds and staff to undertake critical inventory work, mapping and the preparation of related documents necessary to create wildlife habitat areas, and

- c) lift the 1% cap on impacts to the short term timber supply to ensure that adequate habitat will be set aside for all the red- and blue- listed forest and range dependent species.

(00-04)

WETLAND POLICY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Provincial Government to establish a Wetland Policy for BC, that

- a) requires land use decision makers to give priority to wetland preservation, and
- b) prohibits damage to, destruction of, or harmful alteration of shorelines, and
- c) raises public awareness of the ecological value of wetlands, both within and outside government, and
- d) authorizes programs and policies designed to enhance and restore wetlands.

(00-05)

SHORELINE RESERVE

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Provincial Government to:

- a) establish through statute a Shoreline Reserve to protect a corridor adjacent to the ocean, river/stream, lake and wetlands' edge, and to protect this nearshore habitat from building, tree cutting or other shoreline modification, and
- b) provide funding to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks for enforcement.

(00-06)

LICENSING OF ATVs

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Government of BC to:

- a) enact legislation that would require the licensing of all-terrain vehicles, and
- b) include provision in the legislation that the licenses so required be prominently displayed on the vehicle.

(00-07)

LRMP FOR MERRITT-PRINCETON

Be It Resolved that the FBCN approach the Provincial Government with a request that the Land and Resource Management Plan process for the Merritt-Princeton District be commenced without further delay, and that all parties, such as naturalists and hikers be included in the deliberations.

(00-08)

CRANBERRY OPERATIONS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge:

- a) the Provincial Government and the relevant municipalities to restrict the expansion of cranberry operations in wetlands in order to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, and
- b) Government to routinely monitor discharge waters from cranberry operations to ensure high standard of water quality.

(00-09)

RIVERVIEW LAND

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Government of BC to re-initiate and complete the Riverview Land Use Advisory Process begun in 1996 and now on hold, and

Be It Further Resolved that the provincial government ensure the permanent preservation of the entire Riverview hospital site as a place to receive care in a restorative setting and where the entire site will remain as provincial Crown lands for the benefit, education and enjoyment of all residents and visitors.

(00-11)

FOREST PRACTICES CODE AND SUNSHINE COAST

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Minister of Forests to:

- a) require District Managers to comply with Section 41 (1b) of the Forest Practices Code Act, "...the District Manager (must be) satisfied that the plan or amendment will adequately manage and conserve the forest resources...", and
- b) give assurance that the intent of the Forest Practices Code Act will not be circumvented by decisions of local District Managers.

(00-13)

2001 – AGM at Williams Lake

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Government of British Columbia to:

- recognize the efforts of the FBCN, Grasslands Conservation Council, Outdoor Recreation Council and other organizations, agencies and members of the general public, by acting on the recommendations arising from consultations, and
- enact legislation that would require the licensing of all all-terrain vehicles, and
- include provision in the legislation that the license plates so required be prominently displayed on the vehicle.

(01-01)

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Agriculture to ban the sale of *Lythrum salicaria* plants and seeds from all nurseries in the Province of British Columbia, and also to ban the plant *Lythrum salicaria* from regional, civic or private home gardens.

(01-02)

HUNTING ON NATURE TRUST LANDS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge The Nature Trust of British Columbia and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to phase out hunting from any parcel of land on Vancouver Island purchased to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl.

(01-03)

CROWN LAND ON THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Provincial Government to ensure that all Crown lands on the Southern Gulf Islands are retained in public ownership for conservation purposes.

(01-04)

LOG BOOMS ON NANAIMO RIVER ESTUARY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the B.C. Government, and their agent, B.C. Assets and Lands (BCAL), to renew any existing leases on the Nanaimo River Estuary (for booming, sorting, or storing logs) only under the following conditions:

1. The lease renewal period will be short-term and fee should include compensation for degradation of wildlife habitat.
2. Lease renewal will be contingent on Industry working closely with other stakeholders in the development of the Nanaimo River Estuary Management Plan.
3. Industry must develop a strategic plan to phase-out booming activities in the Nanaimo River Estuary, within a specific time-frame, or be prepared to pay compensation for the continued degradation of wildlife habitat.
4. A monitoring program is established to ensure that booming activities are carried out within the terms of the lease.

(01-05)

PROTECTION OF EAGLE HEIGHTS GRASSLANDS

Be It Resolved that the Eagle Heights Grasslands be recognized as an important ecological asset on Vancouver Island, of a World Heritage site quality, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Government of B.C acquire the area quickly to protect its ecological values.

(Eagle Heights is located adjacent to Koksilah River Provincial Park, near Duncan.)

(01-06)

COWICHAN LAKE WATERSHED

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Cowichan Valley Regional District to augment the Lake Cowichan spring-summertime-fall water retention and water storage by raising the weir at the head of the Cowichan River.

(01-07)

2002 – AGM at Victoria

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE LICENSING

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of British Columbia to:

- enact legislation that would require the licensing of all-terrain vehicles, and
- include provision in the legislation that the license plates so required be prominently displayed on the vehicle, and
- to make action a priority for 2002/2003.

(Note this resolution included the ‘whereas statement’: the Federation of BC Naturalists has repeatedly asked government for action on this, including resolutions in 2001, 2000, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991, 1990, and 1989)

(02-01)

BYLAWS AGAINST URBAN PESTICIDES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request that the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) encourage municipalities and Regional District Electoral Areas to pass bylaws to ban the use of pesticides in specific areas, and

Be It Further Resolved that the UBCM strongly encourage municipalities and Regional District Electoral Areas to adopt policies favouring the use of native plant species to landscape in a manner appropriate to the local biological and climatic conditions.

(02-02)

NO TO SNOWMOBILES IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN oppose the recreational use of snowmobiles within our Provincial Parks and Protected Areas.

(02-03)

FRASER RIVER DEBRIS TRAP

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of British Columbia and the Federal Government, together with the forest industry, to put in place long-term funding for the Fraser River Debris Trap and to ensure that the debris that is trapped is disposed in an environmentally friendly way.

(02-04)

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF LOWER FRASER RIVER

Be It Resolved that the FBCN the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Jean Chretien, to request that the several federal agencies directly involved in the health of the Lower Fraser River, together with the Government of British Columbia, local governments, First Nations and the public, undertake a review to improve and rationalize the jurisdiction, the health, operational initiatives, research and educational imperatives to sustain a healthy Lower Fraser River from Hope to the sea.

(02-05)

INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC HEALTH

Be It Resolved that the executive of FBCN explore the development of indicators of environmental health and environmental capital with the federally supported National Round Table on Economic and Environment Development.

(02-06)

CROWN LAND TENURES AND SALE

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge Land and Water BC to ensure that:

- Applications are referred to other agencies for scientific review by wildlife and fisheries biologists and habitat specialists,
- Adequate time and opportunity is given for meaningful public consultation,
- A comprehensive backcountry recreation land use plan is in place for an area, before considering the issuing of a lease within that area, and
- The precautionary approach is used with respect to term of any leases issued, meaning that the term should be short so if unexpected negative impacts result, the lease can soon be legally terminated.

(02-07)

REINSTATE STAFF TO PARKS, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, HABITAT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Premier and the Government of BC to reinstate staffing levels to Parks and to our Wildlife, Fisheries, Habitat and Forestry programs.

(02-08)

2003 – AGM at Kamloops

REINSTATE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, in the strongest terms possible, to reinstate a Parks controlled and supervised nature interpretation and education programme beginning with the 2003 season.

(03-01)

MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DRILLING

Be It Resolved that the FBCN advise the federal government of our strong support for their moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling, and calls upon the BC provincial government to abide by this moratorium, and further,

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal and provincial governments to act quickly to designate marine protected areas.

(03-02)

SINGLE HULLED OIL TANKERS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal government to amend the legislation to phase out the use of single hulled tankers in Canadian domestic coastal waters by 2006, in line with US regulations.

(03-03)

FISH FARMING

Be It Resolved that the FBCN call on the federal and provincial governments to protect the marine life of the British Columbia coast by halting the issuing of all new fish farm licenses, until more scientific data and assessment is available to conclusively judge the impacts from escaped farmed fish and the spread of sea lice and disease and until best practices can be determined for siting fish farms, for establishing carrying capacity and the size of farms, and for disposal of wastes including dead fish, and further

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal and provincial governments to review the siting of existing fish farms and relocate or close farms which were poorly sited in the past, and further

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal and provincial governments to apply the precautionary principle in attempting to reduce the spread of sea lice and extend the closure of existing fish farms to cover a wider area where wild salmon migrations, including smolts, might be affected, and further

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal and provincial governments to support the development by the fish farming industry of effective closed containment systems, with a view to requiring that closed containment systems be brought into use within five years to replace all open net pens.

(03-04)

PROVINCIAL PROTECTION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of BC to enact stand alone Endangered Species Legislation, and further, in the intervening time,

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Government of BC to fulfill its obligations under the National Accord for Protection of Species at Risk.

(03-05)

MARBLED MURRELET RECOVERY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Provincial Government to immediately designate as Wildlife Habitat Areas all remaining old growth forests for Marbled Murrelet on Vancouver Island and on the southern mainland coast, in an effort to reduce any further losses to Marbled Murrelet, and that this habitat extend 100 kilometres inland, and further

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Provincial Government to designate significant areas of old growth forest on the central and north coast as Wildlife Habitat Areas for the threatened Marbled Murrelet.

(03-06)

PROTECT INTEGRITY OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN strongly urge the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection to uphold the letter and intent of the Ecological Reserves Act and not allow any commercial or exploitative use of Ecological Reserves.

(03-07)

LOWER FRASER RIVER DYKES AND SHORELINE

Be It Resolved that the FBCN ask the Fraser Basin Council to incorporate wetland enhancing and people friendly designs into their ongoing efforts to coordinate dyke protection in the Lower Mainland, and:

- create backwater sloughs of value to juvenile fish migrating to the sea,
- provide additional areas for public access to the river, such as the heavily used public parks of Vancouver's and Burnaby's Fraser River Parks,
- avoid use of, or remediate design of rip rap dykes wherever possible,
- encourage zones of riverine vegetation such as low and high marsh growth, shrubs, and cottonwoods (but with no trees planted on functioning dyke embankments).

Be It Resolved that all mowing activities on dykes should be carried out prior to April 1st and after July 30th.

(03-08)

SALE OF CROWN LAND LAKE LOTS ON OKANAGAN RESERVOIR LAKES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, on behalf of Land and Water BC, to immediately undertake a comprehensive study of the entire shoreline and water body of the Okanagan reservoir lakes, in consultation with local and regional governments, First Nations, health authorities, irrigation districts, and local interest groups; and the study should address the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and appropriate public access.

(03-09)

SPOTTED OWLS AND LILLOOET LRMP

Be It Resolved that the FBCN write to the Ministers of Water, Land and Air Protection, Sustainable Resource Management and Forestry, to convey our support of government

action that includes protection of habitat for the Spotted Owl, deferral of logging in activity areas of the Spotted Owl, and further studies and a recovery plan in the Lillooet area for this red-listed species, and further

Be It Resolved that the FBCN write the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management and the Premier reiterating the Federation's earlier support for the Conservation/Recreation/Tourism/Conservation option land use plan in the Lillooet area, with additional habitat protection for spotted owls, based on these new scientific studies.
(03-10)

2004 – AGM at Vancouver

SPOTTED OWLS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management and the Minister of Forests (with copies to the Lillooet MLA, Lillooet Mayor and Premier) to protect identified critical habitat for the Spotted Owl, to defer logging in known Spotted Owl habitat throughout BC, to complete the Recovery Plan, and to designate the thirteen proposed Protected Areas in the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan, and

Be it Further Resolved that the FBCN write the Federal Minister of Environment to ask that the federal government issue an emergency order under the Species At Risk Act to prohibit activities in BC that threaten known Spotted Owl habitat.
(04-01)

BIRDS AND BC'S BOREAL FOREST

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Ministry of Forests and the private forest companies in northeast BC, to cooperate to conduct breeding bird surveys to determine which areas require protection (including inventories for the Identified Wildlife bird species and other threatened bird species such as Broad-winged Hawk, Canada Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo), and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN request the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, together with the Ministry of Forests, to establish Wildlife Habitat Areas to protect critical habitat for these bird species.
(04-02)

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management in the Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan to use the precautionary principle and:

- designate full protection for critical valley areas,
- increase forest retention to provide viable connectivity, and
- restrict or prohibit motorized vehicle and helicopter access in important caribou habitat areas, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the BC Government to adhere to the precautionary principle in managing all Mountain Caribou herds, so that the declining population trend can be reversed, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN write the federal Minister of Environment to ask that the Canadian Wildlife Service monitor Mountain Caribou herds and their habitat management, with a view to assisting with habitat protection before this species is pushed closer to extirpation.
(04-03)

PROTECTION OF FRASER RIVER ESTUARY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN the Federal, Provincial and Regional Governments to officially recognize the Fraser River Estuary Important Bird Area designation, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Federal, Provincial and Regional Governments to cooperate to protect both marine and upland habitat to ensure the

protection and restoration of wildlife populations in the estuary, and to continue the research and monitoring that was initiated under the Fraser River Action Plan and that recommendations from that work should be implemented and not lost as a result of the submergence of the Fraser River Action Plan into the Georgia Basin Study.

(04-04)

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal and provincial governments, in consultation with First Nations, to create a comprehensive Marine Protected Area (MPA) system for BC with scientific and public input, and that the comprehensive MPA system should provide a complete network of refugia and harvest-free areas for replenishment of stocks, and that the MPAs should cover a minimum of 12% of each of the representative marine ecosystems of BC's coast by the year 2010.

(04-06)

OKANAGAN WATER SUPPLY

Be It Resolved that the FBCN write to the provincial government, the appropriate regional and municipal governments, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, and that the letter urge prompt actions to:

- Determine long-term sustainable water availability for the entire Okanagan Basin, taking into account the effects of potential climate change, and considering not only human water requirements, but the need to maintain biodiversity and adequate habitats for plants and animals,
- Incorporate the availability of water into a comprehensive long-term sustainable development plan, which would include an eventual cap on development, and that all Official Community Plans acknowledge that water servicing capacity is a long-term limiting factor for development,
- Set up one unified water supply authority having the power and facilities to adequately and efficiently provide and regulate for sustainable water supplies,
- Encourage a water-saving ethic by all, with universal metering together with appropriate pricing of all municipal water supplies.

(04-07)

2005 – AGM at Salmon Arm

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request the Government of British Columbia to expand the mandate of the Groundwater Advisory Committee to include the following tasks for consideration and approval by the Government :

1. to produce a clearly worded statement expressing that the primary objective is the integrity and sustainability of Groundwater Resources,
2. to draft policies and priorities for management of the Groundwater Resources of the province that will achieve the Government's objective,
3. to evaluate the effectiveness and the cost of alternative institutional arrangements for the administration of the proposed management policies and the monitoring of its effectiveness,
4. to draft proposals for groundwater regulations consistent with government policies.

(05-01)

COAL-FIRED ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

Be It Resolved that the FBCN request that the government of British Columbia:

- a) reconsider its plans to permit the development of coal-fired electrical plants in BC,
- b) recognize the dangers of coal-fired generation of electricity to human health and the environment by setting the limits of the emissions from such generation far lower than they are at present, and
- c) require that all proposals for the development of coal fired electrical generating plants be subjected to an environmental review process, which includes consultation with the citizens in the communities where the plants are to be considered.

(05-02)

ORVs AND RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Forests to:

- Enforce existing regulations, specifically the Forest and Range Practices Act - Part 5, concerning habitat destruction, illegal trail building and unauthorized cabin construction in order to prevent further damage to environmentally sensitive areas.
- Strengthen the Forest and Range Practices Act and clarify the jurisdictional roles of government agencies so that compliance and enforcement measures are effective, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Skeena-Stikine District of the Ministry of Forests to:

- Develop in consultation with Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management an outdoor recreation policy that prohibits the use of motorized vehicles, with the exception of snowmobiles, in all areas that are deemed to have sensitive terrain in the Skeena-Stikine Forest District, except on designated hard-packed roads and trails, or in special areas that would be designated as Off-Road Vehicle Parks. (By definition, sensitive terrain should include all terrain above 1500 metres in elevation, which is

the start of sub-alpine in the Bulkley Timber Supply Areas, together with all open wetlands and meadow complexes below 1500 meters elevation).

- Complete the Recreation Access Management Plan for the Bulkley Timber Supply Area that was started a number of years ago, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN endorse the initiative of the Outdoor Recreation Alliance of Smithers to pursue the development of a certification process for communities that implement responsible outdoor recreation plans which, when awarded, would be an asset in tourism marketing.

(05-03)

IMPLEMENT THE NANAIMO ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the federal Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment and the provincial government to provide the necessary funds to finalize the Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan and follow through with its implementation.

(05-04)

BALD EAGLE NESTING HABITAT

Be It Resolved that the FBCN urge the Islands Trust and Regional Districts of southeastern Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast to adopt a Bald Eagle Tree Protection Bylaw and declare Bald Eagle Nest Trees as permit Development Areas, these to include the (former) Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection report recommendations on protection of buffer areas, and

Be It Further Resolved that the FBCN urge the Ministry of Environment to strengthen Bald Eagle habitat protection under the BC Wildlife Act, and to consider protection for perching and roosting trees and for veteran Douglas-fir trees that offer potential nesting sites.

(05-07)

PROPOSAL FOR A FRASER DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

The FBCN, in consultation with wildlife biologists and local conservation organizations, recommends that:

1. The Minister of Environment designate a Fraser River Delta NWA on the delta upland (floodplain) and establish the resources required for ongoing management,
2. Environment Canada works with other federal and provincial agencies to protect all intertidal habitat of the Fraser River estuary in perpetuity,
3. Environment Canada ensures no further loss or degradation of habitat on Roberts Bank (intertidal and floodplain) and negotiates compensation for cumulative impacts of past and present port developments,
4. The Minister of Environment restores funding for environmental and ecological research and monitoring of the Fraser Estuary.

(05-08)

LISTING OF RESOLUTIONS BY SUBJECT

GEOGRAPHIC REGION

Vancouver Island

PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE NEST TREES, 99-07
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, 99-08
HUNTING ON NATURE TRUST LANDS, 01-03
CROWN LAND ON THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS, 01-04
LOG BOOMS ON NANAIMO RIVER ESTUARY, 01-05
PROTECTION OF EAGLE HEIGHTS GRASSLANDS, 01-06
COWICHAN LAKE WATERSHED, 01-07
IMPLEMENT THE NANAIMO ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 05-04
BALD EAGLE NESTING HABITAT, 05-07

Lower Mainland

COQUITLAM RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, 95-02
HABITAT PROTECTION FOR THE PACIFIC WATER SHREW, 95-03
SPOTTED OWL CONSERVATION AREAS, 95-04
SQUAMISH ESTUARY CONSERVATION, 97-06
PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE NEST TREES, 99-07
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, 99-08
CRANBERRY OPERATIONS, 00-09
RIVERVIEW LAND, 00-11
FOREST PRACTICES CODE AND SUNSHINE COAST, 00-13
FRASER RIVER DEBRIS TRAP, 02-04
IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF LOWER FRASER RIVER, 02-05
LOWER FRASER RIVER DYKES AND SHORELINE, 03-08
PROTECTION OF FRASER RIVER ESTUARY, 04-04
BALD EAGLE NESTING HABITAT, 05-07
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Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap

MT. DUFFERIN WILDLIFE HABITAT, 95-05
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK, 95-07
HUNAKWA LAKE ECOSYSTEM, 95-08
TRANQUILLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, 96-03
RE-OPENING SEASON ON ANTLERLESS DEER, 96-05
COMMERCIAL HUNTING IN OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK, 98-09
SOUTHERN INTERIOR GRASSLAND, 99-09
LRMP FOR MERRITT-PRINCETON, 00-08
SALE OF CROWN LAND LAKE LOTS, OKANAGAN RESERVOIR LAKES, 03-09
OKANAGAN WATER SUPPLY, 04-07

North

PROPOSED PROTECTED AREAS, 99-05
GRIZZLY BEAR VIEWING, 00-01
BIRDS AND BC'S BOREAL FOREST, 04-02
ORVs AND RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION, 05-03

Kootenays

CRESTON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, 95-09

SPECIES

Mammals

HABITAT PROTECTION FOR THE PACIFIC WATER SHREW, 95-03

RE-OPENING SEASON ON ANTLERLESS DEER, 96-05

GRIZZLY BEAR VIEWING, 00-01

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU, 04-03

Birds

SPOTTED OWL CONSERVATION AREAS, 95-04

PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE NEST TREES, 99-07

MARbled MURRELET RECOVERY, 03-06

SPOTTED OWLS AND LILLOOET LRMP, 03-10

SPOTTED OWLS, 04-01

BIRDS AND BC'S BOREAL FOREST, 04-02

BALD EAGLE NESTING HABITAT, 05-07

Fish

SALMON ENHANCEMENT, 96-04

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Species at Risk

HABITAT PROTECTION FOR THE PACIFIC WATER SHREW, 95-03

SPOTTED OWL CONSERVATION AREAS, 95-04

FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION, 96-02

PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, 98-03

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HABITAT IN THE WILDLIFE ACT, 00-03

BIODIVERSITY IN FOREST DISTRICTS, 00-04

PROVINCIAL PROTECTION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES, 03-05

MARbled MURRELET RECOVERY, 03-06

SPOTTED OWLS AND LILLOOET LRMP, 03-10

SPOTTED OWLS, 04-01

BIRDS AND BC'S BOREAL FOREST, 04-02

MOUNTAIN CARIBOU, 04-03

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PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE, 01-02

HABITATS

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MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, 99-08
MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DRILLING, 03-02
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Grasslands

SOUTHERN INTERIOR GRASSLAND, 99-09

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WETLAND POLICY, 00-05
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CRANBERRY OPERATIONS, 00-09
LOG BOOMS ON NANAIMO RIVER ESTUARY, 01-05
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OKANAGAN WATER SUPPLY, 04-07
PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES, 05-01
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HOUSEBOAT CONTROL, 96-01
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COWICHAN LAKE WATERSHED, 01-07
SALE OF CROWN LAND LAKE LOTS, OKANAGAN RESERVOIR LAKES, 03-09
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REINSTATE STAFF TO PARKS, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, HABITAT, 02-08
REINSTATE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, 03-01
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ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, 98-07
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ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 99-04
PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE NEST TREES, 99-07
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, 99-08
GRIZZLY BEAR VIEWING, 00-01
HABITAT IN THE WILDLIFE ACT, 00-03
SHORELINE RESERVE, 00-06
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REINSTATE STAFF TO PARKS, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, HABITAT, 02-08
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Lands & Tenures

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SALE OF CROWN LAND LAKE LOTS, OKANAGAN RESERVOIR LAKES, 03-09

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Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans

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