

The Vancouver based Grizzly Bear Foundation has been going round the province to gather information and hope to have a report ready next year. Michael Audan, Stewart McLaughlin & Suzanne Velt a retired provincial deputy minister have had meetings, Vancouver, Prince Rupert & Victoria & is getting a good cross section of people. They will use what they've received out of their own conservation research & education programs; Then the provincial govt said its taking steps to enhance grizzly bear management procedures in light of a report from a team of wildlife biologists. Their report included 51 recommendations aimed at enhancing habitat & protect pop, (errored) inventory, access and harvest management as well. BC auditor general is to complete an audit of the grizzly bear hunt by spring. BC being the only province that allows 300 trophy hunt permits a year. Its shaping up as an election issue. 90% of public want it banned. So the govt felt it necessary to take proactive, defensive measures with a new report that says BC's grizzlies are doing fine. It was written by out of province scientist who believe there are adequate safeguards established that ensure a high degree of confidence in the sustainability of the harvest. People arent against hunting but against trophy hunting where primarily foreigners come here solely for taking a trophy back to their country, a head or a skin and leave the rest & its rot. People have no trust in govt management. Bear biologist Kyle article of U of Victoria ^{the govt} numbers are not reliable. The govt bear DNA samples don't provide certain pop numbers which could be further distorted by unreported poaching.

2 Spotted Owl

We haven't heard much about the owl lately but there is a breeding program going on but not that successful yet.

when they prey on flying squirrels. Their plight is
indicator of logging practices of the prov. govt where
they robbed the species of habitat. It's described as an
umbrella species that indicates the greater health of our
forest ecosystem. About 300,000 H of forest have been
dedicated to owl recovery in South Western BC enough for
about 100 or more breeding pairs and is at least 2/3 of
forest 100 yrs or older. Capture breeding is a last ditch
effort to save the species - takes a lot of effort to be
successful and is costly. They're thinking of leaving it
open to the public with tours a possible way to raise
money. In addition to BC govt current funding of owl
recovery, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
(a govt & nongovt partnership) and + D friends of the
Environment also help.

3. Oil spill

We have yet again an oil spill near Bella Bella, but
it's also in a First Nations Traditional Marine Clam beds
fisheries, which brings in about \$150,000 a year. It began leaking
fuel and the booms they placed weren't containing it as there
were heavy winds & waves. The tug refueled itself but the barge
remained stuck in shallow water. The tug Nathan E. Stewart
& barge owned by the Texas-based Kirby Corp. struck edge
Reef in the Seaforth Channel on its way back to Van from
Alaska. 2 vessels from Western Canada Marine Response Corp
placed 500 ft of boom around it & others from the Hiltank
Integrated Resource Management kept around to try and plug
the leaks. This area the Seaforth Channel is a marine
traffic highway especially when weather makes travelling
difficult further offshore. It's part of the Voluntary
Tanker Exclusion Zone but the Nathan E. Stewart is small
enough that its permitted to travel the inside passage.
It also holds a waiver that allows it to operate without
Canadian pilot on board. Activist Ingrid Lee said

It's one of the most precious beautiful secluded little waterways on this whole west coast. They had to get this terrible coverage off our coast. Neiltank leaders say the spill demonstrates the need for a tax on all our tankers & tanker barges on this coast. The Mitgat nation to the north are still unable to harvest clams and other sea foods ten years after the sinking of the Queen of the North and it was one of their primary bread basket and they know that diesel is extremely difficult to recover.

There is a lot of oil on the beach & fuel is in the water. The Neiltank are providing their own equipment because there has been insufficient help from the responders. This isn't the first American they to run aground in the inside passage & won't be the last, it starting to look like a pattern, a similar incident happened near Campbell R in March. The receiver was wrecked for the Nelson & Stecoast. The Transportation Safety Board will look into what happened. Fisheries & Oceans Canada closed nearby shellfish harvesting. The closure near Athlone Island in the Seafirth Channel affects recreational & aboriginal & commercial fisheries for clam, geoduck, horse clam, oyster and scallops.

Christy Clark has criticized the Fed Gov't's commitment to disaster response on the west coast.

The clean up is ongoing - diesel is trapped up to 8" below the surface, they flush it out with water and then they report it - 110,131 litres of oil & water has been recovered but that's just the beginning - it has been ~~recovered~~ discovered in at least 3 boxes in Seafirth Channel Areas & sea otters have been seen near the Sped Site & so it continues -

4. A full elk was seen with the cattle in a farm field on the south side of Sunasmt in Abbotsford Provincial biologist Clarence Reynolds who was the driving force

behind the elk relocations and he thinks it's from the
Slave Lake watershed north of Mission and Horns
prompted him to roam. Fall is the breeding season
for elk and the males wander looking for a chance to
establish harems. But the animal has gotten himself in
an awkward position and is now testing in the security
in a group of cows he's probably spooked. Garvey hopes
people leave it alone & hopes it will eventually return to
the mountains. Elk were hunted out of the Lower Mainland
about the turn of the century. 20 elk were reintroduced
to Slave watershed in 2006-7 and 23 to nearby Pitt River
Watershed in 2004-5 as part of a larger, ongoing program
to return the species to S western BC.