



BCWF News



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A Program of the



BOW 2007 Patti Crosby teaching one of the participants how to shoot
Photo: Steve Kidd

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) 11th annual weekend will be held May 30, 31 and June 1st at Lake Cowichan on Vancouver Island. Last year's BOW was hugely successful with over 60 women who participated in a number of programs including: firearms safety, marksmanship, black powder, archery, outdoor photography, woodworking, trap shooting, ATV, stream channels, outdoor survival and fly-fishing.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman Weekend workshops are designed for women 19 years or older to provide an opportunity to learn outdoors skills in a relaxed non-competitive atmosphere. Courses are usually associated with hunting and angling, but are also useful for many other outdoor pursuits.

Cost to participate in BOW is \$250.00 for non-members of BCWF and \$215.00 for BCWF members. Fee includes accommodation, meals, and most equipment required for the courses they choose. Courses and registration will be available in the New Year and will be posted on the [BCWF homepage](#) or you can contact BCWF Provincial BOW Coordinator [Darlene Clark](#) Ph: (250) 724-4657 for information and/or a registration form. Registration is on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of payment.

A Resident's Perspective on Steelhead in BC

Article submitted by
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Kitimat BC
Vice-President, Skeena Region

Steelhead Stream
Classification Policy and
Procedure

Steelhead Stream
Classification
Backgrounder

Tony Toth (1948-2007)

Tony Toth, past Executive Director of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, passed away December 5, 2007 after a year-long battle with cancer.

Tony was born in Budapest on May 21st, 1948. His family escaped from Hungary in 1956 and emigrated to Canada eventually settling in Abbotsford. Tony earned a degree in Political Science at UBC.

Tony became Executive Director of the B.C. Wildlife Federation in 2002. Tony put his personal stamp on the operations of the BCWF, demonstrating the importance of communications and interaction with government at all levels.

He demonstrated his effectiveness after the CN Rail spill on the Cheakamus River where he showcased the BCWF as a leader in the community and brought various conservation groups and individuals to the table to ensure that CN Rail was held responsible for the spill and the cleanup.

Tony left his position with the BCWF in 2006 to pursue other endeavors; the legacy he left with the BCWF will not soon be forgotten.

First Annual Peace Region Deer Count

Provincially, Steelhead angling has become a contentious issue spurred by special interest and commercial groups effectively lobbying the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to implement the Steelhead Stream Classification Policy (SSCP). This has led to the loss of resident opportunity, participation and priority of this resource; over the past 15 years we have seen resident steelhead anglers reduced by 32% (30,000 anglers). Furthermore, non-resident participation is up 5% and guide and assistant guide licenses sold in 2006 were at an all time high.

Past decisions and recent application of the SSCP are responsible for these trends or what I like to call “the diversion of public property and opportunity to non-residents, private and commercial sectors”. We have seen new restrictions implemented in the Skeena Region that have a greater impact on resident anglers than that of non-residents and commercial angling guides. It appears that resident priority to access and utilize this fishery has been lost.

When further restrictions are justified to address a conservation concern the regulations should reflect resident priority first and foremost meaning that non-residents should be restricted before resident anglers.

The manner in which the province wide SSCP for wild steelhead was implemented has raised some concerns. Conservation is first and foremost and if aggressive restrictions are required so be it. However, considering resident priority, non-resident anglers should have been restricted first and foremost, commercial guided rod days should have been clawed back, helicopter angling for steelhead restricted to protect true isolated steelhead refuge and spawning sites and restricting guides from angling for themselves while being paid for their services thus lessening associated mortalities. This would support a true conservation based approach.

My opinion is clear, resident anglers have been driven off their revered rivers by the thousands in an effort to cater to commercial guiding and non-resident anglers. The manner in which the SSCP was implemented had little to do with conservation or more about displacing resident anglers in an effort to cater to and expand non-resident and commercial exploitation. Look around you to see how many resident steelhead anglers have hung up their rods in frustration, 30,000 and growing while commercial fishing and non-resident participation expands at a rapid rate. As anglers is our voice loud enough? Is conservation being addressed and is resident priority to the resource being exercised?

First Annual Peace Region Deer Count

January 12, 2008 the Peace Region will be holding their first annual deer count. Anyone who is interested in the wildlife is welcome to participate. The count will take place in the agriculture areas around Fort St. John, Chetwynd and Dawson Creek (MUs 7-20, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35, 45 and 46). The count will occur at anytime between 12:01 am and 11:50 pm. The goal of the count is to collect data on trends in population and location of deer, elk and moose.

To participate in the count you must attend one of two information sessions - January 5 @ 7:00 PM at the Dawson Creek Sportsman's Club, or January 6 @

59th Annual Vaseux Lake California Bighorn Sheep Count

South Okanagan Sportsmens Association

Petition to Close the Gun Registry

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has a petition shut down the current gun registry. Following the link to the [Petition](#) for more information.

Conservation Officer Service: Cutting your Tags

[Conservation Officer Service Homepage](#)

Using the E Newsletter

All subheadings in the left column and blue words in the body of the newsletter are hyperlinked.

When your mouse pointer is on them a hand will appear. This will allow you to click once when the hand appears and will automatically direct you to a website or email address.

Bob Pedersen(1929-2007)

BCWF Past President Bob Pedersen passed away Friday, December 14th, 2007.

7:00 at the North Peace Rod & Gun Club.

For more information contact the Ministry of Environment office in Fort St. John (250) 787-3411.

59th Annual Vaseux Lake California Bighorn Sheep Count

The Southern Okanagan Sportsmens Association (SOSA) will hold the 59th Annual Sheep count on February 10th. SOSA has been the stewards of the California Bighorn Sheep at Vaseux Lake every year since 1949 when Pat Martin, Wildlife Biologists, organized the first count.

Everyone interested is invited to meet at the provincial campsite off highway 97 at Vaseux Lake at 8:30 AM. The count is usually done in the afternoon; afterwards all participants are invited to the SOSA clubhouse for a steak dinner. Cost is \$10.00.

Contact [Joan McKay](#) via email or by phone: (250) 497-7031.

Conservation Officer Service: Cutting your Tags

British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service recently conducted compliance and verification inspections at various locations throughout the province. The checks involved Conservation Officers and in some cases RCMP and student observers. These activities support Ministry of Environment compliance and deterrence efforts by providing a visible presence at key locations. Additionally, the checks identified clients and resources users, providing a snap shot of compliance rates at a given time and place.

One of the most common non-compliance issues identified by Conservation Officers this year has been improperly cut tags. The following text provides direction to ensure that you have properly met provincial requirements.

Immediately after a hunter has taken a big game animal, they are legally required to cancel their species license for the animal taken. Each species license has several series of small triangles printed around its periphery. Each of the twelve months in a year has their names printed in one series of 12 triangles. A second series of triangles contain the numbers 1 through 31, to indicate the days in a month. A third series of triangles are numbered 1 through 8 to represent the 8 wildlife management regions in British Columbia. Finally, there are two triangles labeled 'Antlered' and 'Antlerless'.

To cancel a species license, the hunter is required to remove the triangles containing the month and day of the kill and the triangle containing the number of the wildlife management region in which the kill took place. If the hunter has killed a member of the deer family, they are also required to remove the triangle that indicates whether or not their animal has antlers. The triangles may be cut out

Bob was an ardent hunter, angler and a long-time member of the Nanaimo Fish & Game Club. Bob joined the club around 1958 and presided as Club President from 1962-63.

Bob was active both regionally and provincially serving as the President of the Vancouver Island Region of 1962 becoming President of the BC Wildlife Federation from 1969 to 1971. Bob then went on to become the President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation from 1975 to 1979.

Bob stayed active in his home club and with the BC Wildlife Federation participating regularly at the annual provincial conventions until health issues intervened.

Bob was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

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with a knife or scissors, carefully torn out with the fingernails or removed in any other way as long as the removal is neat enough to make the kill information unambiguous. The following example shows a mule deer species license that was cancelled on the 24th of October in wildlife management region 3 for an antlered animal.



We want to hear from you



Send us your news, stories and items of interest. If your article is selected for an upcoming newsletter we will send you a T-Shirt:

The purpose of the BCWF Newsletter is to provide your club with news and information that you want to see. This is your Newsletter containing your news.

If you have any comments, questions or an article for future newsletters please contact Jesse at Jesse@bcwf.bc.ca or 1-888-881-2293 EXT. 224 or feel free to contact any BCWF staff member.