

FRASER VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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



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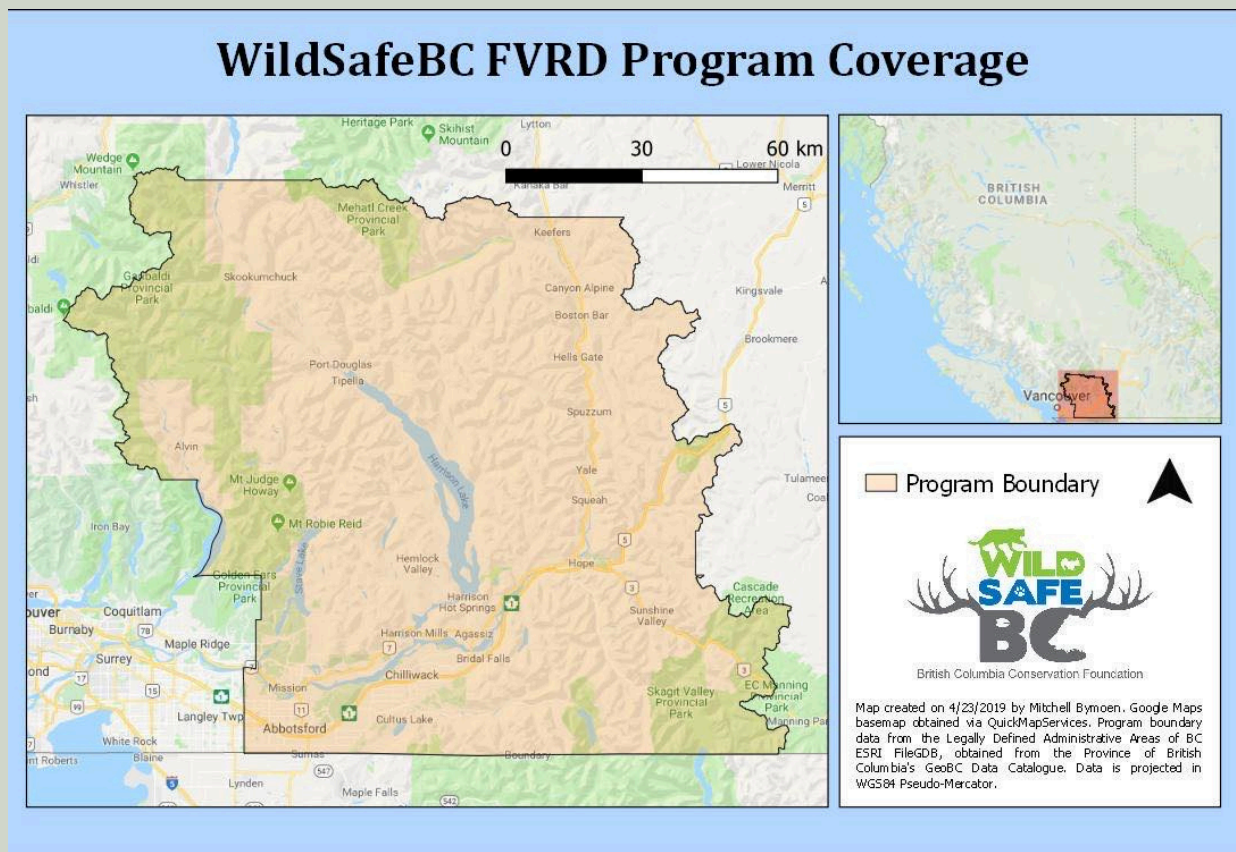
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Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Fraser Valley program for the 2025 season between May and November 30th. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator (WCC) 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 Fraser Valley program covers approximately 13,000 square kilometers. The Fraser Valley is located in southwestern BC and is part of the Fraser Valley Regional District. Sponsors covered include the Fraser Valley Regional District, and the cities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack.



2025 Highlights

3479

Students Educated

7777

Community Members Reached

55

Community Event Booths

1830

Bins Tagged

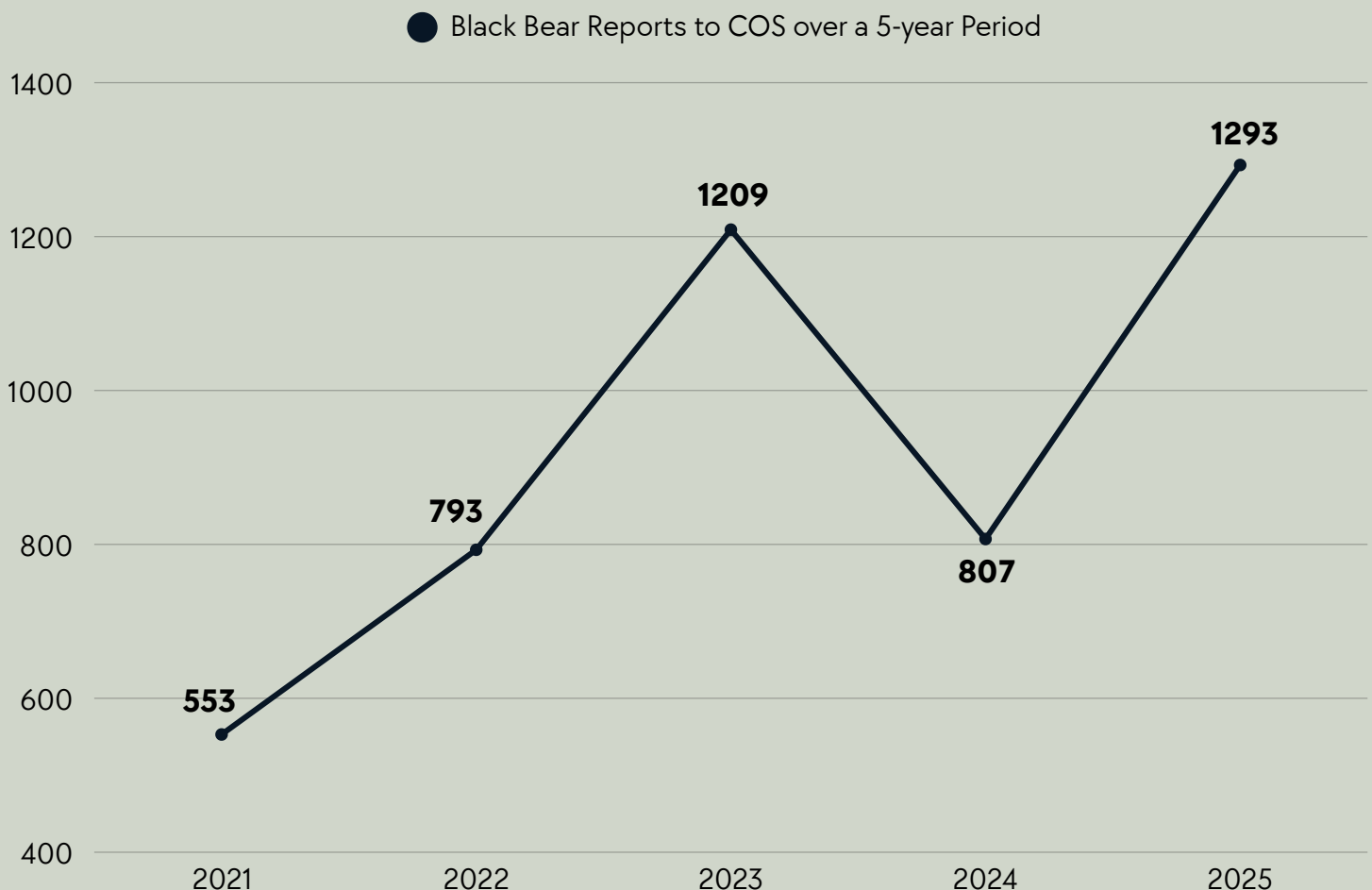
130K

Facebook Users Reached

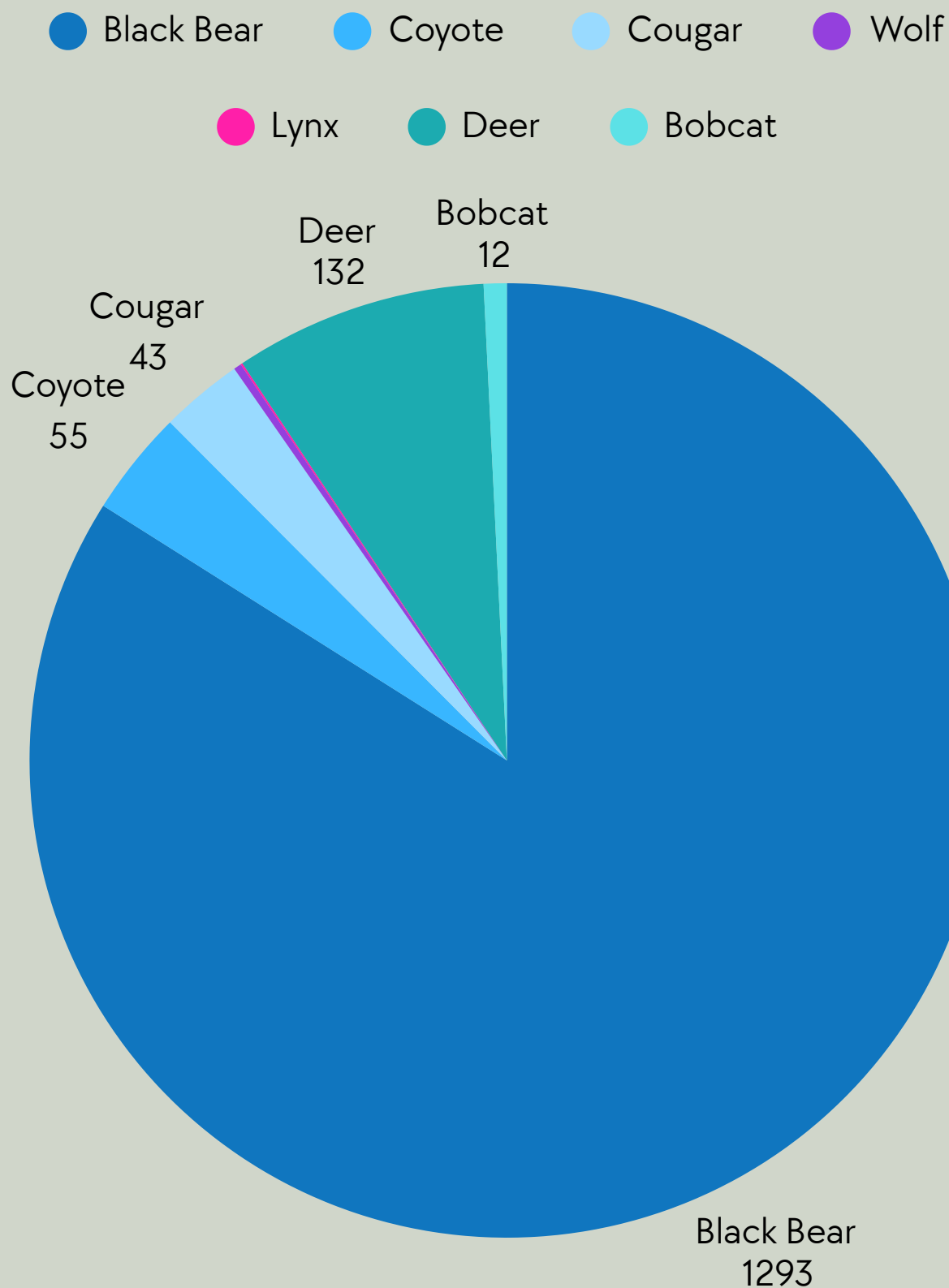
Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1 to October 31st, a total of 1591 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, coyote, and cougar. From January 1st 2025 to October 31st, there were 1293 black bear reports, which is higher than the number of reports made in 2024. It has helped having each of the coordinators living in the communities. They were able to give education via canvassing within hours when we received calls. Both WildSafeBC Community Coordinators worked diligently educating the public on managing household attractants in many ways to keep wildlife wild and communities safe.



Conservation Officer Service Reports



WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafeBC 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 WildSafeBC Community Coordinators delivered 82 WRP presentations at 29 elementary schools, daycares, summer camps, and middle schools. A total of 3479 children throughout the Fraser Valley became WildSafeBC Rangers.



Community Groups & Presentations

This summer WildSafeBC was invited to attend events put on by MA-KLAN Women's Outdoor Group, Chilliwack Outdoor Club, The Backcountry Horsemen of BC Yarrow Chapter, Summertime in Salish Park for FVRD library, City of Chilliwack 2025 Wildlife & Waste Information Session, Vedder Mountain & Chilliwack Girl Guides, and the Learning Plus group for Seniors at Abbotsford Recreation Centre. WildSafeBC was also invited to present to Canada Post Chilliwack employees, PCRS Traverse, Chilliwack Secondary School Outdoor students, Seabird Island Community School high school students, and Matsqui First Nation & Seabird Island Band on behalf of AiM.

During these events, WildSafeBC presented and spoke to the attendees about wildlife in the area, garbage storage and ways to keep them safe while exploring the great outdoors. Attendees left with tips on managing attractants & wildlife safety.

Bear spray workshops were given to MA-KLAN Women's Outdoor Group, The Backcountry Horsemen of BC Yarrow Chapter, Vedder Mountain Girl Guide Leaders, Tourism Chilliwack, City of Mission Employees.



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 7109 people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at 55 community events across the FVRD. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinators visited parks, trailheads, campgrounds, and community markets & events. The public was interested in learning about wildlife, they liked seeing the skulls, prints and the claws we have on display. Booths were held at 36 different locations and events throughout FVRD. WildSafeBC also attended 2 Go Play Outside events put on by the City of Abbotsford.



Display Booths

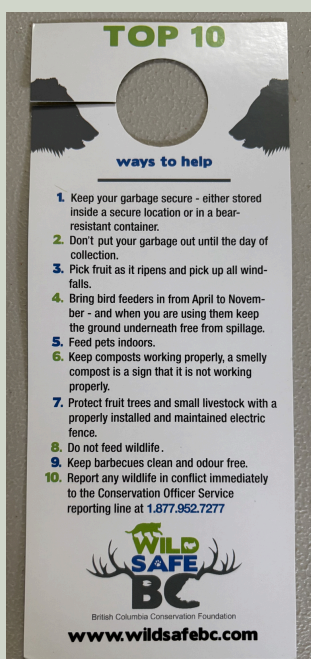


Bin Tagging and Door-to-Door

Garbage bin tagging consists of placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on top of curbside containers the evening before collection day. During 35 outings, a total of 1830 bins were tagged across The Fraser Valley garbage collection zones. In Chilliwack, the hillside communities were focused on the most since they back onto parks and trails where wildlife lives. Several areas throughout Abbotsford were focused on, as requested by the City of Abbotsford and COS. The wildlife often comes into the community when attractants like garbage, compost, and recycling are not stored inside a garage or bear-resistant shed or container.

The efficiency of bin tagging is productive as roughly half of residences whose bins were tagged during an initial visit did not have bins out on the curb again when visited again. Hillside community members & residents of Abbotsford are often leaving all their garbage on the side of their homes instead of a secured area like a garage or bear resistant shed.

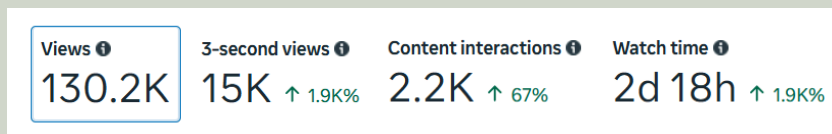
Door-to-door education reached 1956 people with door hangers. Door hangers are left on the door when no one is home. They have wildlife information and the program email. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinator also knocked on doors and engaged residents in conversations about wildlife. If the community member answers the door a wildlife brochure is given, education about wildlife in the area and any questions are addressed.



Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Fraser Valley Facebook page came out of hibernation on April 21st, 2025 with an introductory post. Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC coordinators engaged with posts relating to wildlife activity and provided education and information to residents in community Facebook Page groups. This included weekly Wildlife Trivia posts to educate the public and engage any viewers, and original songs written and recorded by WildSafeBC coordinators to make wildlife education fun and accessible for children. These approaches were an effective method to bring people in to explore our page and our content while continuing to provide engaging education. Many posts reached over 300 Facebook users, with the most impactful post about teaming up with volunteers to do DTD on Chilliwack Mountain, and finding bear scat pictured in post. This post reached approximately 13.9k people.

There were also two articles written about the WildSafeBC program in the Chilliwack Progress; one shared a Facebook post, and the other was from an interview done with both WildSafeBC coordinators. The Abbotsford News shared an article about increased numbers of black bear reports in the area as well, after a virtual interview with the Abbotsford WildSafeBC coordinator.



*Pictured: WildSafeBC Community Coordinators during interview.
Credit: Chilliwack Progress*



*Pictured: WildSafeBC coordinators for
Facebook wildlife song*

Bare Campsite Program

Through the WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program, WildSafeBC is able to provide clear guidelines and resources to assist campground operators in maintaining a safe campsite for both people and wildlife. During the 2025 season two campsites were approached within the Fraser Valley. Sunnyside Campsite in Cultus Lake invited WildSafeBC to come four times and do wildlife safety presentations for their campers via pop up booths. During this time, 465 campers were educated about wildlife safety, wildlife in the Cultus Lake/Fraser Valley area, what to do when you see wildlife and how to have a Bare Campsite. Although no campsites joined the Bare Campsite Program, campers learned new skills on how to safely camp in bear and wildlife country.

WildSafeBC visited FVRD's Vedder Campground with a pop up booth educating 121 campers on the Bare Campsite Program and wildlife safety.



Indigenous Awareness and Engagement

The WildSafeBC Community Coordinators are honoured and grateful to live work and play on the traditional and unceded territory of various first nations and bands throughout Fraser Valley Regional District. Wildlife Awareness and Safety presentations were given at Seabird Island Band (Sq'éwqel), Sqwá First Nation, and Máthxwi First Nation. The Seabird Island Band is located on the traditional and ancestral territories of the Stó:lō and Nlaka'pamux First Nation peoples, united by Halq'eméylem, the upriver dialect of the Downriver dialect. These relationships mark an exciting opportunity to strengthen understanding, communication, and respect. The program also delivered wildlife safety presentations for students in Grades K4-12 at Seabird Island First Nation.

WildSafeBC Community Coordinators are grateful to the Stó:lō Gift Shop in Chilliwack for donating a gift for our WildSafeBC booth, and the Chilliwack School District (SD33) Indigenous Department donated books about wildlife for WSR presentations.

WildSafeBC remains committed to learning from and working alongside Indigenous peoples, fostering trust and understanding while supporting shared goals. Looking ahead, we hope the relationships with Seabird Island Band, Sqwá First Nation, and Máthxwi First Nation continues to grow.



Seabird Island Band



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 its 10th Annual BC Goes Wild Event. Colouring sheets were handed out at WildSafe Ranger presentations and all booths.

WildSafeBC coordinators hosted a free BC Goes Wild event on September 27th 2025 at Vedder Park, and spoke with 364 members of the public about BC wildlife and attractant management. Kids attending enjoyed a scavenger hunt and Ranger packages, and there were 2 prize draws for both kids and adults to enter.



Pictured: Lori speaking to attendees at BC Goes Wild Event.

Challenges and Future Goals

Improperly managed garbage, fruit trees, bird feeders, and urban livestock continue to be a source of human-wildlife conflict in the Fraser Valley. 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 WildSafeBC Community Coordinators recommend the following activities for 2026:

- Further educate communities to ensure garbage, recycling, compost, and greens are not stored outside of their homes, as well as proper management of other attractants such as bird/hummingbird feeders, fruit trees, coolers, and dirty BBQs
- Expand the two community coordinator kits, to ensure both coordinators have supplies, and have something new to show at future presentations
- Two full time year-round coordinators to bring more awareness and reach more residents since the coverage area is so large
- Door to door canvassing implemented before bears leave their dens
- Education brochures to give to new community members via mail in City of Abbotsford. The new residents may not be aware of the wildlife in their areas.
- Bear Smart Community Program to be reinstated provincially and applied throughout Fraser Valley
- Brochures in different languages to help with non-English speaking community members to learn what wildlife live in the area, what to do in a human-wildlife interaction and how to safely store garbage
- Higher fines for community members who do not follow the garbage bylaws
- Bear resistant garbage cans installed in parks and at all trailheads
- Encourage more campsites to adopt the Bare Campsite Program
- Encourage landlords to provide proper garbage storage for all tenants in rental units

Acknowledgements

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Thank You!



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