



Bryan L. Webster

Summary:

Retired from the British Columbia Public Service, on 30th November, 2003 having been a biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry since 1st May, 1970. Worked in various positions with this branch of government experiencing a wide array of responsibilities during that time. Involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of aerial and ground inventories for wildlife and vegetation, population risk assessments and direct, proactive management of fisheries and wildlife populations. Participated as a team member in the Federal/Provincial wood bison renewal plan transplant programs, the Kechika River elk transplant program and was responsible for the Mile 383 Stone's sheep transplant program. Responsible at various periods over the years for the planning, implementation and ongoing evaluations of the Peace/Liard Regional habitat management programs. Planning initiatives involvement ranged from regional through significant provincial initiatives involving our agency, other government agencies, various sectors of industry and private interest groups. These experiences involved at times being the lead for key programs such as being responsible for managing staff and directing input to land and resource planning with extensive involvements leading the program within and outside of government. For several years acted as the regional lead for development of regional inputs to government network design and infrastructure related to provincial GIS technology, data management, and standards, land and resource values mapping, implementations and assessments of contract deliverables relating to these. A major part of the position was to provide the region with the science and technical expertise, reporting and data analyses for the various programs the Wildlife and habitat Sections were involved in. Ran the Peace Regional Conservation Program for BC Parks from July 1999 to April, 2003.

Experience Highlights

- Various summer employment included running wireline diamond drills for various projects with Cominco Inc. at the HB Mine, Salmo, BC, both on surface and underground as well as at their Pine Point, NWT mine. One summer was spent working on a gas drilling rig west of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, one summer working at the Cominco smelter in Trail BC, and one summer spent underground as a stope miner.
- Conducted gravity magnetometer and electromagnetometer surveys for JVX Exporations Ltd. in the Okanogan in 1972
- Worked for a time as an Estates and Trust Officer for the Royal Trust Company, Victoria.
- From 1st May, 1970 through 15th August, 1973, conducted a California bighorn sheep mortality and habitat use assessment project in the Ashnola River watershed, south of Keremeos, BC, for the Fish and Wildlife Branch.
- From 16th August, 1973 through 1st May, 1974, was responsible for the wildlife management, problem wildlife and habitat protection programs for all of what is now both the Skeena and Peace/Liard Regions of the agency that is currently known as the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, reporting to a regional director in Prince George.
- Beginning in April, 1974, secured funding and conducted the initial inventories and problem analyses that identified fishery and wildlife inventory assessment requirements and issues that led to the multiple-year Northeast Coal Development Project.
- Implemented the Habitat Management program for the Fish and Wildlife Branch for the Peace/Liard Region from 15 august 1973.
- From 1st May, 1970 through 1977, conducted the Regional predator management program.
- Beginning in the winter of 1976 and culminating in 1994, a region-wide large ungulate problem analysis was conducted, that allowed the regional completion of highly sophisticated large scale wildlife inventory assessments to enable management capability from a science-based perspective. During the period 1978 to 1995 a major focus was the understanding of wolves and their impact on ungulate populations in the region. Designed and implemented extensive wolf inventories and conducted a wolf management program.

Bryan L. Webster

- From 1996 through 2002, funded by the BC Government's CLIB and FRBC initiatives, all major ungulates were successfully inventoried over much of the Region using the approved Resource Inventory Committee standard methodologies. This involved implementing stratified random blocks counts (as per Gasaway et al.) for moose (total area counted was 107,474 Km²) as well as for caribou and elk, and also extensive total count inventories for mountain goat and Stone's sheep)
- Beginning in 1978 and continuing until approximately the spring of 1995, was responsible for the design, planning, interagency and public involvement and implementation of the successful Northeast Elk Habitat Enhancement Project, which remains the single largest prescribed fire project in North America. After that date the project was basically considered complete and has been continued at a lower level of intensity by other staff members in order to maintain the required seral status for critical areas of optimal habitat in order to allow retention of suitable range condition for current elk numbers. Work on this project included establishing paper as well as GIS coverages and attribute data, digital history records for each site treated, Resource Inventory Committee standard vegetation assessments and photographic databases pre and post prescribed burns, monitoring of animal preference and use of the burns and adjacent areas, obtaining permits, hiring and directing fire crews, and all reporting. All public contact and feedback was completed by myself as well. Participated in the design and implementation of a later project known as the Northeast Elk Habitat Assessment Project, implemented to obtain a broader picture of the results of using prescribed fire.
- Identified the need to control access. Over a two year period, successfully established a method of ensuring orderly development for the Rocky Mountain Foothills north of the Graham River watershed by seeking and obtaining access protection of the area that is now known as the Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area in 1994 under the Wildlife Act. This was a highly involved endeavour and involved being the lead for Regional as well as Program level staff and other government agencies. Non-government involvement included chairing planning sessions to develop oil and gas exploration and development standard practices. In addition to government agencies, those involved were the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors, First Nations, the Northern BC Guide-Outfitters Association, the BC Trappers Association and an array of special interest groups. The final Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area package was handed over to the Land and Resource Management Planning tables for Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie, with significant direction and involvement, and ultimately led by way of the involvement of many others, to what is now known as the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) and the MKMA Act. Subsequent work is continuing by others to ensure that development is possible via a series of best practices and other planning initiatives as a result of those initial efforts.
- From 1974 to 1999, while involved in the Habitat Protection program, obtained government management control over significant lands for wildlife management purposes. Nearly two thirds of the crown lands in the lower Beatton River are now under Wildlife Management direction and a Wildlife Management Area Plan (WMA) was developed. Nearly the entire foreshore of Cecil Lake was similarly acquired and management was passed to Ducks Unlimited further enabling their development program.
- From 1975 through 1982, sat on the ARDSA Community Pasture Development Committees for the Region in order to ensure wildlife concerns were appropriately taken into consideration in the planning.
- During the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Proposal project days, led the first year set of wildlife inventory assessments for the Ministry.
- A few years ago when the US Federal Wildlife Service was looking for wolves to move to Yellowstone National Park, conducted the official inventory of wolves for a target removal area, placed radio collars on a number of packs to enable rapid relocations, and chaired the public meeting in Fort St. John to discuss the donation of the wolves.
- From 1991 through 1994 had staff place and monitor 90 radio transmitters, 30 each on Stone's sheep, caribou and wolves in what is now known as the Ministry of Energy and Mines' Besa-Prophet Pretecture Development Plan area.

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- In 2000 sought out an opportunity to document chum salmon use in the Liard River and initiated funding to support a doctorate research program at University of Northern BC (UNBC) to evaluate the chum salmon known to migrate into the BC portion of the Liard River.
- In 2000 hosted a training session for government staff on the use of digital imaging software analytical methods with Nancy Alexander of UNBC as the instructor on use of ERMapper and ESRI's PCI software..
- In 2001 and 2002 initiated projects to gather information to develop a renewal plan for an endangered species of snail in Liard Hotsprings Park, and was chair for that program.
- Beginning January 2004, will be representing the Provincial BC Guides and Outfitters on the Boreal Caribou Renewal Plan.
- In 2001 initiated a project to develop vegetation mapping derived from digital satellite imagery bandwidth analysis for the Dune Za Keyih Provincial Park. Analytical software used were Arcview and ERMapper.
- In 2001, using newly developed Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) technology, completion of a map of biophysical values was completed for the Liard Corridor Parks and Protected Areas using a contractor who was responsible for development of the methods used for the Besa-Prophet Pretenure Development Plan area of the MKMA.
- In 2002 secured funding, hired and directed two vegetation specialists who conducted a survey of the Peace Corridor Parks and Protected Areas to document the presence of rare and endangered species and habitats leading towards enabling a science-based management plan.
- Established via a contribution agreement with UNBC, PEM mapping via ongoing and known vegetation inventory and imagery analysis, resultant draft biophysical mapping for the Tuchodi River area in the Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park and the entire Liard Corridor Provincial Park. The project was initially established to ensure a high level of scientific technical knowledge was available to the PEM mapping project for the Besa-Prophet Pretenure Development Plan area.
- Beginning in the spring of 2003 initiated and obtained funding for a sharptailed grouse research program. Adult female sharptailed grouse were captured in LEK traps and fitted with radio transmitters. Their habitat use, movement and mortality were monitored to enable an understanding of mortality factors and impacts of differing land uses in the Peace Region. Upon retirement, obtained future funding commitments and obtained commitments from a Professor at UNBC to direct a MSc research program to expand upon and complete that work over a further two year span.
- Since my retirement from the BC Government in December 2003 I have done a number of significant wildlife mitigation plans, wildlife impact assessments, monitoring and inventory both direct for the oil and gas industry and as a subcontractor for Alpine Environmental and Eco-Web Ecological Consulting. Firms worked for include EnCana Corp., Talisman Energy, BG Canada, Petro Canada, Trace Explorations, Shell Canada, Arc Energy Trust and Proex among others.

EDUCATION

- B.Sc. in Zoology (Entomology, Ecology, Ethology, Directed Studies in Wildlife Management) 1st May, 1970 University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.