



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

# **WildSafeBC Central Okanagan 2022 Program Summary**

**Presented by Lauren Wishart  
WildSafeBC Community Coordinator**

# WildSafeBC

- Within the BC Conservation Foundation
- Preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions
- Mission: reduce human-wildlife conflicts in all aspects of our lives, including how we live, work, play and grow
- Central Okanagan Program:
  - Lake Country, Regional District of Central Okanagan, City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland

# Strategic Plan

2020 to 2024



## PRIORITIES and OBJECTIVES

## OUTCOMES

### SUSTAINABILITY

To achieve stability and growth in finances, operations and personnel.

- Diversify funding
- Sustain and grow existing funding sources
- Ensure new programs have cost recovery
- Identify priorities based on capacity
- Continuously improve in response to feedback

### IMPACT

To provide effective program delivery models and messaging that inspire positive changes both locally and provincially.

- Broaden our reach
- Develop effective staff
- Adapt to needs locally and provincially
- Use effective delivery and communication models
- Continue to collaborate and be impartial
- Ensure consistent messaging throughout the organization

Fewer wildlife and humans will be negatively impacted by conflict as a result of:

- People becoming more knowledgeable
- People being inspired to take action
- Fewer animals becoming food-conditioned and/or human-habituated
- Reduced levels of human-wildlife conflict in communities and in nature

### Vision

To keep wildlife wild and communities safe

### Mission

WildSafeBC is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through education, collaboration and community solutions.

### Values

- Passion & Change
- Safety & Respect
- Credibility & Non-Partisanship
- Sustainability & Consistency
- Cooperation & Solutions

# WildSafeBC Programs and Services

- Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP)
- Courses + eLearning
- Community Education and Outreach:
  - Garbage tagging
  - Door-to-door canvassing
  - WildSafe Ranger presentations for schools
  - Wildlife awareness and safety presentation
  - Bear spray workshops
  - Display Booths at community events
  - WildSafe Business Pledge and Bare Campsite Program

# Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

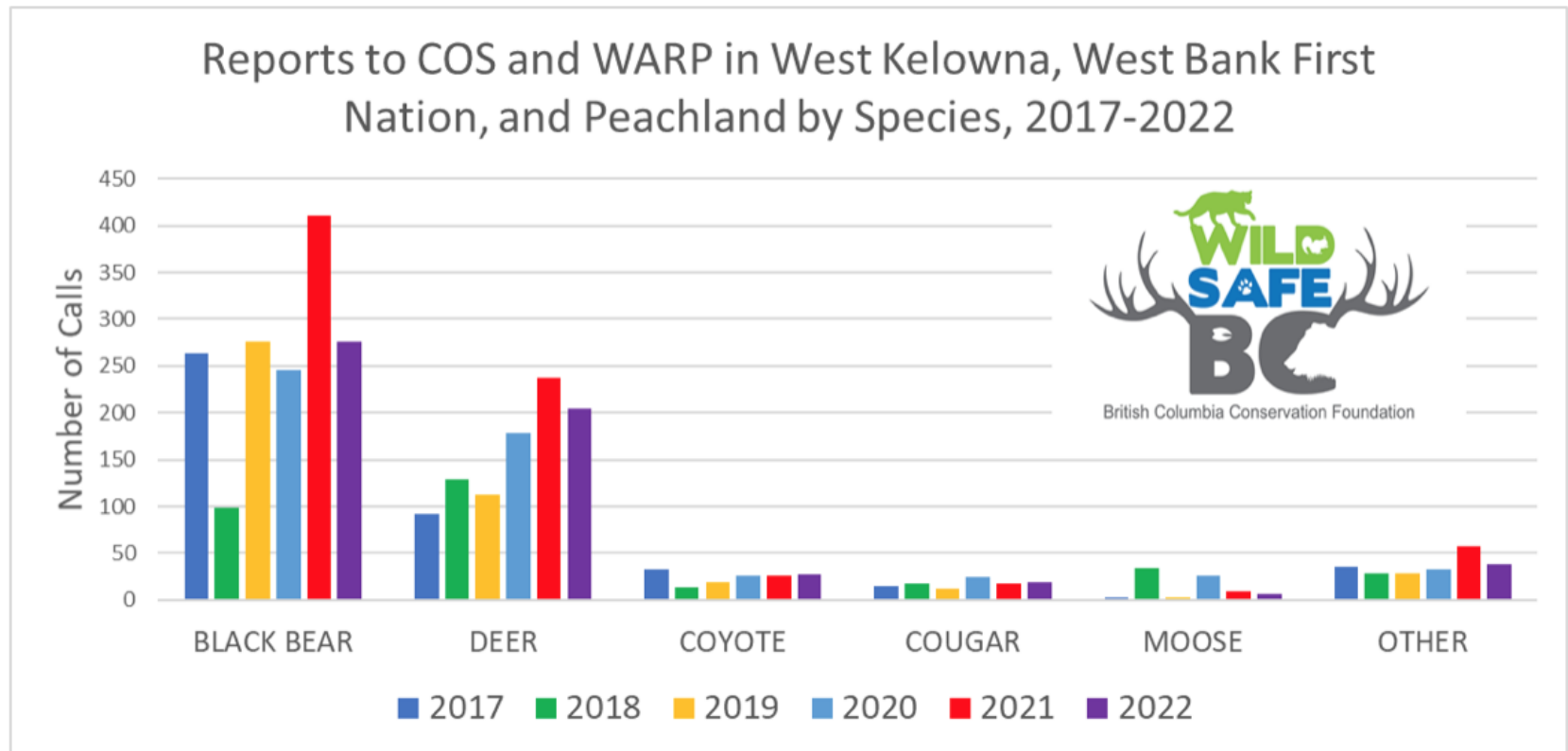


Figure 1. Reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) by species from Jan 1, 2017– Nov 3, 2022.

# Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

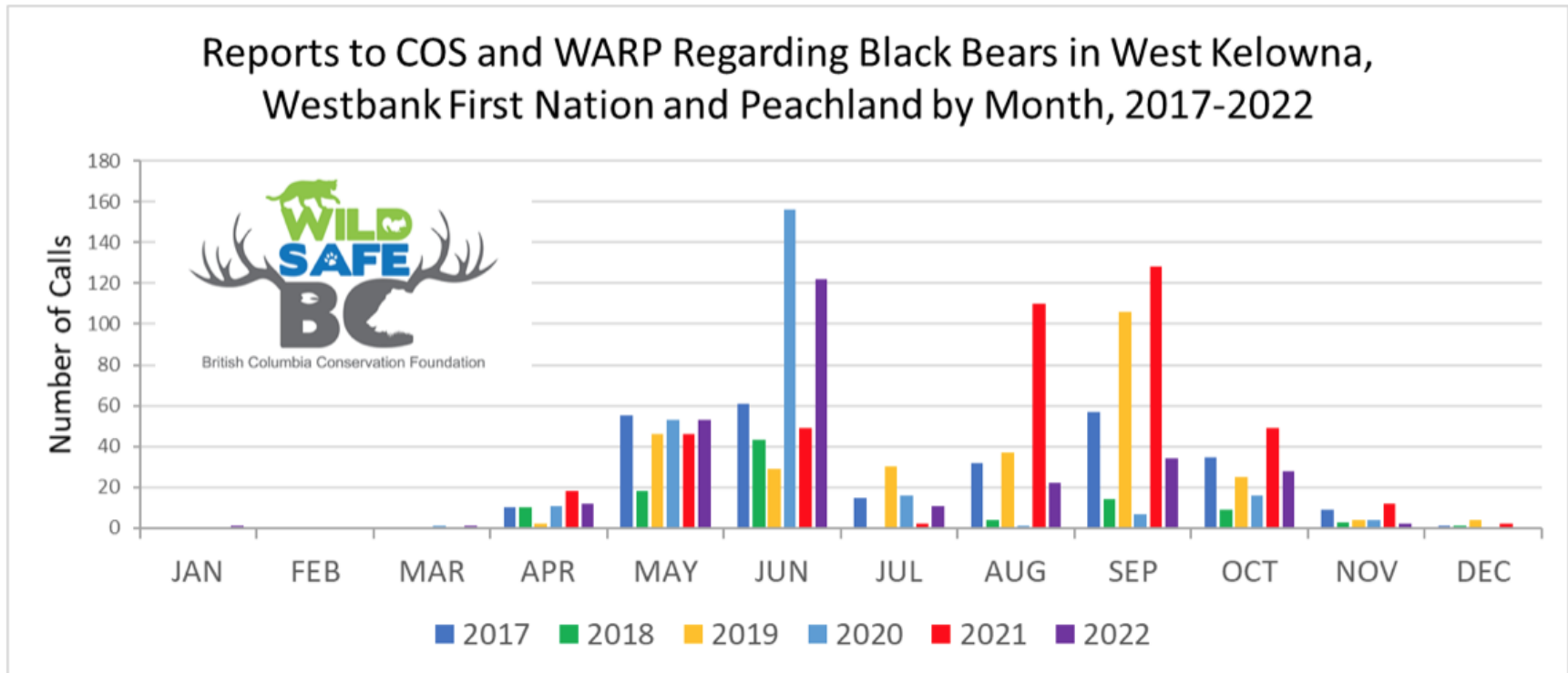
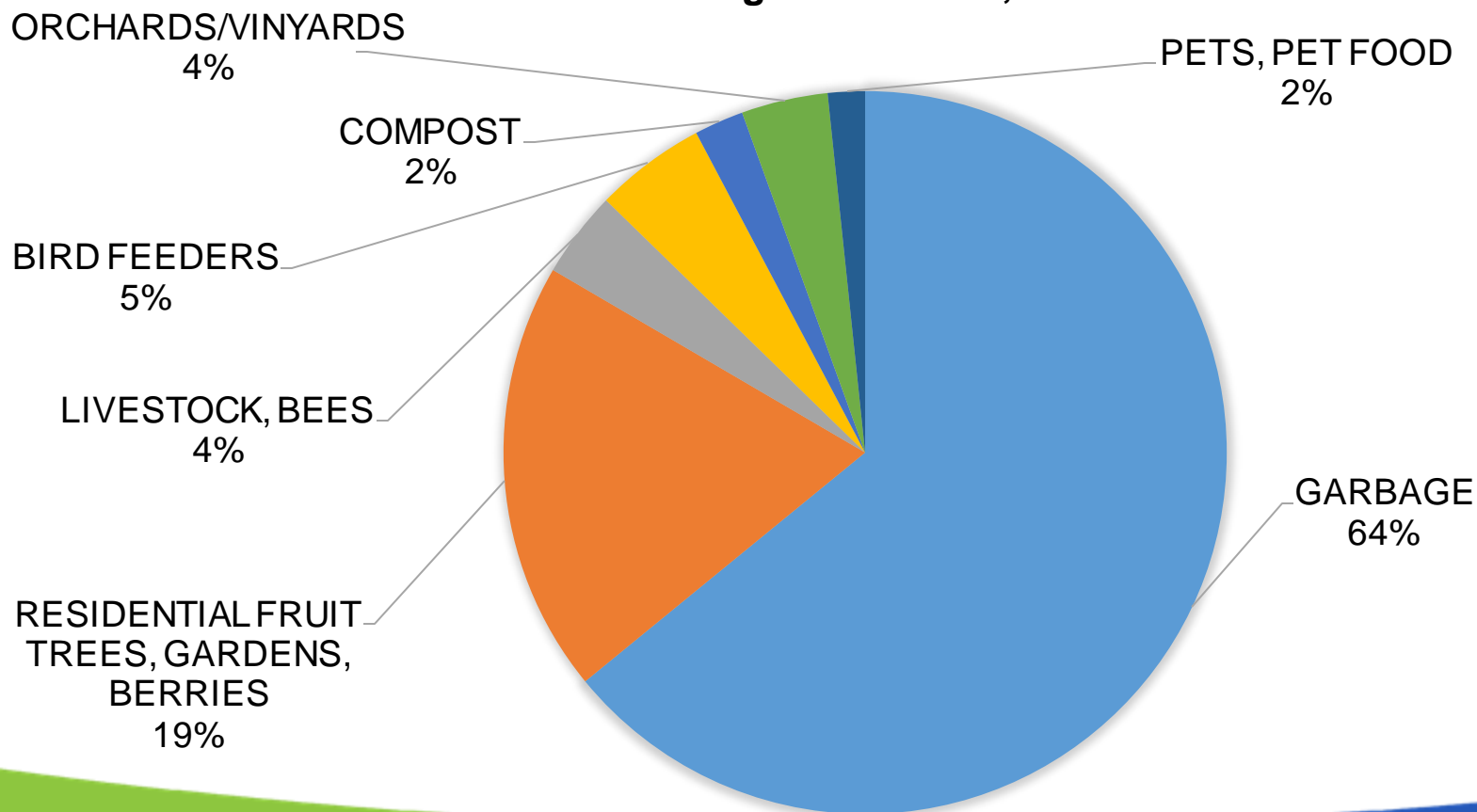


Figure 2. Black bear reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) by month from Jan 1, 2017– Nov 3, 2022.

# Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

## Attractants Identified in Black Bear Reports to COS and WARP in Okanagan Westside, 2021



# Garbage Tagging & Door-to-Door

## Garbage Tagging:

- **12 routes**
- **653 garbage carts** tagged
  - Including **170 carts** in West Kelowna

## Door to door:

- **6 routes**
- **253 homes**
  - Including **214 homes** in West Kelowna





# School Presentations

- **10 schools/organizations**
- **25 presentations**
- **700 students**
  - Including **10 students** from We Think Outside Homeschooling and **51 students** from Shannon Lake Elementary





# Display Booth

- **13 community events**
- **1350+ people**
  - Including **207 people** at the Westside Daze Event
  - **60** at the Westbank Farmers Market
  - **56** at the Grizzli Winery Thanksgiving Market

# Social Media & Press

- WildSafeBC Central Okanagan Facebook page:
  - **52% increase in following**
  - **25,000+ reach**
  - **62+ posts**
- **4 media releases** throughout the season



# Business Pledge & Bare Campsite Program

- **12 campgrounds**
  - Introduced process, plan to revisit each year, early in the season
- **14 businesses**
  - Introduced process and plan to revisit next year



**We are Committed to Keeping Wildlife Wild and Our Community Safe**

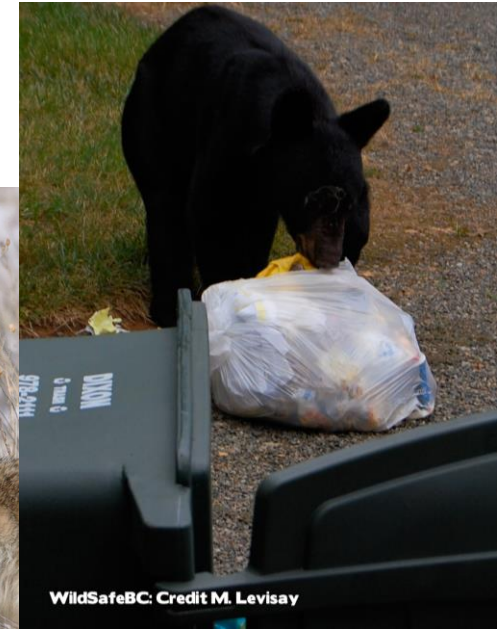
**Join us and take the WildSafeBC Business Pledge!**

Learn more at  
[www.wildsafebc.com/programs/business-pledge/](http://www.wildsafebc.com/programs/business-pledge/)  
or email  
[bc@wildsafebc.com](mailto:bc@wildsafebc.com)



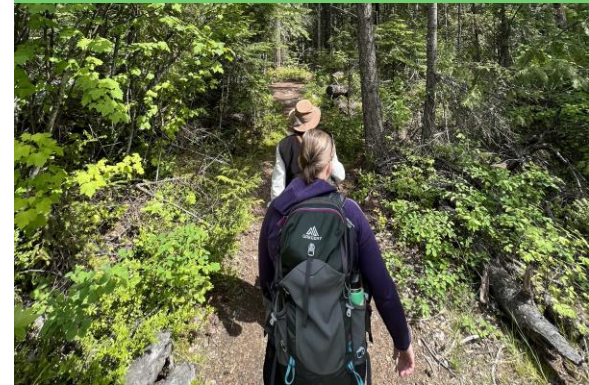
# Challenges

- **Bear attractants** unmanaged
  - Garbage
  - Fruit trees
- **Deer attractants** unmanaged
  - Strata issues
  - Feeding deer
  - Unsuitable deer-fencing
- **Domestic pets**
  - Coyotes/Cougars



# Opportunities for 2023

- **Continue to educate residents on**
  - attractant management
  - conflict reduction practices
- **Continued promotion of Bare Campsite and Business Pledge Program**
- **Bear Smart initiative work**
  - Bear Hazard Assessment
    - Identify and map high risk areas, attractants, wildlife corridors
  - Wildlife Attractant Management Bylaws
  - Municipality driven





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CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

# Thank you

