



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

## WildSafeBC Okanagan Westside 2020 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, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area

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## Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

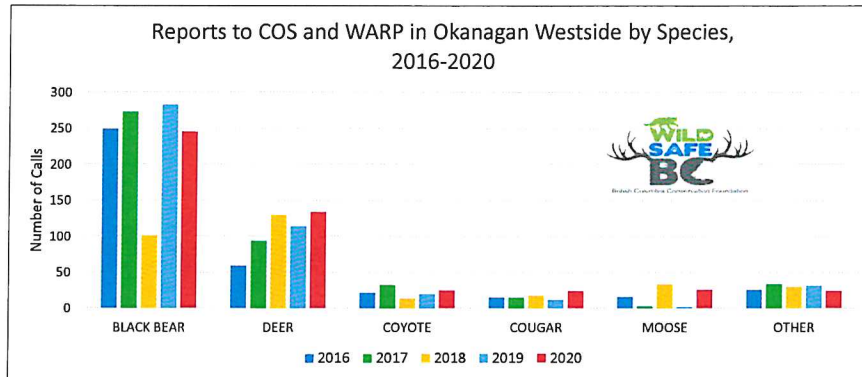


Figure 1. Reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) by species from Jan 1, 2016– Oct 31, 2020.

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## Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

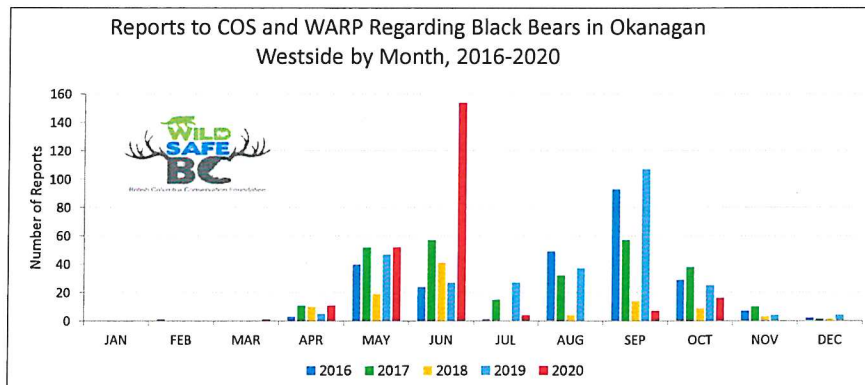


Figure 2. Reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) by month from Jan 1, 2016– Oct 31, 2020.

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## Local Human-Wildlife Conflicts

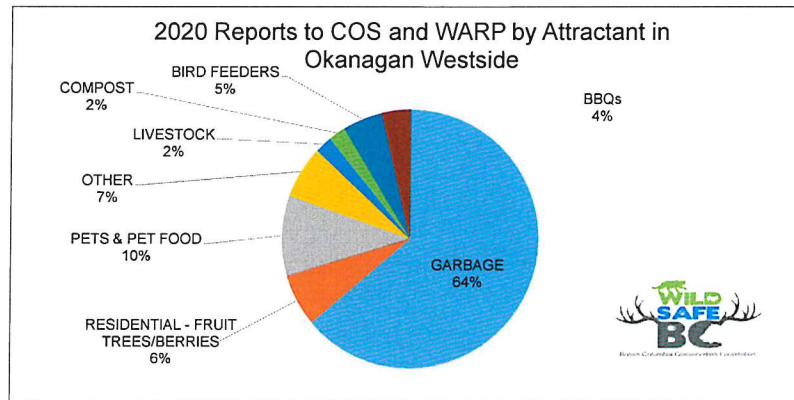


Figure 3. Attractants identified in reports to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) in the Okanagan Westside from Jan 1-Oct 31, 2020.

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## Garbage Tagging & Door-Door

- 405 garbage carts had an educational sticker placed on them or the homeowner was spoken with
- 230 homeowners had a letter about human-wildlife conflicts in their neighbourhood, along with prevention info hung on their door



Garbage Tagging in Lakeview Heights

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## School Presentations

- 4 schools/groups and 115 students are participating in the WildSafe Ranger program

School	Grade	Students
Peachland Girl Guides	Sparks, Brownies	20
Rose Valley Elementary	2, 3	56
sənsisyustən House of Learning	1, 2, 3	22
Shannon Lake Elementary	K	17

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## BC Goes Wild

- Family Friendly Video series collaboration with Sncewips Heritage Museum
  - 270 views
- Wildlife Safety
  - 2 webinars
  - 3 bear spray demos
  - 65 participants



Bear spray demo



Scene from BCGW video

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## Challenges

- Getting residents to take responsibility to manage bear attractants, especially garbage
- Not enough program hours to accommodate the 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
- Launch new WildSafeBC initiatives:
  - Bare Camping Program
  - Business Pledge
- Opportunity for the municipality to identify and start addressing the root causes of human-bear conflicts with a Bear Hazard Assessment

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Thank you



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