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The BCWF questions how the new budget will affect the Ministry of Environment, their mandate and financial resource allocation to properly conserve and manage BC's fish, wildlife and habitat.

BC Wildlife Federation's mandate, which stresses conservation for now and future generations, questions how the government thought BC would be recession proof and unaffected by the global downturn when tabling February's budget. This apparent lack of foresight has placed BC wildlife and their habitat in a vulnerable position. The budget contains a revised budget deficit of \$2.8 billion which is a far leap from the \$495 million projected that this elected government stated throughout the provincial election.

With consideration of the budget cuts imposed on the Ministry of the Environment in February's budget how will the new budget ensure the protection and management of BC's wildlife and habitat? Challenges with the budget going forward for the Ministry of Environment will be exacerbated by resource sector cuts and projected revenue shortfalls. Focusing priority on the economic value of our natural resources, it is critical that appropriate funding is allocated to science-based conservation research, wildlife management, habitat conservation and enforcement. The Ministry of Environment faces critical challenges and will have to change their way of doing business; we strongly urge that this not be at the expense of science-based management.

BCWF Executive Director Patti MacAhonic states, "We strongly encourage the Liberal Government to consider the wise-use, conservation and management of our wildlife resource and habitat when allocating Ministry funds in the tabling of the revised budget. In order to be effective and responsible stewards the Ministry must think in a long-term capacity."

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For further information contact Patti MacAhonic, Executive Director of the BCWF at 604-291-9990 extension 230 or [click to email us](#).

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.