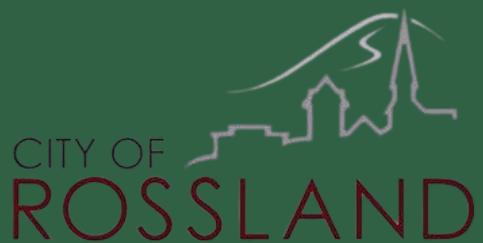


ROSSLAND- TRAIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Communities Safe*



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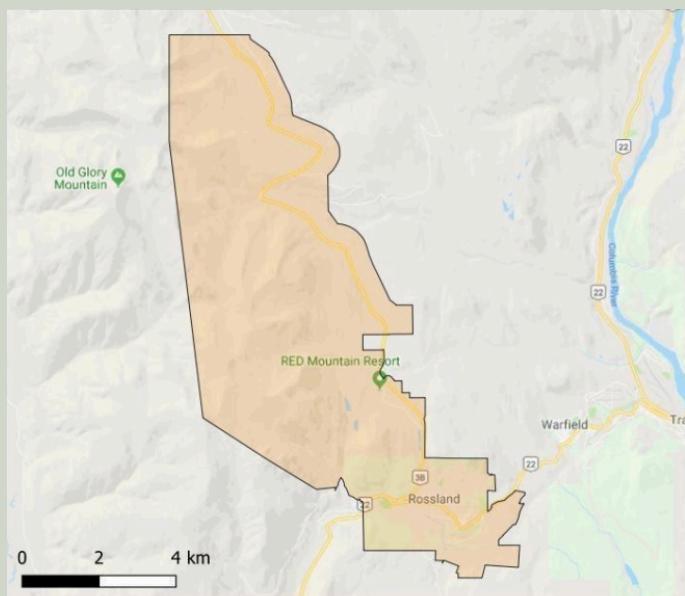
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Executive Summary

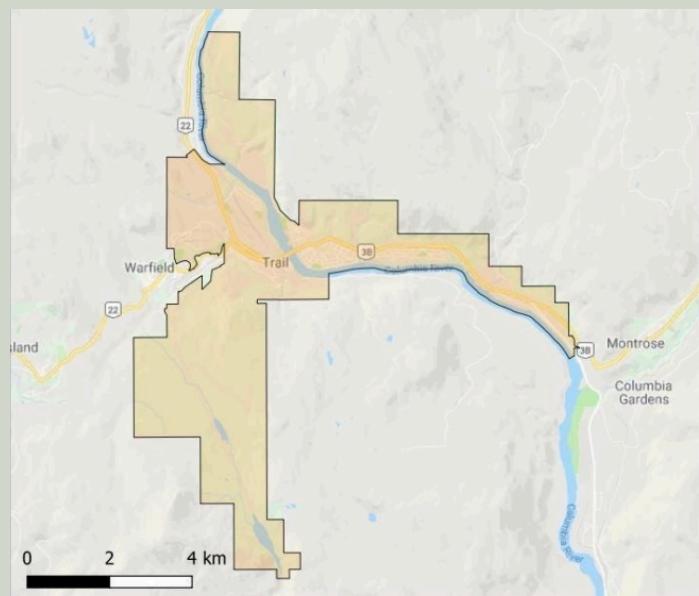
This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Rossland-Trail program for the 2025 season between May 20 and November 30th. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator is to assist communities in preventing human-wildlife conflicts through educational programs, collaboration, and community 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 season based on the coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Rossland-Trail program covers approximately 95 square kilometers. This program is located in the West Kootenay region and covers the City of Rossland and the City of Trail. WildSafeBC acknowledges that this area is within the traditional and unceded territory of the Sinixt Peoples.



City of Rossland Program Coverage



City of Trail Program Coverage

2025 Highlights

405

Students Educated

895

Community Members Reached

11

Community Event Booths

379

Canvassed homes

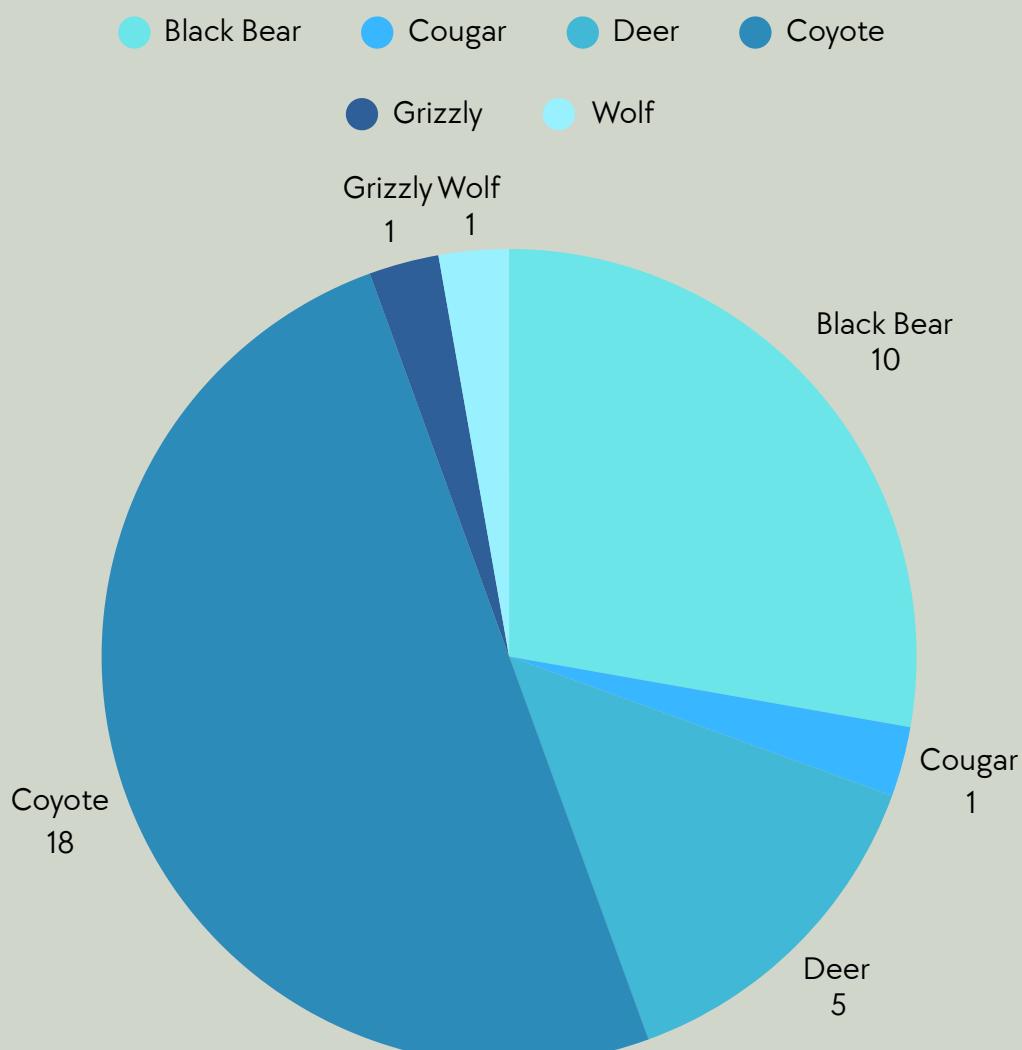
9.4K

Facebook Users Reached

Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1st to November 30th 2025, a total of 119 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/>) in the Rossland area.

Unlike previous years, coyotes were reported nearly twice as much as black bears to the COS in 2025. From January 1st 2025 to November 30th 2025, there were also 10 black bear reports, which is significantly lower than the number of reports made in 2022 (last year of available stats). Everyone expressed that this was an exceptionally good year for wild berries (many people said it was the best year in the last decade) which clearly played a major role in the lack of bear sightings in town. The lack of bears may also be the reason why there was an increase in coyote activity this year; the presence of bears tends to keeps coyotes away.



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 Rossland-Trail Community Coordinator delivered 8 WRP presentations with 1 elementary school, 2 summer camps, and 2 youth programs. A total of 375 children throughout Rossland-Trail became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them.

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Camp Cawabunga-Gyro Park	1-6	116	July 8, 24, Aug 1
Black bear camp (Rossland Museum)	1-6	45	July 21, Aug 18
BioBlitz (Summit Elementary School)	1-6	198	September 3
Sanctuary Center	3-7	16	September 16
Trail Youth Action Network	7-12	15	October 3
Webster School	K-1	30	November 21

Community Groups

This year the WildSafe Community Coordinator gave two presentations which reached over 50 attendees. One was for the Trail Association for Community Living. Many thoughtful questions were asked, and all involved had a very nice time. The other was for Criba Solutions in Trail for their annual Safety Day Event. Past participants to this event consisted of Trail's Mayor, and members from their head office in America had flown up for the event. Very positive feedback was given on this presentation.

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, over 895 people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at 11 community events across the community. Many display booths were presented at several important community events, at the monthly Farmers Market, and at different trail heads around Rossland.



Door-to-Door Outreach

Door-to-door education consists of canvassing neighbourhoods and knocking on doors, providing in-person education to residents that are home, and leaving door hangers for those who are out. Education provided included: warnings about wildlife spotted in the nearby area, providing wildlife attractant management tips, stressing the importance of garbage securement, and general safety information.

The WildSafe Community Coordinator went out to conduct door-to-door canvassing on 6 different occasions this year. 4 of these outings were requested by the COS after increased reports of coyotes. A coyote was reported to have lunged at a dog around Nevada Street, another was spotted in the Thompson Street area, another was in close proximity to people at the trailer park, and finally, a small unleashed dog was unfortunately killed by an unidentified animal on Happy Valley Trail.

The other canvassing events took place at the ski hill and were for general educational purposes. Everyone the WildSafe Coordinator interacted with was very receptive and welcoming of the outreach.

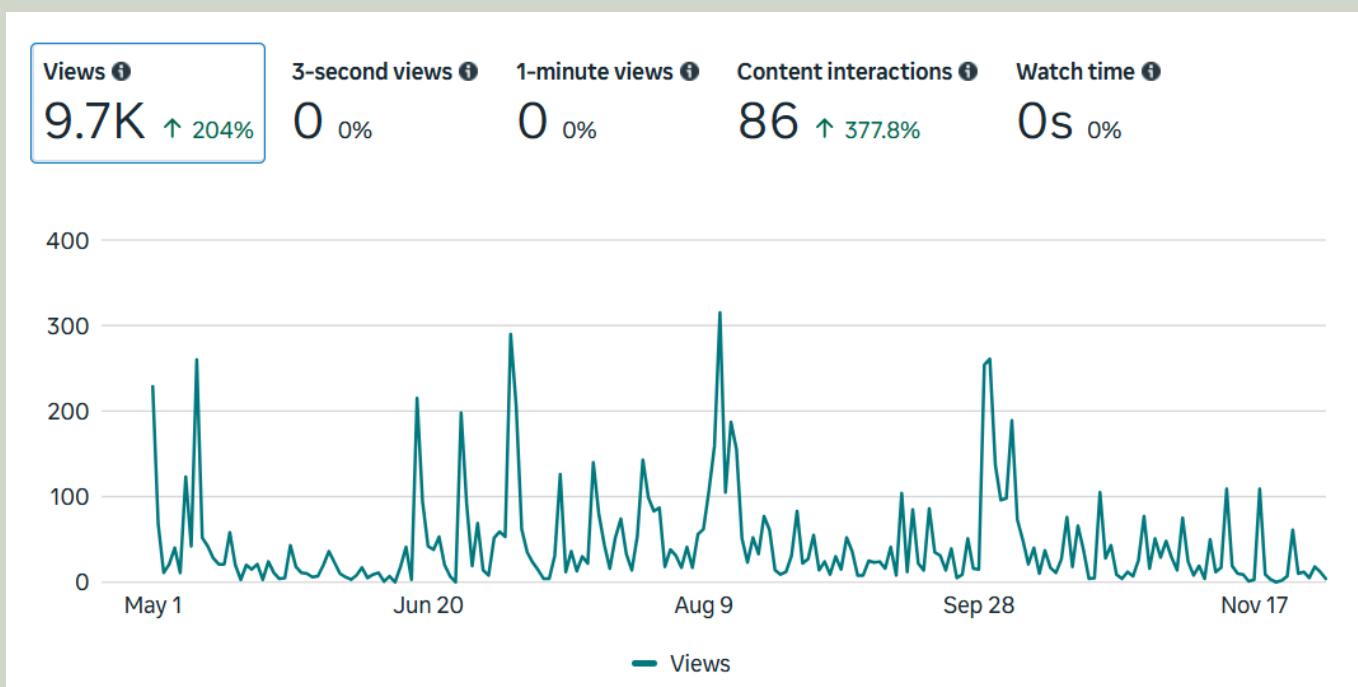


Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Rossland-Trail Facebook page came out of hibernation on June 18th 2025 with an introductory post. Over the season, the page has received 65 Facebook Page likes during this time period. Throughout the season, the WildSafe 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 Rossland-Trail Facebook page.

In total, more than 100 Facebook posts were made with more than 15 of those being custom content pertaining specifically to the Rossland-Trail region. Over 9,400 users were reached. Many posts reached hundreds Facebook users, with the most impactful post being a coyote in area warning post, which reached approximately 545 people. Locally relevant custom posts had a significantly greater reach than generic posts.

An article in the Rossland Telegraph about WildSafeBC was also published and well received.



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.

This year the Rossland Museum and Discovery Center signed the Business Pledge. Congratulations and keep up the great work!



Challenges and Future Goals

This season was an exceptionally quiet year in regard to the presence of bears in town, but there was an increase in coyote activity. Quite a lot of canvassing was done regarding the coyote sightings and all the people I talked to were very appreciative of the outreach. This year was hard to tell how effective our efforts were with fruit gleaning, but over the long term I could see how this could be a great community event that would reduce a key animal attractant and produce valuable food for those who are in need.

Improperly managed garbage, fruit trees, bird feeders, and urban livestock continue to be a source of human-wildlife conflict in Rossland-Trail. 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 Rossland-Trail Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2026:

- Bear spray and electric fencing workshops
- Organize a fruit gleaning program in collaboration with food banks in the community
- Bear smart presentations for new developments at ski hill
- Bear smart presentations at campground
- Business Pledge from Ferrero Foods in Trail
- Educate business owners with currently unsecured commercial bins on best practices
- Educate residents regarding deep freezers and garbage kept on porches
- Educate residents regarding wildlife entering unlocked cars and homes
- Put on a fun movie night event for BC Goes Wild similar to Castlegar's

I have looked into many Fruit Gleaning programs all over BC and America and it is amazing the amount of fruit that is collected. Over the winter I will continue to develop how we could properly implement such a program in Rossland-Trail.

Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Rossland-Trail Program is made possible through funding support from the city of Rossland, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation.

Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program, including Nathan Smienk and Miwa Ito. Lastly, the WildSafeBC Matthieu Corrente 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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