2017/18 Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program: A Program and Application Guide

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Resource Stewardship Division
The Fish and Wildlife Branch

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1. Introduction

Since the provincial government's announcement in September of 2015 that it would make $100,000/year available to help fund urban deer management projects, the Fish and Wildlife Branch (the "Branch") within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has been working with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to co-lead the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee (PUDAC) and to develop the *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program*. Urban deer/human conflicts typically occur in areas of human habitation (e.g. suburbs) where management techniques such as hunting deer are not appropriate. The Branch is again putting out a 'call for proposals' to local governments and Indian Bands/First Nations that are engaged in urban deer management projects (present to March 15, 2018).

In order to be eligible for funding, the proposals must fall into 'operational' or 'research' categories and they must meet <u>all</u> of the identified criteria. Further, potential shared cost agreements will be constrained by funding formulas and/or caps.

All materials that are provided by local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations, and that relate to the *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program,* may be released to the public.

For further information please contact Jeff Morgan by e-mail at jeff.morgan@gov.bc.ca.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this program is provide local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations with funds to help them address urban deer management challenges through operational or

research projects. This provides an opportunity for local governments and Indian Bands/First Nations to partner with the provincial government and other organizations in the delivery of urban deer management solutions, the advancement of research and information transfer.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program* are to:

- encourage effective community-based urban deer planning and communications,
- support high-value projects that will effectively manage urban deer,
- provide learning opportunities through scientifically rigorous research trials,
- partner effectively with local governments and Indian Bands/First Nations in the delivery of urban deer management actions,
- foster a standardized and structured approach to management actions, reporting and monitoring in order to continuously improve 'best practices',
- encourage effective communications and information transfer between the provincial and local governments and Indian Bands/First Nations,
- develop effective information and education materials, and
- acquire and loan specialized deer management equipment to local governments and Indian Bands/First Nations.

4. Eligibility Criteria, Funding Formulas and Caps (FY 2017/18)

Any local government or Indian Band/First Nation that meets the following criteria is eligible for funding under this program. In 2017/18 the Program is intended to support 'shovel ready' projects that are consistent with community-based planning processes.

The *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program* will fund priority projects that:

- address human-deer conflict in areas where the use of traditional (e.g. hunting) deer management techniques are not appropriate,
- are consistent with objectives that have been developed through a community-based planning process,
- have a resolution of support from the local government's council or board or Indian Band's/First Nation's chief and council,
- are compliant with all applicable laws and by-laws and adequately manage all human safety, environmental and animal welfare risks,
- are in accordance with a permit issued under the *Wildlife Act* (or any other statute),
- are technically sound and feasible,
- are scientifically rigorous (if a research project),
- commit to reporting, and

- provide matching funds (from the local government or Indian Band/First Nation or any partners).

The program will provide financial support to approved projects that are undertaken from late fall 2017 to March 15, 2018. Eligible activities will fall into two categories which are 'Operational Projects' and 'Research Projects'.

4.1. Operational Projects

'Operational projects' are those that are intended to directly manage or deter deer populations and that are known to be effective in achieving immediate objectives while managing all associated risks. Presently, operational projects include: 1) fencing or cattle guards that block access to, or from, attractants or green belt corridors and 2) culling projects (capture and bolt gun). Funding support for deterrents will be at discretion of the Branch however, the local government or Indian Band/First Nation and any partners are expected to contribute at least 50% of the project's total budget.   Culling operations in the BC Interior will be supported at a rate of $200/ culled deer. In Coastal BC, culls will be supported at a rate of $300/culled deer. This support is intended to match the local government's operational costs associated with culling on a 50/50 basis. Cost-share funding support for operational projects will be capped at $20,000/year*.

* Funding caps may be adjusted downwards depending on program uptake.

4.2 Research Projects

'Research projects' are defined as trial-based applied research that is intended to directly or indirectly manage or deter deer populations. Trial-based projects are those that are not yet known to be effective in achieving objectives or managing associated risks in BC. Activities such as hazing, translocation and immuno-contraception are some examples that could fall into this category. Funding support for research will not be based on any formulae. Rather, it will be based on the value of the research activity, other objectives and the associated funding commitments. All research projects must be scientifically rigorous and will be evaluated according to separate criteria. Cost-share funding support for individual research projects will *generally* be capped at $20,000/ year* however, funding levels will be at the discretion of the Branch.

* Funding caps may be adjusted downwards depending on program uptake.

5. The Application Outline

Applications for an Operational Project will include:

- A cover letter that confirms that the project plan has a 'resolution of support' from the local government's council or board or the Indian Band's/First Nation's Chief and Council and that the project is consistent with objectives that have been developed through a community-based planning process.
- A Project Plan that includes:
    - background and a description of current issues,
    - goals and objectives,
    - a description of project area,
    - works to be undertaken,
        - description of work,
        - methods/techniques that will be used,
        - risk (animal welfare, human safety, environmental) management actions,
        - timelines,
    - a commitment to the reporting expectations outlined in Appendix 1 and a description of any subsequent follow-up reports (e.g. monitoring),
    - a funding request,
    - a budget with a clear description of all funding partners and their contributions and any funding restrictions,
    - a discussion on how the project's techniques and objectives are consistent with the appropriate community-based plan,
    - confirmation that the project is compliant with all applicable laws and by-laws, and
    - **confirmation that all required permits have been obtained or have been applied for (include a copy of the permit(s) or the applications).**

Applications for a Research Project will include:

- A cover letter that confirms that the project plan has a 'resolution of support' from the local government's council or board or the Indian Band's/First Nation's Chief and Council.
- A Research Project Plan that includes:
    - background and a description of current management challenges or knowledge gaps,
    - goals and objectives (especially if the projects blends operations and research),
    - a clear description of the research question,
    - works to be undertaken,
        - study design and intended analysis,
        - methods/techniques that will be used,

- risk (animal welfare, human safety, environmental) management actions,
- timelines,
  - o a commitment to the reporting expectations outlined in Appendix 1 and a description of any subsequent follow-up reports (e.g. monitoring),
  - o a funding request,
  - o a budget with a clear description of all funding partners and their contributions and any funding restrictions,
  - o a discussion on how the project's techniques and objectives are consistent with the appropriate community-based plan,
  - o **confirmation that all required permits have been obtained or have been applied for (include a copy of the permit(s) or the application(s)),**
  - o a description of the research committee (names of the individuals, their affiliated organization and their position on the committee described), and
  - o a description of how the research will be reported (e.g. unpublished manuscript, published manuscript, post graduate thesis).

6. Project Evaluation

All Proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria (Section 4) and provide the information in the requested format (Section 5).

Operation Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Value of Project's Objectives, Current Level of Impact/Risks and the Immediate need for Action (Weight 20 Points)
  - o Garden or Crop Losses
  - o Environmental Impacts (e.g. over-browsing in valuable ecosystems)
  - o Domestic Animal Conflict
  - o Human Safety (motor vehicle collisions, direct aggression, predator interactions, human health)
- The Expected Impact of the Project and its Cost-Effectiveness (Weight 20 Points)
- Contributions from funding partners (Weight 5 Points)

Research Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The Scientific Value of the Project and its Potential to Innovate Practices in BC (Weight 20 Points)

- The Associated Objectives - Impact of the Project and its Cost Effectiveness (Weight 20 Points)
    - Garden or Crop Losses
    - Environmental Impacts (e.g. over-browsing in valuable ecosystems)
    - Domestic Animal Conflict
    - Human Safety (motor vehicle collisions, direct aggression, predator interactions, human health)
- Contributions from funding partners (Weight 5 Points)

7. Payments, Records and Accounts for Approved Projects

In 2017/18 the Fish and Wildlife Branch will make up to $100,000 (in total), available to local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations through shared cost agreements. The Branch will receive all project proposals and will be responsible for the final funding prioritizations and allocations.

Funding allotments, general conditions and timelines will be communicated through 'agreements in principle' (via-email). By agreeing, the successful applicant will confirm that it can meet the expressed expectations and will accept the funding.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch and local government or Indian Band/First Nation (or lead entity-in the case of a multi-jurisdictional project) will then develop and enter into a shared cost agreement. Once the works specified in the contract's 'Schedule A' have been completed, and a project completion report has been finalized, the local government will submit the report and an invoice the Branch.

A statement from the local government's or Indian Band's/First Nation's Chief Financial Officer that verifies the total cost of the project must be attached to the project completion report. When applicable, this statement will also identify other contributions such as in-kind, matching funding, and other revenue sources required in order to complete the project. The local government's or Indian Band's/First Nation's Chief Financial Officers will maintain acceptable accounting records that clearly disclose the nature and amounts of the different items of cost pertaining to the project's activities. The Program Officer for the *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program* may require applicants to provide details of the types and amounts of all fees and costs (including 'in-kind') associated with contractors, consultants and in-house staff.

If any changes to a project are contemplated, the Program Officer's written approval is required to ensure the project remains consistent with the shared cost agreement.

8. Application Process

8.1 Where to Apply

Apply via e-mail to:
Jeff Morgan (Program Officer for the Urban Deer Cost-Share Program)
Fish and Wildlife Branch
jeff.morgan@gov.bc.ca

8.2 When to Apply

Applications should be received on or before **November 17, 2017**. Depending on program uptake, late applications may be accepted. Approvals 'in principle' may be arranged if elements of the proposal are in progress but not available at the time of application.

9. Timelines:

- **October 25, 2017:** Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program's Call for proposals go out (for 2017/18 fiscal).
- **November 17, 2017:** Deadline for local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations to submit their project proposals.
- **November 24, 2017:** Provincial Urban deer Advisory Committee review of proposals completed.
- **December 1, 2017:** Branch notifies local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations of their available funding allotments (through 'agreements in principle').
- **December 8, 2017:** Branch enters into agreements with successful local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations.
- **March 15, 2018:** Deadline for local governments or Indian Bands/First Nations to submit invoices and project completion reports to the Branch.

Appendix 1: Report Outlines

The following formats are to be used when preparing Project Completion Reports for projects that are funded by the *Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program.*

Operational Project:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction/Background
3. Purpose/Objectives
4. Project Area/Area of Influence
    a. Methods/Techniques (including risk management actions)

5. Results
6. Summary/Lessons Learned
7. Literature Cited (if applicable)

Research Project:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
    a. Background
    b. Research Question
3. Study Area (and Area of Influence if operational goals are also involved)
4. Methods/Techniques (including risk management actions)
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Summary/Management Implications
8. Literature Cited