

GOLDEN & CSRD-A ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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



Columbia Basin **trust**



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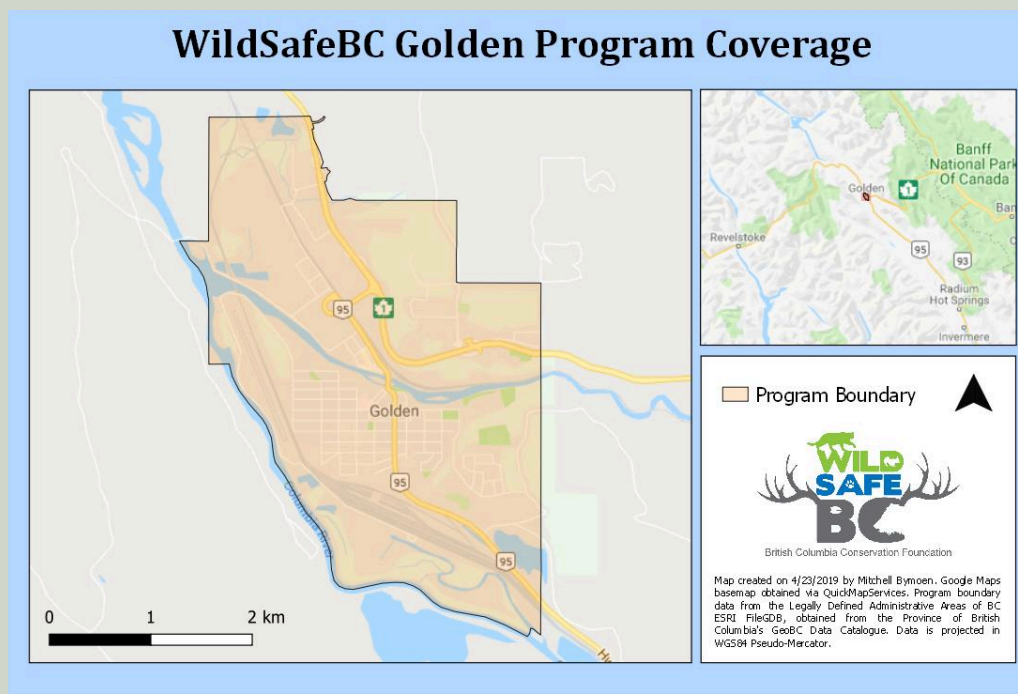
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Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Golden and Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area A (CSRD-A) program for the 2025 season between April 16th and November 30th. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator is to assist communities in preventing human-wildlife conflict 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 season based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Golden program covers approximately 13,735 square kilometers for the CSRD-A, and 11.33 square kilometers for the Town of Golden. Golden is located in the regional district of Columbia-Shuswap and program coverage spans the Town of Golden, along with the unincorporated communities of Blaeberry, Castledale, Donald, Harrogate, Nicholson, Parson, as well as the Town of Field. WildSafeBC Golden recognizes that the program area is located on the unceded, traditional, territory of the Ktunaxa Nation, the traditional territory of the Secwe'pemc, and is the chosen home of the Métis Nation.



2025 Highlights

152

Students Educated

1362

Community Members Reached

12

Community Event Booths

112

Bins Tagged

11,200

Facebook Users Reached

Conservation Officer Service Reports

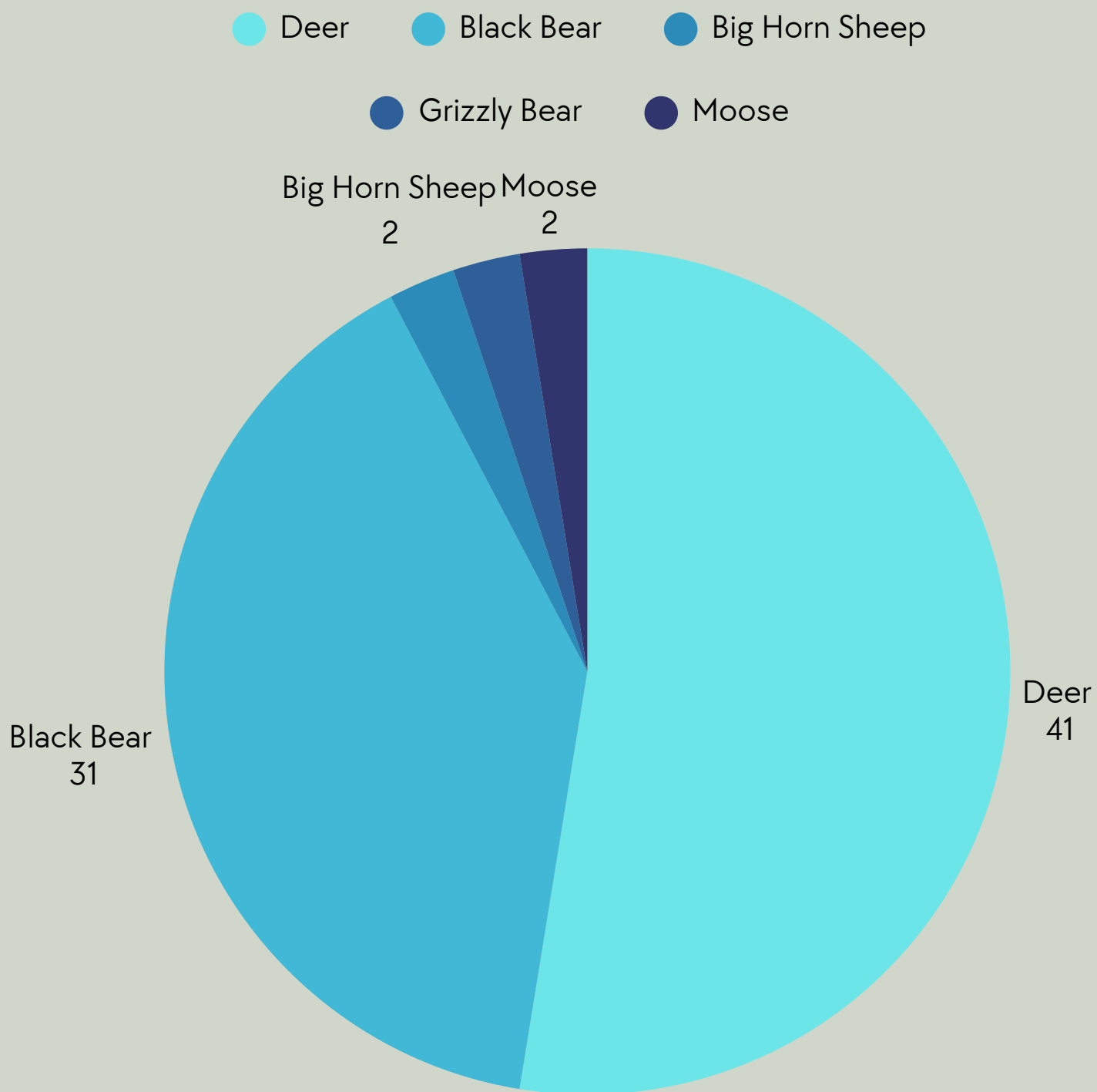
From January 1 to October 31 this year, a total of 83 wildlife reports have been made to the COS through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>) for Golden.

This year, deer were the species most often reported to the COS in 2025, followed by black bear and big horn sheep. From January 1st, 2025 to October 31st, 2025, there were 31 black bear reports, which is lower than the number of reports made in 2024, where 49 black bears were reported in that same time frame. Whereas in previous years the fall is typically the busiest time of year with the community having black bears in town, most likely due to bears entering hyperphagia and seeking additional sources of food before entering their winter dormancy period, this year was extremely quiet. Conservation Officers and Park Wardens both agree that the number of sightings and reports were much lower likely due to this year being an incredible berry crop year. In addition, the overall number from 2024 to 2025 may be lower as a result of the community working hard to manage their attractants and prevent drawing wildlife into town.

● Black Bear Reports to COS over a 5-year Period



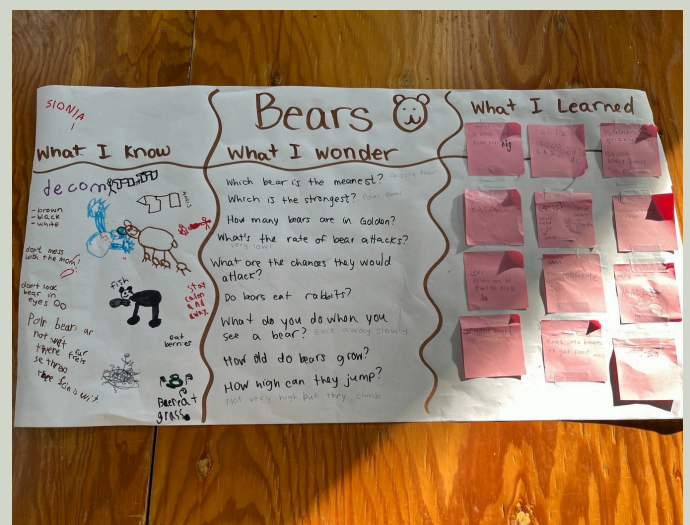
Conservation Officer Service Reports



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 WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator delivered a total of 7 WRP presentations to a local elementary school, a program for students who learn from home, and summer camps. A total of 152 children throughout Golden became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take home with them.

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Town of Golden Summer Camp	1-5	24	August 19
Wildsight Summer Camp	1-5	14	August 19
Heartwood Learning Program	1-5	14	October 28
Alexander Park Elementary School	K-3	100	November 3



Community Groups

This year, the WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator delivered three presentations total; two at the local high school and one at a community event. All presentations focused on wildlife safety and awareness, specifically going into detail regarding bear safety and awareness. The first presentation took place at Kinsmen Park in Golden, where the coordinator gave a presentation to 25 individuals during Wildsight's Third Annual Bear Festival on September 21. Proceeding the presentation, a bear spray workshop was available to all participants that were interested in practicing deploying inert bear spray, where 9 adults deployed inert spray. The second and third presentation took place on October 31, where the coordinator gave a condensed wildlife safety and awareness presentation to three classes at Golden Secondary School. There the coordinator went over key topics such as understanding different species they could come into conflict with while recreating and living in BC, understanding animal behaviour and how to respond in an encounter, bear spray safety, and wildlife vehicle collision prevention. Approximately 74 individuals listened to these presentations at Golden Secondary School.



Display Booths

Display booths allow the public to view and interact with WildSafeBC educational materials, learn about wildlife safety, discuss wildlife attractant management, and network our program offerings to various groups of residents. In 2025, approximately 1250 people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at 12 events across the community. The WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator had a total of 8 display booths at the Golden Farmer's Market scattered throughout the summer, where the coordinator typically reached the highest number of people interacting with their booth, having all ages, and both locals and visitors stopping by to gather free resources and information related to the program. The WildSafeBC Coordinator also had a display booth at the Golden Skybridge, Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, and during Golden's Third Annual Wild Bear Festival. Locals used this opportunity as a way to ask questions relating to the program offerings and questions or comments regarding living in wildlife country. Children and tourists were drawn to the booth due to the educational materials and display items.



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 12 outings, a total of 112 bins were tagged across the Town of Golden limits.

The efficacy of bin tagging was shown, as overall, 90% of residences whose bins were tagged during an initial survey did not have bins out on the curb again during the subsequent survey, and only 10% of residences whose bins were tagged during an initial survey had their bins out on the curb again during the second survey. In addition, only 3% of residences had their bins out on all three surveys proving the efficacy of this program.

Furthermore, there seems to be an overall decrease in the number of warnings issued as the season progresses as well, with less total bins tagged and repeat offenders in the fall in comparison to the spring, most likely due to the effectiveness of garbage tagging and follow up outreach education in the community to promote and encourage attractant management and conflict reduction within the Golden community.

Door to door outreach education did not occur this season as there were no public or provincial requests made and very little conflict within the Town of Golden. Although, the coordinator had a variety of resources that both locals and visitors could easily attain at one of their display booths or through connecting online.



Garbage is the most reported attractant involved in human-bear conflicts.

Bears that access garbage may be injured, cause property damage or become a risk to the community.



WILDSAFE BC
British Columbia Conservation Foundation

Keep Bears Wild and Your Community Safe



Keep garbage, recyclables, and compost containers stored inside structures when available.



If you must store outdoors, use certified bear-resistant containers and secure them to a solid object.

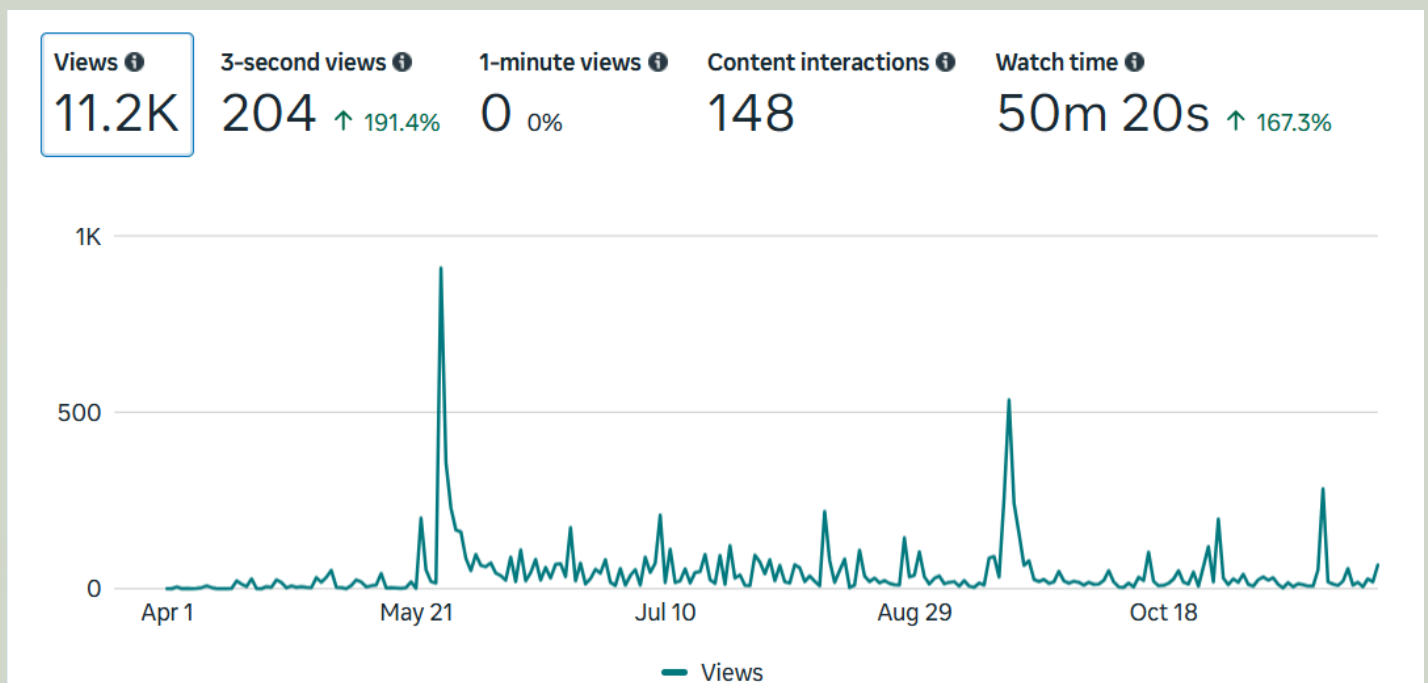


Never place carts out the night before collection.

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Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Golden Facebook page came out of hibernation on May 22 with an introductory post. Over the season, the page has had 10 new Facebook followers, from 679 followers in November 2024 to 689 followers in November 2025. As well, the page has received a total of 145 content interactions during this same time period. Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC Coordinator engaged with posts relating to wildlife activity and provided education and information to residents on the community page. This approach was an effective method to bring people in to explore the page and related content while continuing to provide engaging educational posts. Many Facebook posts created were also shared by Facebook users into other groups or on their own personal timeline, which helped promote the WildSafeBC Golden Facebook page. In total, 76 Facebook posts were created that were viewed (the number of times content was played or displayed) approximately 11,200 times from May to November. Many posts reached hundreds of Facebook users, though the most impactful post created was regarding attractant management, which was shared 5 times and reached approximately 1900 people. In addition, in November the WildSafeBC Golden coordinator connected with Tourism Golden, offering educational resources relating to bear safety and awareness, which they intend to use for their Golden Guide Module for 2026.



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 10th Annual BC Goes Wild Event. This September, the WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator had a display booth at two local Farmer's Markets during the month of September, where the coordinator handed out colouring sheets to children that had a scannable QR-code with the option of submitting their colored page online for the chance to enter the WildSafeBC colouring contest and win a prize. The coordinator also had a booth, in addition to delivering a bear spray demonstration at Golden's Third Annual Bear Festival hosted by Wildsight on September 21, where 9 adults were given the opportunity to deploy inert spray. Finally, the coordinator also shared many posts on the WildSafeBC Golden Facebook page, many of which were provincial posts regarding BC Goes Wild facts, in addition to posting relevant topics to the community at that time, including advertising the BC Goes Wild Event, the importance of managing and securing attractants, bear safety, and more.



Challenges and Future Goals

Overall, this season was much quieter than in previous years, with less wildlife in and around the community and more attractants managed by the local community. Overall, minimal human-wildlife conflict or concerns were reported to the coordinator from the Conservation Officer Service.

Despite having minimal conflict and wildlife presence within and around the community, throughout the province, improperly managed garbage and fruit trees continue to be the main anthropogenic food attractants that draw in wildlife and create potential human-wildlife conflict. While most 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 the knowledge and skills necessary to manage wildlife attractants and how to stay safe when in wildlife country. The WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2026:

- Continuing to promote the use of electric fencing
- Conducting educational campaigns focused on the hazards of attractants along with solutions for securing these attractants through social media, news articles, workshops, and community events
- Encouraging residents to connect through social media with WildSafeBC and local non-profit food sharing groups in an effort to minimize fruit trees accumulating and attracting wildlife on local properties (Local Food Matters, Glean Golden)
- Continuing to build a relationship with the local COS and Bylaw Officer to determine best practices and target areas to conduct door-to-door campaigns and continuing to use wildlife in area signage in public areas frequented by wildlife
- Continuing to do garbage bin tagging during seasonal peaks when human-wildlife conflict is typically at its highest since it works well in changing human behaviour and reminding local residents of the Town of Golden bylaws and best practices to keep wildlife and our community safe
- Supporting the ongoing progress for Golden to become a Bear Smart Community

Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator would like to thank the Town of Golden, the Province of British Columbia, Columbia Basin Trust, and the BC Conservation Foundation for funding the WildSafeBC Golden project. Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their support of the program and continuing to collaborate and update the WildSafeBC Golden Coordinator as needed on wildlife in the area and ideas for appropriate action. Thank you to all staff at the Town of Golden who continue to support and engage with the program. A special thank you to Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy Corporate Officer, Carrie White, for all of her direction and support again this season. WildSafeBC Golden would like to thank its volunteers: Hannah McKay and Johanne Lamoureux. Thank you to all the community members in Golden and surrounding areas for their support and willingness to learn about wildlife and best practices to reduce human-wildlife conflict in order to keep wildlife wild, and our community safe. Finally, the WildSafeBC Golden 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!



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Communities Safe***