

KAMLOOPS ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Prepared By :

Ashley Stewart



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



Canada's Tournament Capital



www.wildsafebc.com



programs@wildsafebc.com



250-828-2551 ext. 109

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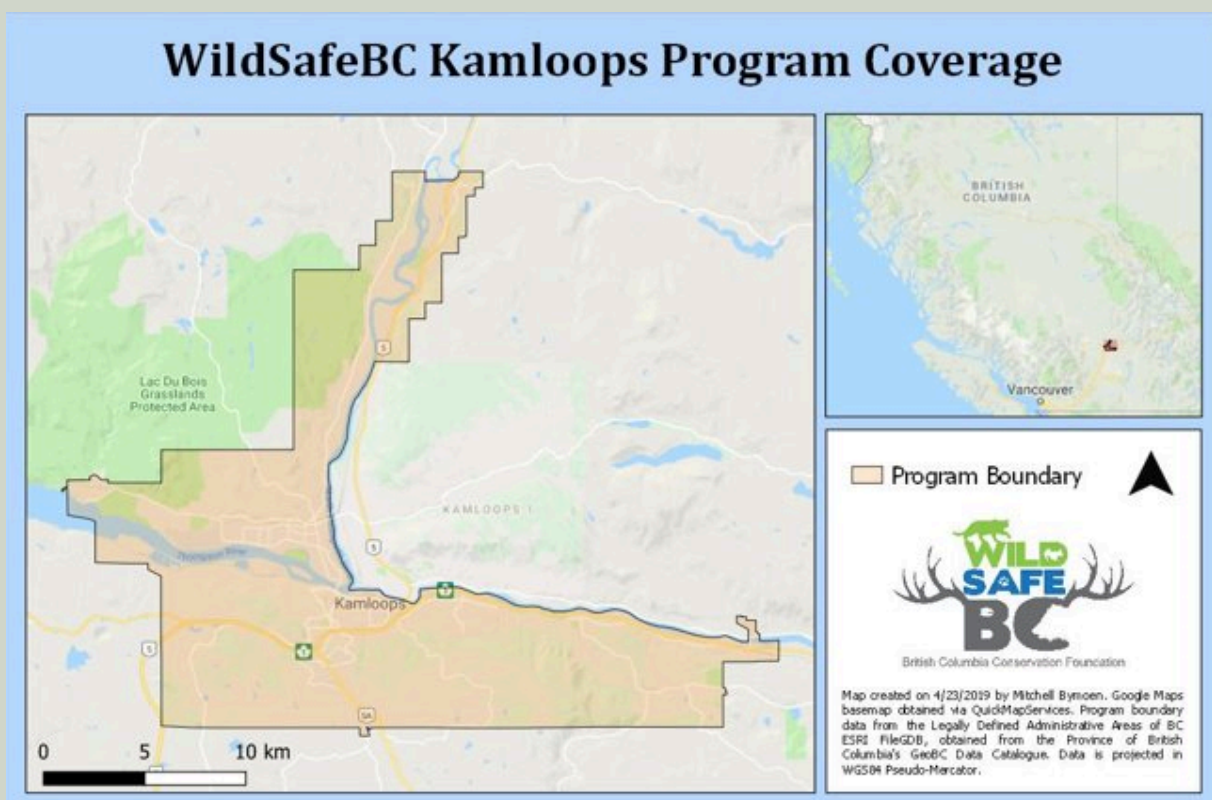
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Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Kamloops program for the 2025 season between May 20th 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 season based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Kamloops program covers approximately 300 square kilometers. Kamloops is located within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District in British Columbia. Kamloops was the first city in BC to earn a "Bear Smart Community" certification in 2009. WildSafeBC acknowledges that the program takes place on the unceded traditional territory of the Secwépemc People.



2025 Highlights

1019

Students Educated

3488

Community Members Reached

9

Community Event Booths

541

Bins Tagged

84.2K

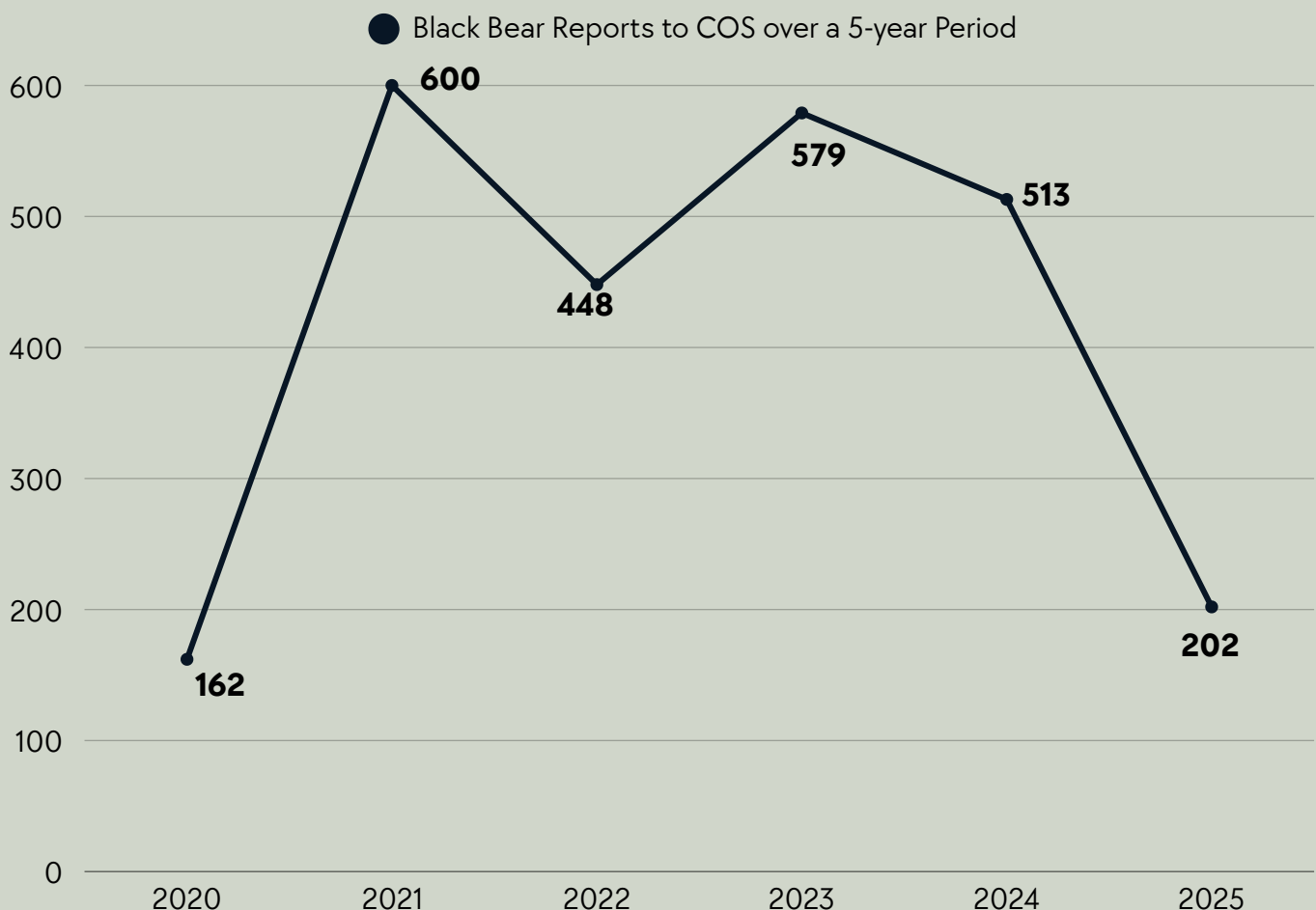
Facebook Users Reached

Conservation Officer Service Reports

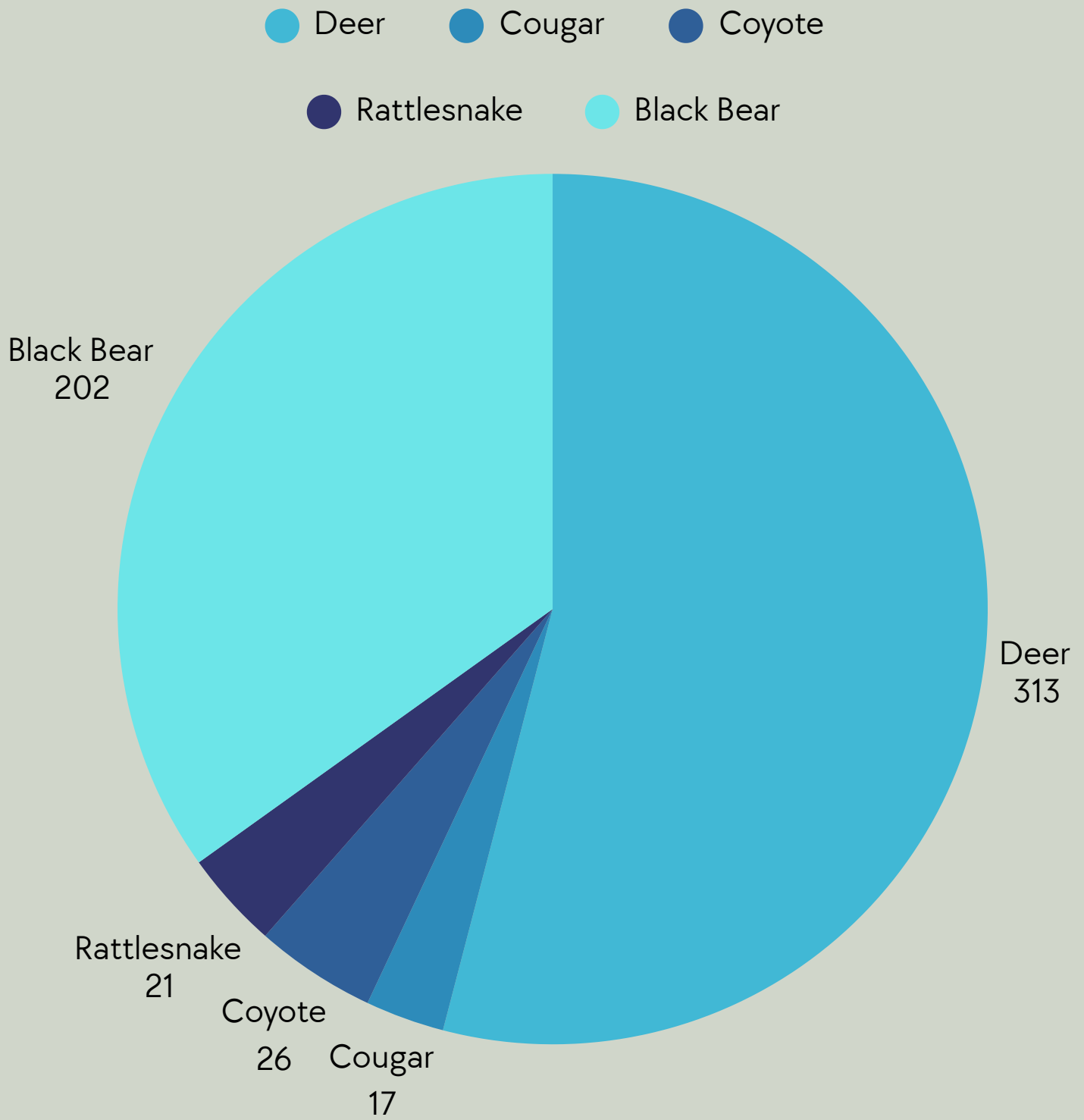
From January 1st to November 2025, a total of 579 wildlife reports regarding black bears, deer, coyotes, cougars, and rattlesnakes were made to the Conservation Officer Service through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or the online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>).

Deer were the species most often reported to the COS in Kamloops from January through to November, followed by black bear. There were a total of 313 deer reports, 202 black bear reports, 21 rattlesnake reports, 17 cougar reports, and 26 coyote reports.

Black Bear reports are lower than previous years, likely due to better berry crops and access to salmon. Better management of attractants in our community resulted in less human and bear conflicts. Great Job Kamloops!



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. Students are also educated on safety basics when encountering local wildlife species. The WCC delivered a total of 42 WildSafe Ranger presentations across 7 elementary schools, 1 high school, 1 daycare and 9 summer camps at Thompson Rivers University.

A total of 1019 children throughout Kamloops and the surrounding area have become official WildSafe Rangers. All age groups participated from preschool to grade 12, and were given a Ranger Kit (activity booklet with colouring pages, crosswords, and education material, a ruler/bookmark, stickers, and animal pins).



Heffley Creek Elementary on left, Raleigh Elementary right, O.L.P.H Elementary on bottom

WildSafe Ranger Program

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Valleyview Highschool	8-12	33	June 14, Oct 16
Heffley Creek Elementary	K-1	16	November 5th
T.R.U Eureka! Summer Science Program	K-5	183	July 8th, July 22nd, Aug 5th
Kiddies Korner Daycare	K-3	25	July 4th
O.L.P.H Elementary	Grade 5	23	June 16th
Arthur Hatton Elementary	K-2	60	Sep 1st, 2nd
Rayleigh Elementary	K-8	235	Oct.10th
Summit Elementary	K-8	238	Oct. 27 th , 28 th , 29th
Kamloops Christian School	K-7	145	Oct. 23rd
Dufferin Elementary	K-1	17	Nov.26

WildSafe Ranger Program



Community Groups

The WCC delivered Bear Spray Workshops and WildSafeBC Wilderness Safety and Awareness presentations to a variety of community groups across Kamloops this 2025 season. Members of the community that participated include Kamloops Immigrant Services, People in Motion, Westsyde Long Term Care Home, local forestry workers, Indigenous community members and Thompson Rivers University.



JOIN US FOR A FREE

BEAR SPRAY WORKSHOP

THURSDAY AUG 7TH AT
📍 IMMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICE

- ✓ When to use bear spray
- ✓ Tips for preventing bear encounter
- ✓ How to carry and deploy it safely

Email Emily to register
emily@kcris.ca

Free safety workshop for hikers and campers !



Community Groups



Photos taken at Bear Spray Workshop at Immigrant Services building

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 2049 people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at 9 different community events. The Kamloops WildSafeBC Coordinator had a display booth at the following events:

- Canada Day
- NSBIA's Overlander's Day "Paws and Tails"
- Kamloops Immigrant Services Potluck
- Indigenous Day + Peace and Reconciliation Day
- Valleyview Block Party with "10th Annual BC Goes Wild"
- Kamloops Farmers Market
- Blackwell Dairy Farmers Market
- Wildlife Park "BC Bear Day"
- Tranquille Lac Du Bois "Pink Palooza"



Display Booths



Bin Tagging

All collection zones in the city were included in the bin-tagging program. Areas with higher numbers of attractants, wildlife activity, and repeat offenders were visited two to three times to help identify and address recurring issues. Bin tagging was a great success this season. WildSafeBC collaborated with volunteers and City staff to coordinate bin tagging efforts across Kamloops and reduce human-wildlife conflict. All collection zones were visited, and follow-up visits were completed in areas with repeat offenders. Offenses were documented, and photos were taken to support continued education and compliance.

From May 30th - November 2025 during 11 outings, 541 bins were tagged across all garbage collection zones.



Door-to-Door Education

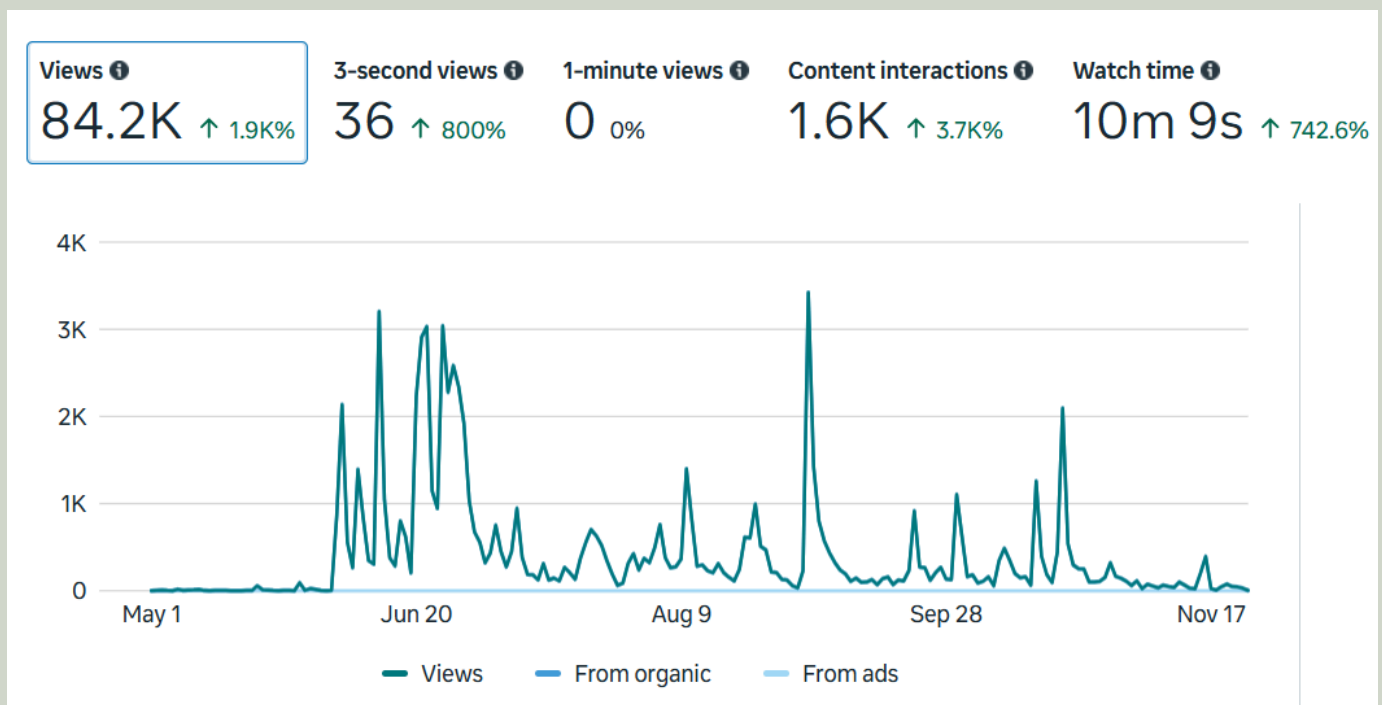
Door-to-door education reached 1094 people with door hangers during 9 outings. The WCC and volunteers visited priority areas with educational materials focused on wildlife awareness, attractant management, and strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflict.



Social Media

The WildSafeBC Kamloops Facebook page came out of hibernation June 5th 2025 with an introductory post from the WildSafeBC Kamloops Coordinator. Over the season, the page has had 312 new Facebook followers, and now has 1440 followers. Throughout the season, the WCC 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 Kamloops Facebook page.

In total, the WCC created 79 Facebook posts that reached 84.2K people. The most impactful post was reminding the public of bears entering Hyperphasia which reached 6.6K users and was shared 17 times.



BC Goes Wild

As part of BC Goes Wild Month, a province-wide celebration encouraging residents to enjoy the outdoors safely and learn about local wildlife, the WCC hosted a local prize draw, awarding a \$30 Cineplex gift card to encourage community engagement throughout the month. Congratulations to winner Micah!

In addition to the Kamloops prize draw, WildSafeBC supported BC Goes Wild Month with two contests open to community members: the BC Goes Wild Colouring Contest, which awarded a \$50 prize to the local winner, and the annual Wildlife Photography Contest, which offered a \$150 grand prize. These activities helped celebrate BC's diverse wildlife while strengthening public awareness and participation in WildSafeBC programming.



Indigenous Engagement

WildSafeBC acknowledges the traditional territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. This year, the WCC participated in Peace and Reconciliation Day, as well as hosted an educational booth on Indigenous Day at the Secwépemc Arbor. Collaboration with the Two Rivers Métis Society and members of the Native Friendship Centre were highlights of the summer. These engagements supported meaningful relationship-building and shared efforts toward wildlife awareness and community safety.



Challenges and Future Goals

Improperly managed garbage and attractants remain a leading cause of human-wildlife conflicts in Kamloops. Practices such as placing bins out days in advance, storing waste in accessible locations, or leaving fruit and pet food outdoors continue to attract wildlife, including bears, deer, raccoons, and rats. Some neighbourhoods are improving, but wildlife conflicts remain more frequent in areas with higher wildlife activity. 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 Kamloops Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2026:

- Continue delivering WildSafe Ranger programs at schools and summer camps.
- Continue to deliver the WildSafeBC bin-tagging program to support compliance with the City's "Bear Smart" Bylaw
- Promote the City's wildlife-resistant bins to residents in areas with higher wildlife conflicts and repeat offenders
- Collaborate with the COS on wildlife-conflict prevention measures
- Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous groups, community organizations, and neighbourhood associations, including working with First Nations communities on wildlife conflict mitigation strategies
- Promote the Gleaning Abundance program to reduce fruit-tree attractants
- Offer electric fencing workshops where requested
- Continue hosting bear spray workshops to ensure safe recreation
- Continue wildlife awareness presentations covering identification, behaviour, and human and wildlife prevention strategies (attractant management)
- Promote the WildSafeBC Business Pledge Program with local businesses
- Expand social media outreach and run targeted campaigns, e.g., "BC Goes Wild" month
- Participate in the Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Committee to coordinate community-wide efforts

Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Kamloops Coordinator acknowledges the City of Kamloops, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation for providing support and funding for the WildSafeBC Kamloops program. Recognition is also given to City of Kamloops representatives, including Beth Lucier and Danielle Sparks, for their assistance throughout the season, as well as to the 2025 Eco-Smart summer students for their contributions to the bin-tagging program and collaborations at community event booths. The Coordinator also acknowledges WildSafeBC Program Manager Christina Vales for her guidance and operational support, and the Conservation Officer Service for its continued collaboration and hard work within the community.

In addition, the Coordinator extends sincere appreciation to the 2025 WildSafeBC volunteers, whose time and commitment were essential to the success of the bin-tagging program, community event booths, and door-to-door efforts throughout the season.

Thank You!



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