

Ethical Issues in Sport Hunting and Conservation Economies in British Columbia, Canada:

Hunting as a wildlife conservation tool has been the center of much debate as international issues, including the decline of carnivores worldwide, controversial trophy hunting, and climate change, threaten wildlife species globally. Over the last few years there has been an increase in the popularity of sport hunting which has deepened the debate and highlighted the polarizing views on hunting for wildlife management. Although research has been done around the sport of hunting, there appears to be a lack of effort to create a holistic view on the key ethical issues of sport hunting and conservation economies in consideration of key stakeholders. This research project aims to add to these conversations and fill this gap by taking a critical look at the core ethical practices that are imperative to both the sport of hunting and wildlife conservation from the perspective of local hunters, Indigenous peoples, and conservation officials in British Columbia, Canada. The goal is to create inclusive policies that balance the needs of local peoples and wildlife conservation, increase awareness and knowledge to the general public about hunting as a management tool, and find solutions that benefit local BC wildlife and communities that have greater international implications for hunting industries.