



The Economic Incentives and Environmental Stewardship Project

Supported and funded by MAFF and WLAP

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A WLAP Initiative

Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Allocation Branch

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Steering Committee

- Mike Badry-WLAP
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Rumour Check

- Appreciate BCWF patience
- The incentive project has been a technical process
- BCWF values must inform process
- No privatization or canned hunts

What is an Incentive Program?

- A program that generates revenues through resource use fees or credits and then returns revenues (or credits) to those participating in the production of the resource.



Why Incentive Programs?

- Little legislation requiring landowners to manage wildlife habitats on agricultural property
- Disincentives for landowners to manage wildlife habitats. Crop depredation and predation
- Incentive programs counter economic forces that can lead to habitat loss.

Why Now?

- Counterproductive Initiatives (e.g. fencing)
- Increased reports of leased access to hunters and fishers – US trend?
- Private Land LEH intended to reduce populations
- Increased property sales and subdivisions?

A Paradigm Shift

- Landowners develop an interest, or stake, in habitat quality and partner with resource management agencies or NGOs.
- Incentive programs can convert “problem wildlife” (e.g. elk) into a benefit from the perspective of all involved.

Example: Montana's Block Management Program

- Government generates revenues through licence fees.
- Revenues are then routed to the landowners enrolled in the program.
- Enrolled landowners provide hunting opportunities to sportsman (no charge).

Example: Colorado's Ranching For Wildlife Program

- Landowners market a portion of the hunting opportunities and generate revenues.
- Landowners develop and execute a habitat stewardship plan.
- Landowners must provide *free* hunting opportunities to a specified number of resident hunters.



Program Orientation: Fishing, Hunting, Viewing

- Hunting access/stewardship programs
- Public fishing access/infrastructure/stewardship programs
- Cooperative government/landowner wildlife viewing/stewardship programs

Potential Benefits

- Manage optimal wildlife populations based on objectives (landowner, public, NGO, agency)
- Maintain or enhance public recreation opportunities
- Enhanced stewardship

Potential Benefits – More Still

- Landowner co-operation in enforcement (e.g. poaching reports)
- Reduced subdivision of parcels and fragmentation of habitat
- Increased opportunities to manage wildlife/motor vehicle collisions

Landowner, agency and NGO cooperation:

- Habitat management
 1. recreational fish & wildlife species
 2. biodiversity and species at risk
- Wildlife reintroductions,
- Transmissible disease management
- Predation and depredation management

Will Incentive Programs Compete with Existing Private Land Stewardship Programs?

- No!
- A variety of agency and NGO programs exist in BC.
- Cost share, compensation, tax incentive, certification
- Economic incentive programs will complement and integrate with existing programs.

Three phases of the Incentive Project

- Research Phase (April 2004-Fall)
- Development and Consultation Phase (Fall-March 2005)
- Pilot Phase (05/06 fiscal)

The Research Phase

- Consider BC's economic, environmental, and social realities
- Consider what incentive programs might be applicable to BC
- Report out this Fall will recommend programs for further development
- Government will advance promising programs into the Development Phase

Development and Consultation Phase (Fall 04-March 31st 05)

- Begin to develop incentive programs-a paper exercise.
- Specifically tailored to BC
- Create an advisory board and consultation with a broad group of stakeholders

Advisory Board Representatives

- WALP, MAFF, MOF
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Guide Outfitters Association of BC
- BC Federation of Naturalists
- BC Cattlemen's Association
- BC Agriculture Council

The Pilot Phase

- Establish several pilot sites throughout BC in 2005/06
- Deliver 'on the ground' agreements
- Inform program development
- Continue consultation



The Challenge

To create programs that are acceptable to Government, user groups, the public and First Nations

Landowners will desire programs that:

- Account for their costs (capital costs, work loads and opportunity costs),
- Can reliably be expected to increase their profitability over traditional practices.

Hunters will desire programs that:

- Maintain the principle of Crown ownership of wildlife,
- Maintain equal access to hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities,
- Do not create the perception of “canned” or fenced-in hunts,
- Maintain hunting opportunities,
- Address recreational species.

Other Issues

- First Nations rights and interests must be recognized.
- The public will need to understand that the programs do not favour recreational species at the expense of natural ecosystems.



BCWF Opportunities

- Opportunity to manage the future
- Agriculture Sector is willing to cooperate
- Opportunity to influence use of crown land resources?
- Promote hunting, fishing and viewing as land use alternatives

Conclusion

- Research Phase concluding
- Report out this Fall will initiate the Development Phase
- Pilots anticipated for the next fiscal.
- A full consultation process in the development and pilot phases



Thank You

Questions/Discussion?