

# PRINCETON ANNUAL REPORT 2024

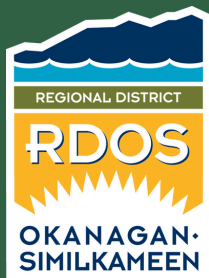


Prepared By :

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***Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe***



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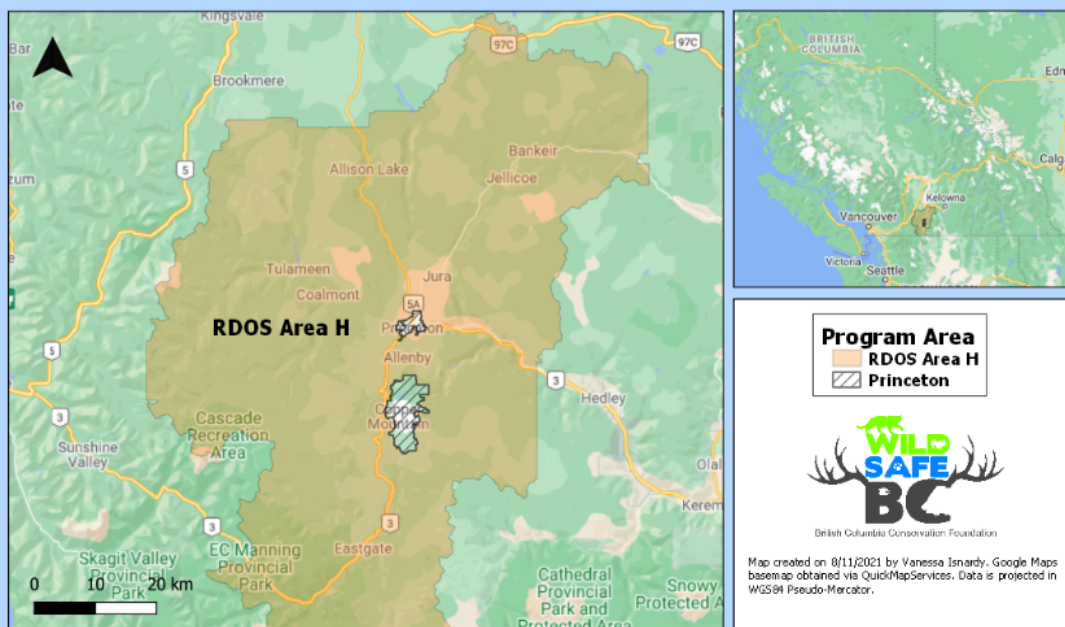
# Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Princeton program for the 2024 season between April 29 and November 30th. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator is to assist communities in preventing human-wildlife conflicts through educational programs, collaboration, and community solutions. The following report summarizes key program deliverables over the course of the 2024 season, and will help shape the delivery of the program for the 2025 based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

## Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Princeton program covers the Town of Princeton (TOP) which is approximately 286 square kilometers, and the surrounding Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Electoral Area H which is approximately 4000 square kilometers. The Town of Princeton is a rural community surrounded by a dryer climate of forest and grasslands that are home to many species of wildlife. Multiple natural wildlife corridors pass through the small town providing ample shelter and easy access between the wild and urban areas.

### WildSafeBC Princeton & RDOS Area H Program Coverage



## 2024 Highlights

**30**

**WildSafe Ranger Presentations**

**5**

**Community Presentations and Workshops**

**19**

**Community Event Booths**

**207**

**Bins on the curbside tagged**

**16,000**

**Facebook Users Reached**

# Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1 to November 12 of 2024 a total of 93 wildlife reports have been made to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>). This year there were 49 deer, 28 black bear, 3 cougar, 3 elk, 3 mountain goat, 3 raptor, 2 moose, 1 coyote and 1 badger report.

Deer continue to be the most reported wildlife and most of those reports were in concern for an injured or distressed animal. In fact 57 of 93 calls were for injured or distressed wildlife, 13 for sightings, 2 aggressive, 6 in an attractant like garbage, fruit trees, bird seed or livestock, 3 property damage, 3 confined like in a vehicle or shed, 6 killed livestock and 3 were dead wildlife. All 2 reports of aggressive wildlife were for deer. The WCC was also contacted multiple times by the public looking for solutions to scary situations with aggressive deer. These conflict situations are happening to people while out walking with their dog on leash, as well as in their own yards.

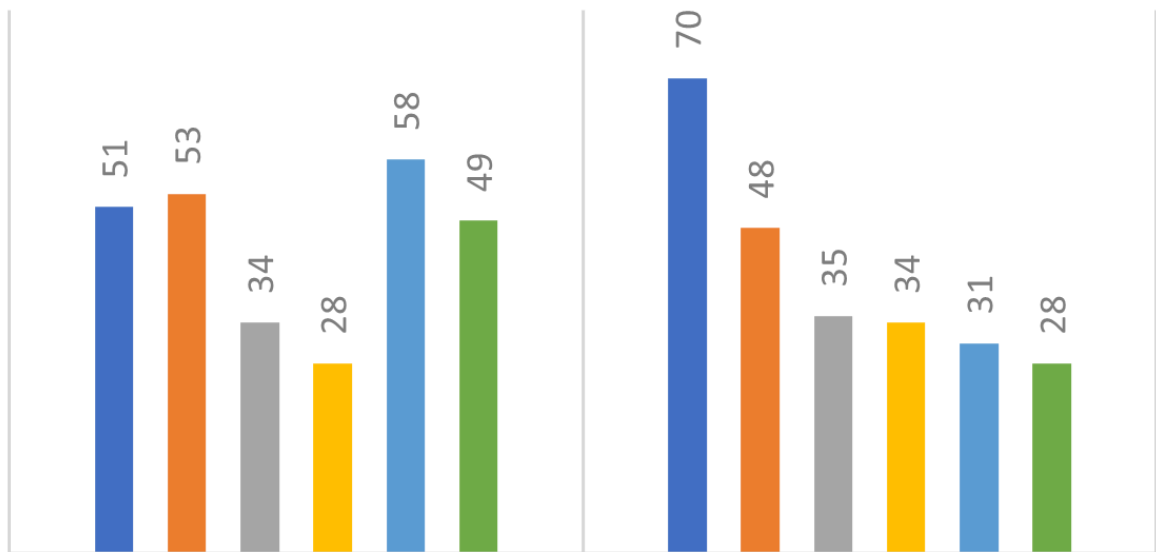
While helping the public to live more safely in wildlife country it became apparent that there are two major contributing factors to the Town of Princeton's urban deer aggression. Firstly, deer are being fed by people who live in the Town of Princeton. Urban Deer become very protective of a good food source and serious unprovoked deer attacks are consistently happening on specific streets where a home is known to be feeding them. In addition to becoming food territorial, they learn to be unafraid of people making them extremely difficult to deter from school yards, homes and close proximity encounters. Secondly, dogs chasing deer are creating situations where deer are seeing the need to eliminate the threat of a dog as soon as it sees one. Dogs are often seen running through the Town of Princeton unattended chasing deer or out for a walk off leash, not listening to commands and out of view of their owners. Dealing with these two illegal activities will greatly reduce deer aggression in the Town of Princeton.



# Conservation Officer Service Reports

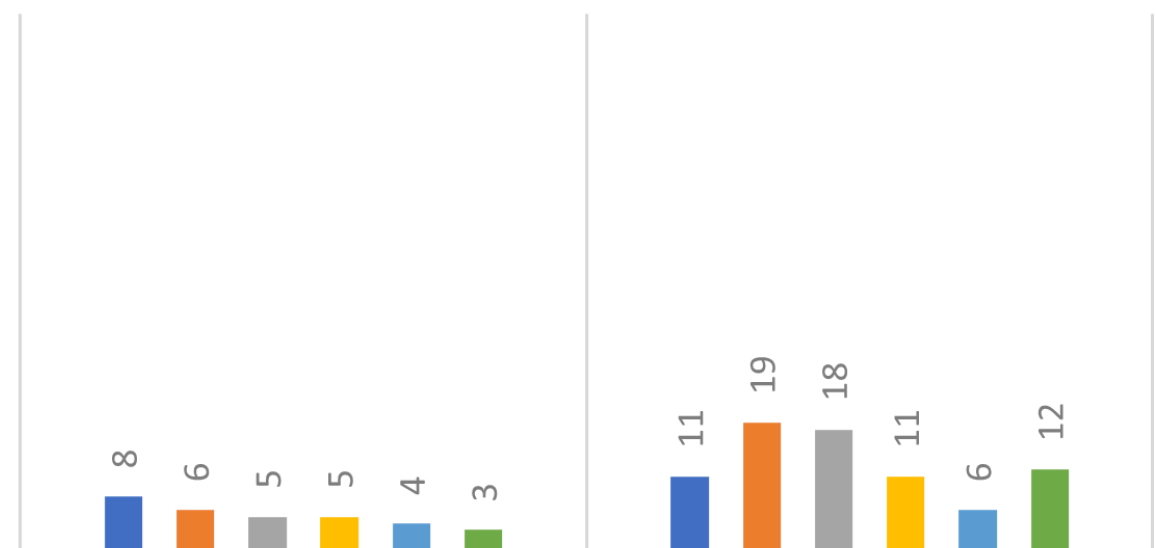
## WILDLIFE REPORTS TO CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE 2019-2024

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



DEER

BLACK BEAR



COUGAR

OTHER

# WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program introduces students to the concept of human-wildlife conflict and encourages them to take an active role in reducing human-wildlife conflict at home by helping their families identify backyard wildlife attractants. In addition, students learn how to have a safe and respectful relationship with wildlife.

The coordinator delivered 30 presentations to 640 students and families. This year presentations were given in collaboration with Vermilion Forks Elementary, John Allison Elementary, Homeschool Club, Princeton Library, Hedley Library and Town of Princeton Summer Park Play Camp. Presentations are given to each class individually and customized to their age and knowledge level. They were expanded with a 'Be A Bear' obstacle course where we did bear things on the course first and then walked the course as people looking for signs of wildlife giving a better understanding of how bears behave, Running/Jumping/Climbing Sprints to see if we could out-manuever wildlife and if not what we should do instead, Dog Walking Training to improve obedience and minimize deer interactions, Swan Lake Hikes looking for signs of wildlife and learning about the landscape, Mystery Animal Programs with bear, deer, cougar and owl, and a Pumpkin Pitch Event that included WildSafeBC attractant management training, a pumpkin drop off that received over 100 pumpkins getting them off porches and keeping them out of the landfill and the students having a blast bowling and smashing their pumpkins. The WildSafe Ranger Programs teach families and future generations about how to live safely in wildlife country with fun and a greater understanding of context.



# WildSafe Ranger Program

School/Group	Grade	People	Date
Vermilion Forks Elementary	4-7	162	June 5 & 6
John Allision Elementary	K-3	201	June 11 & 12
Homeschool Club	families	8	June 26
Princeton Library	families	36	July 9 & 16, Aug. 13 & 20
Hedley Library	families	48	July 11 & 18, Aug. 15 & 22
Park Play Kids	3-7	20	Aug. 20
Vermilion Forks Elementary	4-7	165	Nov. 1





# Community Groups

WildSafeBC Princeton Coordinator hosted 5 presentations reaching 49 people. They included the Princeton Garden Club, CMM and BC Goes Wild Events. In addition to the Wildlife Safety and Bear Spray Workshop that teaches people about how to avoid and be prepared for a wildlife encounter of prior years, the WCC presented Vermicomposting and Attractant Management Workshops and a Powerpoint presentation about "How we can live safely and sustainably in the Similkameen by managing the areas around our homes in a way that does not unnaturally attract wildlife". Feedback from the presentations included:

"Wonderful presentation!" - M.S.

"I just wanted to thank you for your presentation today it was SO informative! I really enjoyed all that you shared. Plus nice to hear all you do to educate Princeton. You do a LOT! ...thank you!" - E.S.

"Thanks for speaking yesterday, great information and encounters with deer, the dos and don'ts (that) are different than encounters with a bear or cougar" - T.S.



**Tuesday, November 19th  
1:00 pm at the Legion Hall**

*Living Safely in Wildlife  
Country  
with WildSafeBC*



*Carolyn Blank will speak  
about how we can live  
safely and sustainably in  
the Similkameen by  
managing the areas  
around our homes in a way  
that does not unnaturally  
attract wildlife.*

# Display Booths

Educational Booths were set up at 19 events from May to October. They included the Community Markets, Mine Day, Princeton Rodeo, Canada Day, POP UP Markets, Tulameen Days, Copper Valley Music Festival, Hedley Fair, Harvest Fair and High School Rodeo, Ridgewood Block Party, Whistling Kettle Disc Golf Tournament and Family Fun Halloween. Display booths allow the public to view and interact with our educational materials, learn about wildlife safety, discuss wildlife attractant management, and network our program offerings to various groups of residents. Added to the display this year were Rubber mice after a bird feeder, a Rodent Bucket Trap, a Vermicomposter and deer resistant herbs. A sign-up box for Wildlife Safety and Bear Spray Workshops received 55 applications however most of the email addresses were illegible. Town Hall received multiple residents commenting on how wonderful and helpful the "wildlife lady" was.



## Bin Tagging and Door-to-Door

One-on-one conversations about unnatural food attractant management is a challenging but integral part of helping the community as a whole to live safely in wildlife country. This year the WildSafeBC Princeton Coordinator visited 326 homes with 216 door hangers plus 110 conversations and provided 27 garbage tagging outings that tagged 207 bins. The Coordinator visited homes as requested by COS and TOP and returned many calls and messages from the public inquiring about wildlife concerns.

The WildSafeBC Princeton Program is becoming the first call for residents before calling the COS. Conversations are always well received and often result with the residents removing their outdoor wildlife attractants. Sometimes however residents are reluctant to change, especially when it comes to feeding the deer.

Garbage tagging reduced garbage on the curbside between July and October with the exception of long weekends. Long weekends are a challenge for both businesses and residents because of the increased volume in garbage and change in scheduled curbside pickup.

While garbage tagging the coordinator observed the downtown TOP garbage cans were often overfilled by people, as the no lid design allows piling of garbage on top of the garbage hole. When this is the case residents should hold onto their garbage until they find another empty receptacle, as overflowing garbage may attract wildlife and feral cats.

On a more positive note, the newly installed large capacity garbage cans on the KVR and at Twin Rivers Park have been tested by the black bears with them receiving a minimal food reward. The black bears are able to get their muzzle into the garbage hole but are unable to get much out. The flap on the can keeps out smaller animals and partially burying the bin in the ground has discouraged bears from knocking it over and dragging it away.

Disposal of household waste in garbage cans along sidewalks, trails and in parks also contributes to overflowing garbage cans. This additional garbage may be attributed to the growing homeless population that does not have an alternative way to dispose of their trash and residents who are not able to access the landfill on a Sunday because it is closed.

# Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Princeton Facebook page came out of hibernation on April 29 with an introductory post. Over the season, the page has increased by 92 new Facebook followers, from 515 followers in November 2023 to 607 followers in November 2024. Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC coordinator reached over 16 thousand people across the province with 181 posts relating to program events, wildlife activity and wildlife education and information to help them to keep the wildlife wild and community safe. This approach was an effective method to bring people in to explore our page and our website [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com), while continuing to provide engaging education. Many Facebook posts created were also shared by Facebook and users into other groups or on their own personal timeline and generated interest. The most impactful Facebook posts were about program events, changes in the curbside garbage pickup schedule and local wildlife sightings and knowledge. This interest prompted being featured in the Similkameen Spotlight with an interview and CASTANET articles that were then published and helped to provide great education province wide.





## WildsafeBC urges Princeton residents to secure garbage 'now' to keep bear alive

Princeton Aug 28, 2024 / 12:24 pm

WildSafeBC is urging Princeton area residents to promptly properly secure their garbage for the sake of a bear. In a social media post Wednesday,....



## WildsafeBC asks residents to bring pumpkins inside to protect deer

Princeton Nov 15, 2024 / 4:00 am

WildsafeBC is asking homeowners to bring outdoor pumpkins inside for the sake of deer this season. In a social media post on Thursday, WildSafeBC...



## Garbage collection pushed back a day due to Labour Day, WildlifeBC Princeton reminding residents to keep garbage inside as bears roam

Princeton Sep 3, 2024 / 4:00 am

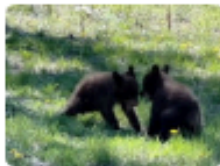
WildsafeBC Princeton is reminding residents that garbage collection is pushed back a day because of Labour Day Monday closures, noting a...



## WildSafeBC Princeton warns of mating season for mule deer bringing out aggressive nature

Princeton Nov 13, 2024 / 4:00 am

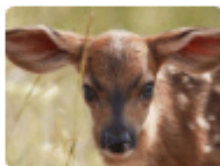
It's mating season and WildSafeBC is warning that mule deer bucks in Princeton and area are "behaving assertive and single-minded" as...



## Princeton resident captures video of mama bear and two cubs in playtime-mode

Princeton May 15, 2024 / 12:38 pm

A Princeton household got a whole family of surprise visitors on Mother's Day, as a mama bear and her two cubs came wandering through to the back...



## Town of Princeton reminds residents to be on alert for defensive doe mule deer

Princeton Jun 23, 2023 / 7:00 pm

The town of Princeton is warning of ongoing encounters with aggressively defensive doe mule deer occurring in local areas. The town said deer who are...



## Wildsafe BC shares how to handle bear spray during wildlife encounters

Princeton Sep 19, 2024 / 7:00 pm

In light of increased bear sightings in Princeton, Wildsafe BC hosted workshops on wildlife encounters and handling bear spray this week. During two...

# BC Goes Wild

Throughout September when human-bear conflicts are at their highest in BC, WildSafeBC celebrates its annual BC Goes Wild campaign to acknowledge the spectacular diversity of wildlife in the Province. This year WildSafeBC celebrated it's 9th Annual BC Goes Wild Event and the WildSafeBC Princeton Program hosted 3 events in Veterans Square that were free for everyone to attend. This included 2 Wildlife Safety and Bear Spray Workshops and 1 Teddy Bear Picnic. All events were promoted with fb posts and posters at the local Post Office and grocery store. 55 emails were sent out to people who signed up for the Wildlife Safety and Bear Spray Workshop however most of them were returned as undeliverable due to illegible handwriting. Regardless all the events still had people attend. The public loved the events as well as all the additional activities at the booth for BC Goes Wild such as the Scavenger Hunt, Mask Making, Recycled CD Garden Bird Deterrent Craft, Coloring Contest, Photo Contest, Vermicomposter, BE A BEAR Obstacle Course, Rodent Bucket Trap and rubber mice. Even with all this fun happening the information about how to keep the wildlife wild and community safe was taken home.



# Business Pledge

The WildSafeBC Business Pledge Program has been developed to encourage businesses to set expectations for their people on how to safely co-exist with wildlife. This year the Copper Mountain Mine and Whistling Kettle Disc Golf Course participated in the Business Pledge Program. Training for staff and club members was tailored for relevant scenarios for each site and included wildlife awareness, knowledge about how food motivated wildlife is for everything from empties to open grease buckets, what to do during a variety of wildlife encounters and more. Signage was also put up to help anyone who has not received the training to be more aware of their surroundings and act more safely while also providing the contact info to [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com) so that they can learn more about how to work, play, live and grow in wildlife country. The WCC was impressed as each group was determined to provide the safest experience for their people and wildlife in the area and welcomed site reviews for human-wildlife conflict reduction evaluations and recommendations.




### WildSafeBC Business Pledge Program Registration

**Contact Information**

Name of Business: Copper Mountain Mine (BC) Ltd  
 Address: 6400 Copper Mountain Rd.  
 Contact Person (Name and Title): Colleen Hughes, Environmental Manager  
 Contact Email: Colleen.Hughes@hudsonminerals.com Contact Phone Number: 250-293-0408

**WildSafeBC Business Pledge Commitments**

As part of the pledge, our business commits to having our business reviewed by a WildSafeBC Community Coordinator and commit to the following actions (initial all that apply):

- Keep our garbage, recycling and organics secure at all times including: rinsing out recyclables, locking garbage and grease bins overnight and working with other businesses that may share the same waste management facilities.
- Keep the exterior of our building free of attractants such as spilled grease, garbage, recyclables and food.
- Have our staff trained to follow WildSafe practices.
- Provide customers with accurate advice or direct them to reliable resources such as WildSafeBC's website.
- Report conflicts with wildlife to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277.
- Provide WildSafeBC with the permission to share our business name and pledge on WildSafeBC's website and through other media channels.

There is no cost to participate in this program and businesses will receive a WildSafe Business Pledge poster to thank them for their commitment to reducing conflict with wildlife. In addition, businesses may be listed on our website or featured on our social media channels. Businesses are required to meet annually with a local WildSafeBC Community Coordinator to review and renew their pledge.

Signed on this day 16/May/24 (day/month/year)

by Colleen Hughes (print name)  (signature)

bc@wildsafebc.com  
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 Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7  
 250-828-2551

"Keeping wildlife wild and communities safe"



@wildsafebc

## WildSafeBC Business Pledge

### We are a WildSafe Business.

**Our pledge:**

- Keep our garbage, recycling and organics secure at all times.
- Keep the exterior of our building free of unsecured attractants such as spilled grease, garbage, recyclables and food.
- Have our staff trained to follow WildSafeBC best practices.
- Provide customers with accurate advice or direct them to reliable resources such as WildSafeBC.
- Report conflicts with wildlife to the Conservation Officer Service.



# 2024

## Join us,

### Copper Mountain Mine (BC) Ltd.



Together we can help keep  
wildlife wild and communities safe.



Learn more about wildlife and safety [wildsafebc.com](http://wildsafebc.com)



Report all conflicts with wildlife to the BC Conservation Officer Service:  
**1.877.952.7277**

# Business Pledge





## Challenges and Future Goals

2024 was a really fun and successful year with WildSafeBC Princeton this year. The WCC received a huge amount of positive feedback from the public, schools, clubs and libraries and was honored to be the first call/message for many looking for solutions to their human-wildlife conflict. While many people participated in learning the skills on how to keep the wildlife wild and community safe, there are many that have not yet heard from WildSafeBC or have not connected with the WCC in a few years due to limited mileage and hours. Improperly managed garbage, feeding of deer, bird feeders, pet food, fruit trees and urban livestock continue to be a source of human-wildlife conflict in Princeton and Area H. While some residents are familiar with human-wildlife conflict and how to prevent it, others are less aware of the risks to property and safety and the large scale of human impact. Continued outreach is needed to provide people with knowledge and skills on how to manage wildlife attractants and how to live, work, play and grow safely when in wildlife country.

The WildSafeBC Princeton Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2025:

- Collaboration with WildSafeBC and Town of Princeton Town Hall Administration and Bylaw Department on how to best answer human-wildlife conflict questions
- More coverage of Area H
- New materials for booth displays
- Increase variety of education given to the community
- Implement the steps to become a provincially certified "Bear Smart" community that involves a Bear Hazard Assessment and a year round education program
- Collaboration with Princeton Bylaw to address feeding of deer, dogs out of yards and off leash, and address garbage being stored outdoors and unsecured
- Participation by Town of Princeton Municipal Campground in the WildSafeBC Bare Camping Education Program

## Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Princeton Coordinator would like to thank the Town of Princeton, The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation for funding the WildSafeBC Princeton project. Thank you to the Town of Princeton Administration Clerks that answer calls for the WildSafeBC Program, follow up with emails to the WCC and are always helpful. Thank you to all the schools, libraries, clubs, camps and Princeton and District Chamber of Commerce that made time and space for the WildSafeBC Programs. Thank you to Zoe and Hayley for your enthusiasm and volunteer hours. Thank you to the the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program, including Lubomir Magdolen Wildlife Safety Response Officer and Paul Pike Conservation Officer. Lastly, the WildSafeBC Princeton Coordinator would like to send an enormous thank you to all the British Columbia Conservation Foundation staff and fellow provincial WildSafeBC Community Coordinators for their encouragement and support. This program would not be able to succeed without the collaboration of all those mentioned. Thank you for helping to keep the wildlife wild and communities safe!

*Thank You!*



***Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe***