

Planning for Biodiversity

A Guide for BC Farmers and Ranchers

Companion Document to the

Canada - British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

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The Canada – British Columbia EFP Biodiversity Steering Committee

Niels Holbek, BC Agriculture Council (Chair), P.Ag.
Sylvia von Schuckmann, BC Ministry of Environment, P.Ag., R.P.Bio.
Cindy Haddow, BC Ministry of Environment, P.Ag.
Geoff Hughes-Games, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, P.Ag.
Dave Trotter, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, P.Ag., R.P.Bio.
Mark Wonneck, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lavona Liggins, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, P.Ag.
John Patterson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, R.P.Bio.
Laura Maclean, Environment Canada
King Campbell, Ducks Unlimited Canada, P.Ag.

Contributors

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Preface

The purpose of this supplemental Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) publication is to help farmers and ranchers increase their understanding of biodiversity and what it means to their operations. The guide provides a definition of biodiversity, highlights the importance of biodiversity locally and at landscape scales, lists the main principles of managing for biodiversity, and provides a template for developing a Biodiversity Management Plan for farms and ranches in British Columbia.

The idea for this publication emerged from a Biodiversity Workshop held in October 2005 in Kamloops, BC. EFP Planning Advisors and agency representatives who were interested in delivering the biodiversity component of the Agricultural Policy Framework to producers identified the need for this document.

The information in this guide applies primarily to privately owned farm and ranch lands in BC.

Limits of Liability

Unlike the other EFP program publications, this guide is not specifically a risk assessment tool. It is intended primarily as a source of information and a management planning tool for farmers, ranchers, and EFP Planning Advisors.

The biodiversity assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring steps presented in this guide are designed to be used by farmers and ranchers with or without the assistance of an EFP Planning Advisor.

Beneficial management practices (BMPs) for retaining and/or enhancing biodiversity are presented in this guide. It is important to be aware that approvals may be required before the BMPs are implemented. It is the producer's responsibility to determine the need for such approvals.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this guide, but it should not be considered the final word on the areas of practice that it covers. You should seek the advice of appropriate professionals and experts because the specifics of your situation may differ from those set out in this guide.

All information in this guide is provided entirely "as is", and no representations, warranties, or conditions, either expressed or implied, are made in connection with your use of, or reliance upon, this information. This information is provided to you, as the user, entirely at your risk.

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A GUIDE FOR BC FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

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For more information contact:

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