

# ARROW-SLOCAN LAKES ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Prepared By :

Lana Schalow



*Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe*



THE VILLAGE OF  
**NAKUSP**



Columbia Basin **trust**



[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)



[programs@wildsafebc.com](mailto:programs@wildsafebc.com)



250-828-2551 ext. 109

# Table of Contents

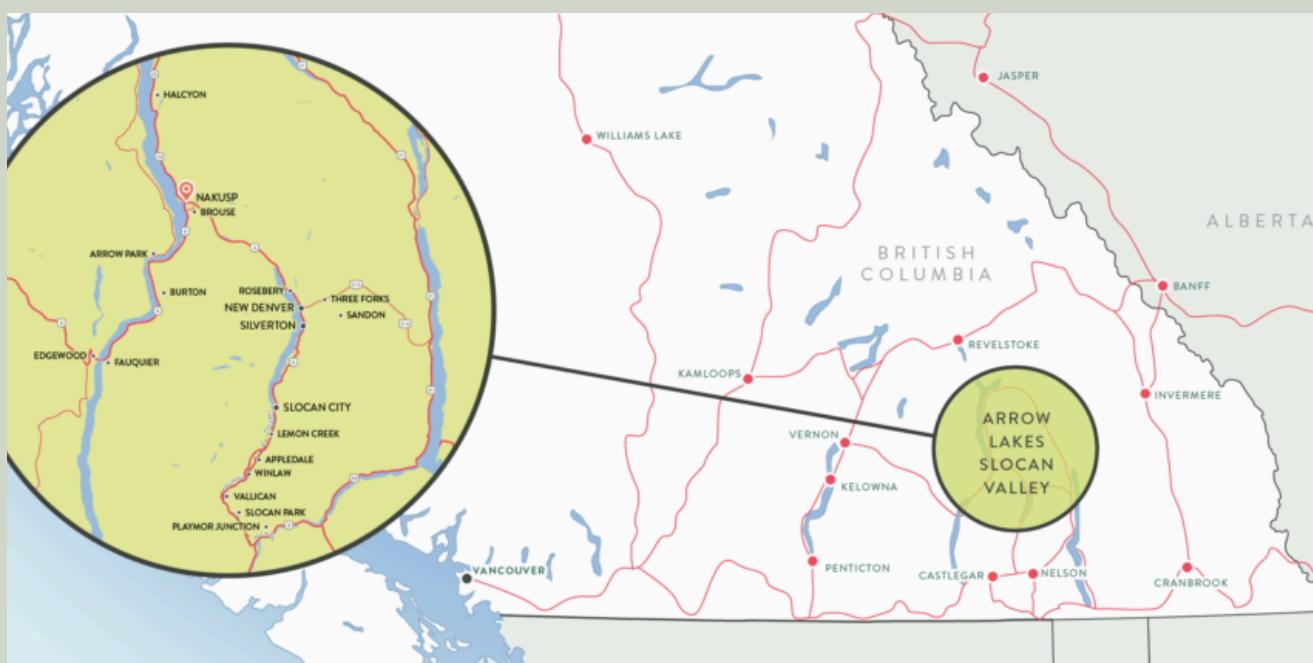
Executive Summary.....	1
Program Coverage Area.....	1
2025 Highlights.....	2
Conservation Officer Service Reports.....	3, 4
WildSafe Ranger Program.....	5
Community Groups.....	6
Display Booths.....	7
Bin-Tagging and Door-To-Door.....	8
Social Media and Press.....	9
BC Goes Wild.....	10
Business Pledge.....	11
Challenges and Future Goals.....	12
Acknowledgements.....	13

# Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Lakes program for the 2025 season between June 3rd 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 2025 season, and will help shape the delivery of the program for the 2026 based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

## Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Lakes program covers approximately 5,500 square kilometers and is located in the southeastern part of British Columbia, and is part of the Central Kootenay Regional District. It encompasses various communities along the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Lake, including areas like Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, and Slocan. The region is characterized by its stunning mountainous landscapes, dense forests, and numerous lakes, making it a popular destination for outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and camping.



## 2025 Highlights

**370**

**Students Educated**

**1289**

**Community Members Reached**

**5**

**Community Event Booths**

**10**

**Bins Tagged**

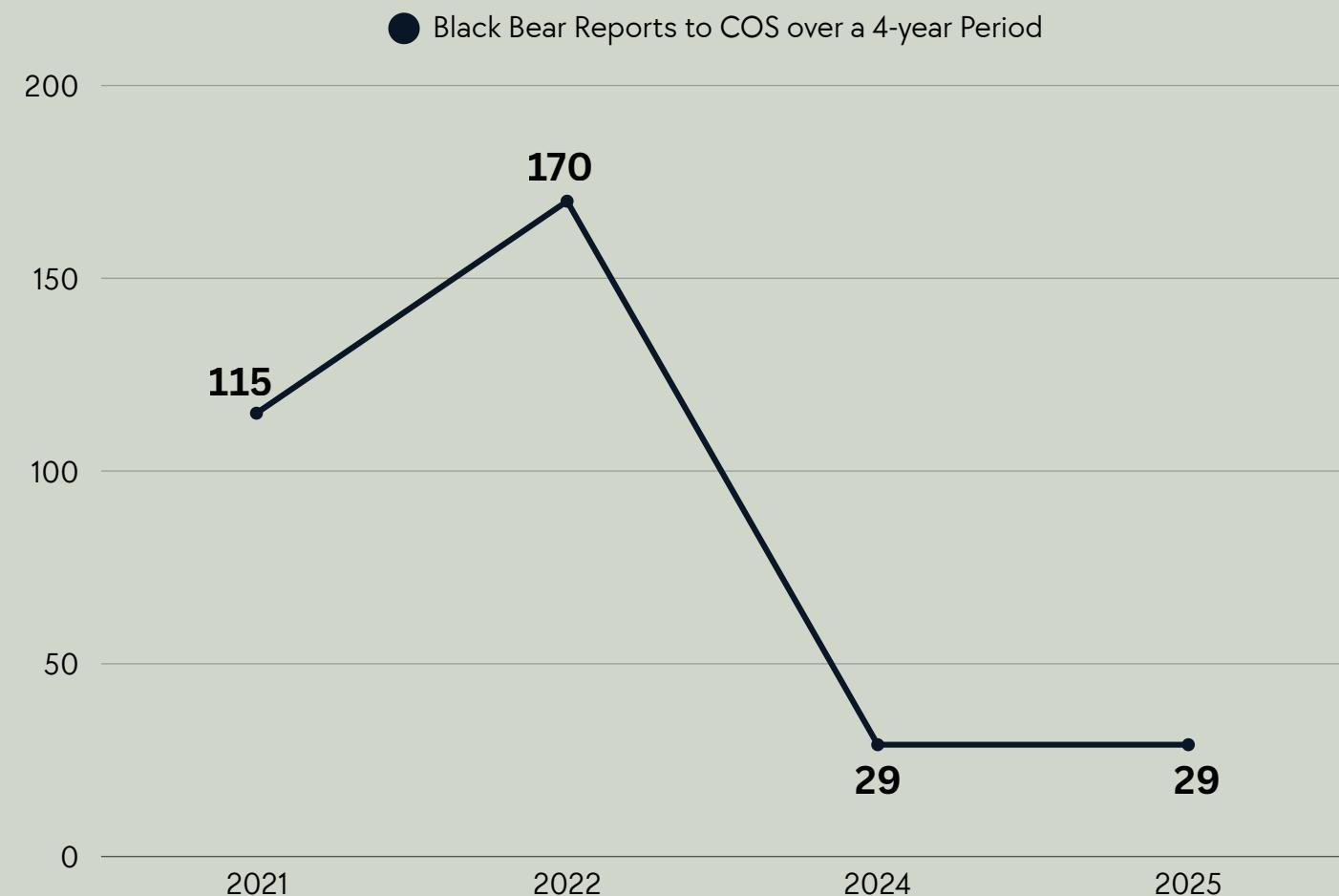
**13.4K**

**Facebook Users Reached**

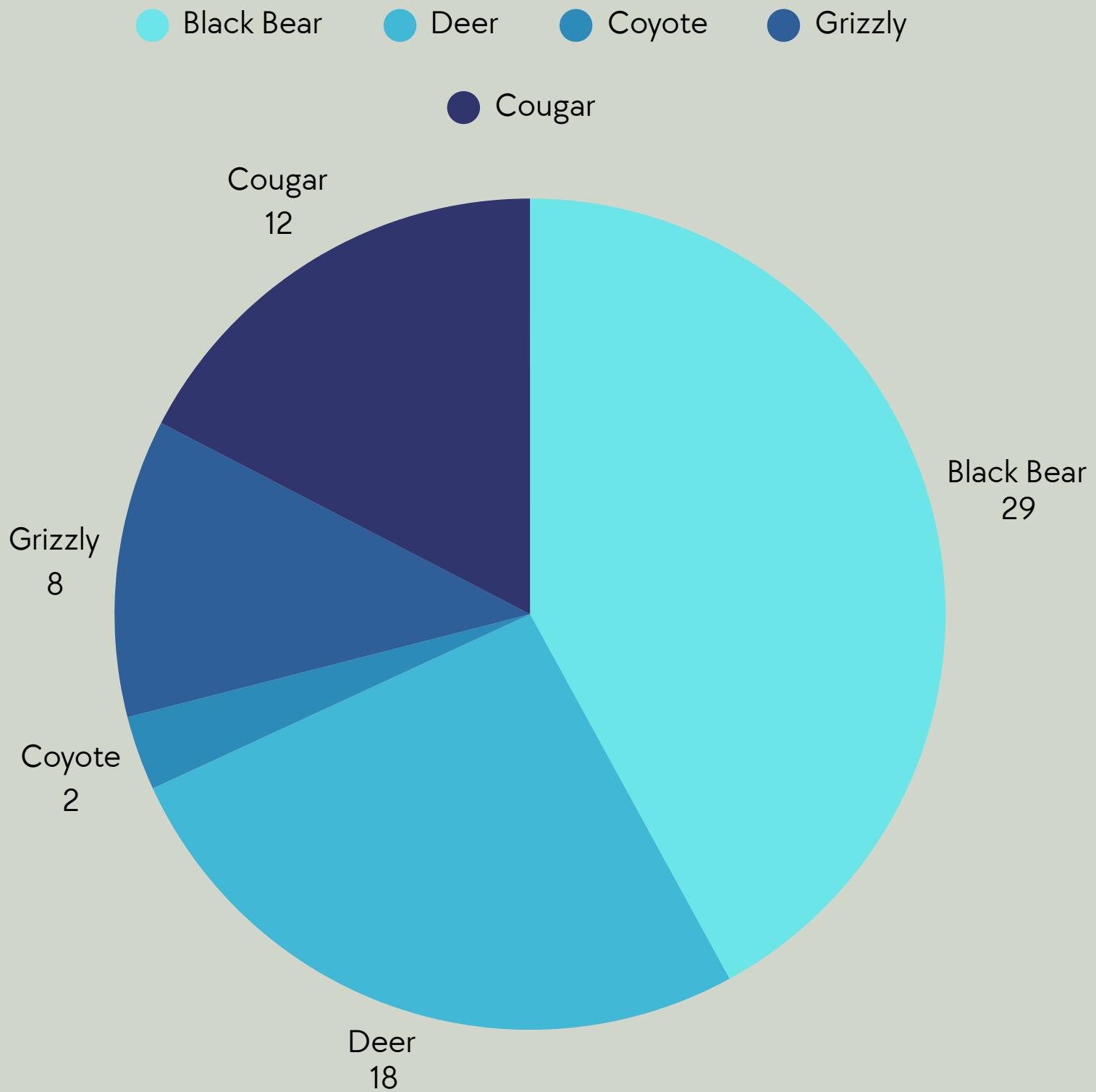
# Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1 to October 31, 2025 a total of 85 wildlife reports have been made to the COS through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>).

Similar to previous years, black bears were the species most often reported to the COS in 2025, followed by deer and cougars. From January 1st to October 31st, 2025 there were 29 black bear reports, which is the same as the number of reports made in 2024. The number of deer reported went up, while cougar reports remained the same as last year and distribution of wildlife sightings differed slightly in 2025. Although the long term changes to wildlife behavior due to widespread wildfires in 2024 is unknown, black bear reports remained much lower in the last two years combined as compared to previous times; an abundance of natural food sources being a contributing factor.



# Conservation Officer Service Reports



# 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 program complements the BC Science K-9 Curriculum. The WildSafe Arrow-Slocan Lakes coordinator delivered 17 WRP presentations with 4 elementary schools and 1 preschool program (Table 1). A total of 370 children throughout the Arrow-Slocan Lakes region became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them.

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Lucerne Elementary	k-7	37	September 22
Winlaw School	k-6	101	September 16
WE Graham	K-8	84	October 20
New Denver Nursery	aged 3-5	15	September 11
Nakusp Elementary	k-6	133	October 2

**Table 1.** WildSafe Rangers presentations provided in 2025 in the Arrow-Slocan Lake region



## Community Groups

This year there were 2 community presentations held, both were on the topic of rats in the Arrow Slocan Lakes area of British Columbia.

The event held in Nakusp was hosted by NACFOR and was attended by 14 people. Winlaw Hall Society also facilitated the presentation which had 6 attendees.

Each of the events were highly informative and engaging, offering takeaways for every attendee to implement and share.



## Display Booths

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. In 2025, more than 537 people engaged with the WildSafeBC display booth which was present at these community events: the New Denver Farmers Market, Hills Garlic Festival, Lucerne Harvest Festival, Slocan Saturday Market, and Toad Fest at Summit Lake. Many visitors appreciated the opportunity to learn more about wildlife safety and how to manage attractants. Informative handouts and visual displays attracted a diverse audience. Attendees enjoyed the chance to ask questions about local wildlife, their behavior, and how to avoid attracting them to their homes. Focus on managing wildlife attractants, especially with regard to bears, deer, and other animals common in the area, was particularly popular. Visitors were keen to learn specific ways they could protect both wildlife and their own properties. Some attendees were interested in arranging a WildSafeBC visit to their classrooms or local events. Overall, the booths provided a valuable space for education and engagement, with people leaving better informed on how to safely coexist with local wildlife.



*Typical display booth setup. This booth was set up for Toad Fest at Summit Lake*

## Bin Tagging and Door-to-Door

Garbage bin tagging involves placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on curbside containers the evening before collection day. The combined number of bins tagged throughout the area this year was 10. Three outings in Nakusp yielded a total of 7 warnings issued, while two times out in Silverton revealed 1 bin out early, and three trips through New Denver had 2 garbage bins tagged. None of the addresses were repeats in 2025.

Door-to-door educational efforts reached 674 homes, where the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator engaged with residents or left door hangers with an introduction to themselves in addition to leaving valuable information on preventing human-wildlife conflicts. There were 130 interactions where residents were able to address particular questions or concerns.

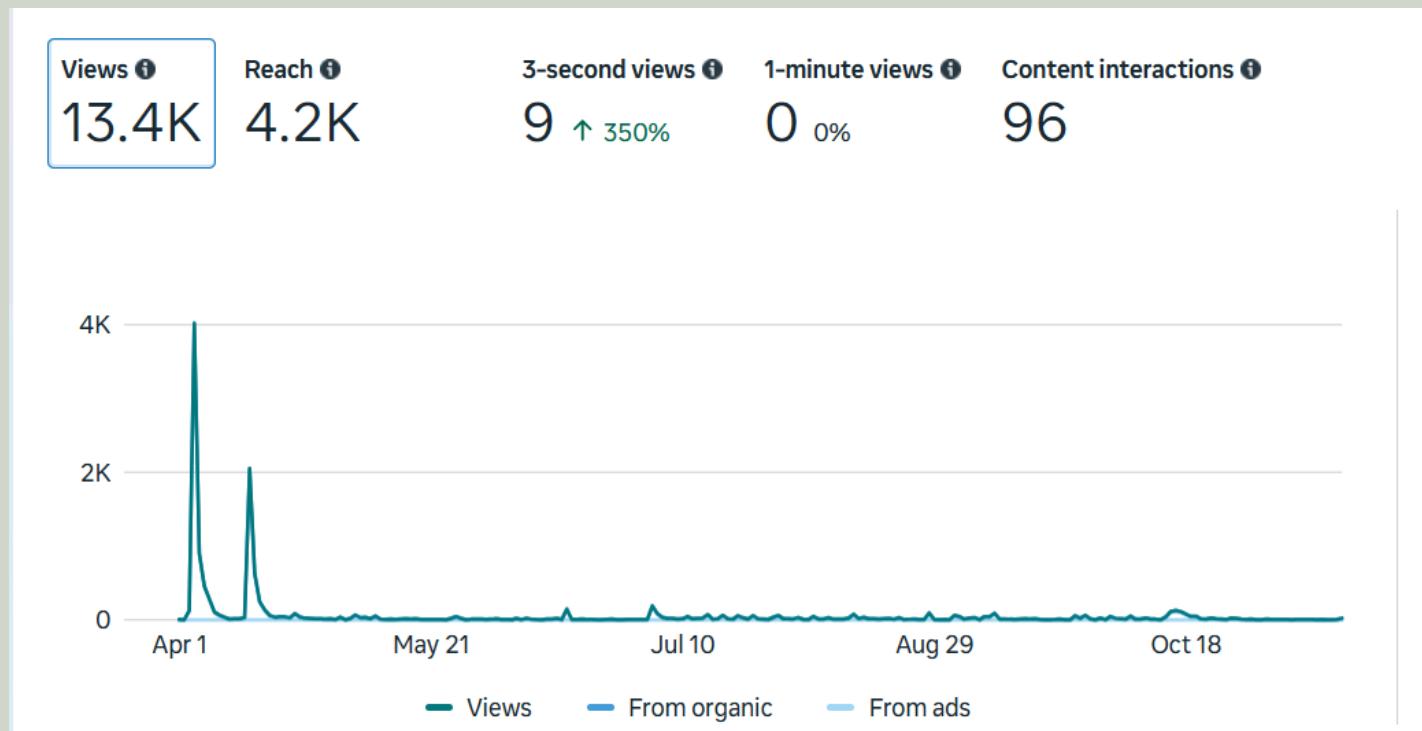
Specific information was given out in Nakusp regarding rats, bears and managing attractants. Also, New Denver was equipped with strategies on managing attractants with regards to bears, wild turkeys, and feeding wild birds such as crows.



## Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Facebook page came out of hibernation on July 4, 2025 with an introductory post. The page has 713 followers as of November 2025. As well, the page has received 82 new Facebook Page likes during this same time period. Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator engaged with posts relating to wildlife activity and provided education and information to residents in community Facebook Page groups. This approach was an effective method to bring people in to explore our page and our content while continuing to provide engaging education. Many Facebook posts created were also shared by Facebook users into other groups or on their own personal timeline, which helped promote the WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Lakes Facebook page. In total, 32 Facebook posts were created that reached 13.4K people from July 4th to November 30th. The most popular post was a post advertising a rat presentation in Winlaw, which reached 338 people.

In addition to providing information on Facebook, the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator submitted 3 news articles in the Valley Voice and the Burton Busy-Beeline.



## 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 WildSafe celebrated its 10th Annual BC Goes Wild Event with amazing overall public participation.

Posters were displayed throughout the Arrow Slocan area and on Facebook to promote the event with a huge bear stuffed plush giveaway contest. Coloring contest pages were handed out to children at display booths and rangers programs, the wildlife photography contest was talked about, and the WildSafeBC website was widely promoted through the season with a special timely emphasis on the ways to get involved during September.



The image is a promotional poster for the BC Goes Wild Giveaway. At the top left is the WildSafeBC logo, which features a circular design with a bear, a wolf, and a deer, with the text "BC GOES WILD" and "WildSafeBC". To the right of the logo, the words "BC GOES WILD" are written in large, bold, orange letters, and "GIVEAWAY" is written in large, bold, white letters on a purple banner. Below this, on a purple background with gold confetti, the text "Winner!" is written in a large, gold, cursive font. Below "Winner!" is the text "OF THE HUGE BEAR STUFFY PRIZE PACKAGE IS:" in gold. Underneath that, "MASON" is written in a large, bold, gold font, followed by "FROM NEW DENVER AREA." in a smaller gold font. At the bottom, the text "CONGRATULATIONS" and "AND THANK YOU FOR ENTERING THE DRAW!" is written in a gold, serif font. To the right of the text is a large, brown, fluffy stuffed bear with an orange nose and a black snout. The bear is sitting on a white surface. At the very bottom of the poster, the text "THANK YOU GLEN PALMER FOR DONATING THIS AWESOME BEAR STUFFY!" is written in a small, gold font.

# Business Pledge

The WildSafe Business Pledge Program has been developed to encourage businesses to set good examples in their community on how to safely co-exist with wildlife. To take the pledge, a business is required to follow best practices in solid waste management, provide adequate training to staff and support WildSafeBC's safety and conflict reduction information. In return, WildSafeBC will provide ongoing support to the business in the form of staff training, WildSafeBC materials (subject to budget constraints) and a WildSafeBC Business Pledge poster.

In 2025 the Arrow Slocan Lakes coordinator worked with 4 businesses who earned the WildSafeBC Business Pledge. Silverton Camp Cafe has renewed their pledge from 2024 through continued application of best practices. Congratulations to Caravan Company Goods, Silverton General Store, and Silverton Building Supplies, who have demonstrated excellent knowledge and diligence with regards to preventing wildlife attractants or conflicts in their areas.

## 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.



**2025**

**Join us,**



**SILVERTON**  
BUILDING SUPPLIES  
TIMBER MART®

**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

WildSafeBC is a registered trademark of the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.

## Challenges and Future Goals

While it is unclear precisely what the lasting impacts from last year's wildfires will be on local wildlife behavior, the general consensus has been that an abundance of wild berries this summer has kept bears occupied, fed and mostly away from human habitation this year. However, the number of reports on deer are up from 2024.

Improperly managed garbage, fruit trees, bird feeders, and urban livestock continue to be a source of human-wildlife conflict in Arrow Slocan Lakes.

While some residents are familiar with conflict and how to prevent it, others are less aware of the risks of human-wildlife conflict. Continued outreach is needed to provide people with knowledge and skills on how to manage wildlife attractants and how to stay safe when in wildlife country.

The WildSafe Arrow Slocan Lakes Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2026:

- Focusing on the WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program in the spring and early summer
- Early recruitment of volunteers for display booths and garbage bin tagging, and increased collaborative events
- Continued support of the Electric Fencing Program, Harvest Share for fruit tree replacement and gleaning, Valhalla Wilderness Society for cost share e-fencing
- Fruit gleaning support expanded to include Winlaw
- Wildlife Awareness presentations and bear spray workshops throughout the area
- Continued reinforcement of bylaws around attractant management
- Possible newcomer information packages to some communities

## Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and organizations who have contributed to the success of the WildSafeBC program this year. A special thank you to Cora Skaien, our WildSafeBC provincial and e-fencing support person, for providing invaluable guidance, and to our previous coordinator Erin Collison. I'm also grateful to Winlaw Hall Society, Knox Hall, and to Nakusp Community Forest (NACFOR), whom have supported our public presentations. I also want to acknowledge the Valley Voice newspaper for their continued media support, and Burton Busy Beeline newsletter for helping us reach a wider audience. A special thank you to Harvest Share and the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) for their collaboration on the cost-share electric fencing program and fruit tree replacement program. Your contributions have been essential in making our efforts a success, and I look forward to continuing these collaborations in the future. A huge bear stuffy was donated by Glen Palmer whose contribution made an excellent prize for the local BC Goes Wild giveaway contest. Thank you to the numerous markets and festivals where our informational display booths were visited by many people. The WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Lakes Coordinator would like to thank the Village of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan, and Nakusp, The Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Basin Trust, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation for funding the WildSafeBC Arrow-Slocan Lakes program. Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program, including Ben Beetlestone and Matt Soucy. This program was able to succeed with the collaboration of all those mentioned.

Thank You!

