



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

## WildSafeBC Okanagan Westside 2019 Program Summary

**Presented by Meg Bjordal**  
**WildSafeBC Community Coordinator**

### WildSafeBC

- Program owned and delivered by the BC Conservation Foundation
- Evolved out of the Bear Aware program
- Mission: reduce human-wildlife conflicts in all aspects of our lives, including how we live, work, play and grow
- Province wide program, with localized community programs
  - Okanagan Westside Program: City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland

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## Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

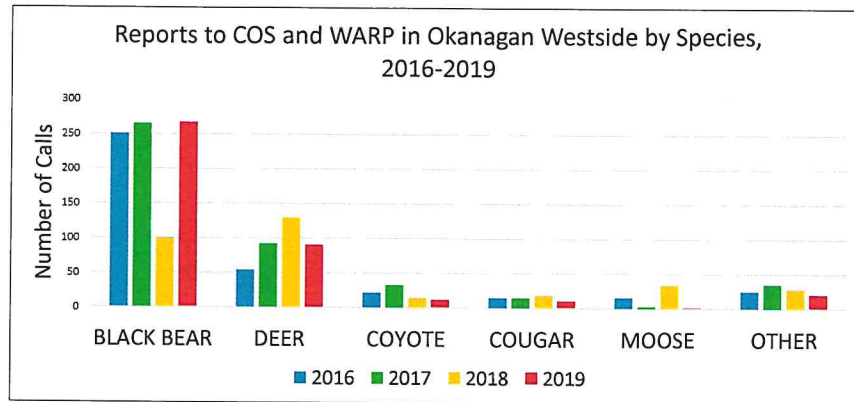


Figure 1. Reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program by species from Jan 1, 2016– Oct 15, 2019.

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## Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

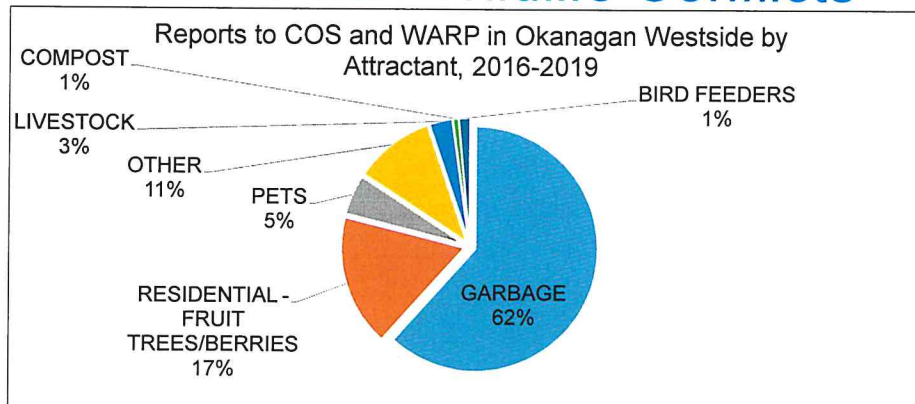


Figure 2. Attractants identified in reports to COS and WARP in the Okanagan Westside from January 1-October 15, 2019.

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## Garbage Tagging & Door-Door

- 325 garbage carts had an educational sticker placed on them or the homeowner was spoken with
- 225 doors were knocked on and homeowners provided a bear-in-area alert alongside tips and/or recommendations on attractant management



WildSafeBC Community Coordinator  
Garbage Tagging in Rose Valley

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## School Presentations

- 6 schools and over 450 students are participating in the WildSafe Ranger program



Students participating in the extended  
WildSafe Ranger Program

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## Community Presentations

- 8 community presentations were provided, including 4 bear spray demos, with a reach over 150 people



Community forum on human-wildlife conflicts for residents of Crystal Springs mobile home park

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## Events

- 8 events attended, with a reach over 850 people



Westside Daze



Go Fish Event at Shannon Lake

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## Challenges

- Getting residents to take responsibility to manage bear attractants, especially garbage
- Not enough program hours to accommodate the increased calls and requests from the public, bylaw and COS to deliver educational programming in areas with attractant issues and high wildlife activity



2 bear cubs in a West Kelowna neighbourhood

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## Opportunities for 2020

- Continue to encourage and educate residents on attractant management
- An increase in base funding would allow for an even greater ability to deliver programming where and when needed
- Opportunity for the municipality to start identifying and addressing the root causes of human-bear conflicts with a Bear Hazard Assessment

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Thank you



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