

# Together for Wildlife: Community Science Framework Survey

In response to BC's *Together for Wildlife's* Action 6, a comprehensive framework is being developed to advance and improve community science (also known as citizen science) within the province. To develop a more complete picture of how community science may meet the needs of British Columbians, we have developed the following questionnaire which is being distributed to individuals working within community science or using community science data. Our goal is to reach respondents from a diversity of backgrounds, cultures, affiliations and geographies to better understand the needs of the province as a whole. Note that some questions allow multiple selections. If you (and/or your colleagues) are interested in scheduling an interview to discuss this topic further, please contact us and we would be happy to arrange this. We also encourage you to distribute this questionnaire to any interested individuals or organizations. This survey will be closed and we will no longer be able to accept interview requests after **March 24th, 2023**.

The survey should only take 5 to 10 minutes. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may opt out of any question. The data collected here are anonymous and will only be used to develop summary statistics for this report and will not be used for any other purpose.

This project is being completed by a contract team under Dr. Brian Starzomski (UVic School of Environmental Studies) and in partnership with BC Nature. If you would like to arrange an interview for this project, or have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Braden Judson (bradenjudson95@gmail.com) and Julia Carr (juliakatelincarr@gmail.com) on behalf of the Together for Wildlife team.

1. Affiliation (optional):

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2. Would you mind providing the first three digits of your postal code?

(This information is collected to get the spatial distribution of survey respondents and will not be shared or used for any other purpose)

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3. What group are you most involved in or best represent? Choose as many options as necessary.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Government
- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Education / Outreach
- ☐ Non-government (e.g., Naturalist organizations)
- ☐ Resource management / Industry
- ☐ Indigenous / First Nations Organizations
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following best describes your involvement in community science?

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ I have never participated in a community science project      *Skip to question 7*
- ☐ I have participated as a volunteer collecting data      *Skip to question 8*
- ☐ I have participated as a project leader or organizer      *Skip to question 5*
- ☐ I have participated as a researcher or analyst using data collected by a community science project      *Skip to question 5*
- ☐ I have participated as a volunteer, project leader, and/or researcher in a community science project      *Skip to question 5*

Using Community Science Data

5. What is the *single most* limiting factor behind using community science data?

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Data quality and biases
- ☐ Data quantity (e.g., coverage)
- ☐ Difficult to obtain and manipulate data
- ☐ Lack of training or skills to use the data effectively
- ☐ It is not relevant to me
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which of the following is *most* important to your work?

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Species distributions
- ☐ Indicator species (e.g., peat moss suggesting a wetland is likely a bog)
- ☐ Observations of rare or at-risk species
- ☐ Observations of invasive or non-native species
- ☐ Species abundances and/or population changes
- ☐ Individual traits (e.g., deer antler size or disease monitoring)
- ☐ Biodiversity (e.g., community composition)
- ☐ I don't use community science data in my work
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Skip to question 8*

### Barriers

7. What barriers are preventing you from using community science, in your work or personal life?

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*Skip to question 11*

### Personal Contributions to Community Science

8. What are your main interests as they pertain to your community science engagement?

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Species at risk
- ☐ Biodiversity
- ☐ Ecosystems and habitats
- ☐ Harvestable species (e.g., hunting, fishing, or trapping)
- ☐ Resource extraction (e.g., forestry)
- ☐ Outreach and/or education
- ☐ Hobby (e.g., birding, wildlife photography)
- ☐ I do not engage in community science
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What community science platform(s) do you use the most? Choose as many options as necessary.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ eBird
- ☐ iNaturalist
- ☐ Report Invasives BC
- ☐ eButterfly
- ☐ BugGuide
- ☐ I do not use community science platforms (we would appreciate it if you included your reasoning below)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. What are the main reasons that you contribute to community science?

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Personal record keeping (e.g., keeping a life list)
- ☐ Socialization and networking
- ☐ To contribute to science and conservation
- ☐ To learn about the natural world
- ☐ It is challenging and rewarding
- ☐ I do not contribute to community science efforts
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Future of Community Science in BC

11. If the province were to invest in community science efforts, which area would you like to see these investments made? Order from most to least important (in your opinion)

*Mark only one oval per row.*

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Fourth choice	Fifth choice
<b>Education and engagement with British Columbians</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Increasing data quality</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Improving data coverage (e.g., province- wide)</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Improving the analysis of community science data</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Bridging community science with specific research projects</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. How would you like community science data to be used in British Columbia?  
(optional)

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13. Thank you for sharing your knowledge of community science!  
If you have any additional comments, contact us directly or let us know here:

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