



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 9, 2009**

## **BC Wildlife Federation Encourages Point-of-Sale Registration of ATV's**

*Vancouver, BC* – With habitat and resource conservation as a core mandate, BC Wildlife Federation stands behind the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Sports Kevin Krueger on new regulations that will see mandatory registration on all-terrain-vehicles, or ATV's. Krueger's comments on the issue last week (Vancouver Sun, Oct.4/09) indicated that the new regulations may require a "highly visible plate" on ATV's and thus increase likelihood of identifying the few who recklessly engage in off-road activities that destroy or damage fragile fish and wildlife habitats.

While BCWF encourages off-road-vehicle registration, it does not support the idea of annual licensing of drivers or vehicles, as has been proposed by other off-road-vehicle associations, but rather a one-time, point-of-sale registration process that provides an identifying plate or decal that is attached directly to the ATV.

Speaking on behalf of her 35,000 members, BCWF Executive Director Patti MacAhonic believes that an annual licensing process steers the issue away from the intent of encouraging compliance in responsible off-road activities and providing a tool for enforcement to the RCMP and Conservation Service.

MacAhonic points out that an annual licensing requirement will present unnecessary and undue financial hardship to many who legitimately use these vehicles as tools, not toys, and who respect the habitat resources that support their activities.

"Our membership are highly concerned about conservation and habitat protection, and are not only accountable on their own merits, but are active volunteers in programs such as Wilderness Watch and RAPP programs, which monitor and enforce that accountability for others."

-30-

For further information contact Patti MacAhonic, Executive Director of the BCWF at 604-291-9990 extension 230 or at [patti@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:patti@bcwf.bc.ca).

**The BCWF is a province-wide voluntary conservation organization representing over 35,000 British Columbian members whose aims are to protect, enhance and promote the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.**

**The B.C. Wildlife Federation was incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act in 1951 and it became a registered charity in 1969. The Federation is British Columbia's largest and oldest conservation organization.**