

# SUNSHINE COAST ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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*Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe*



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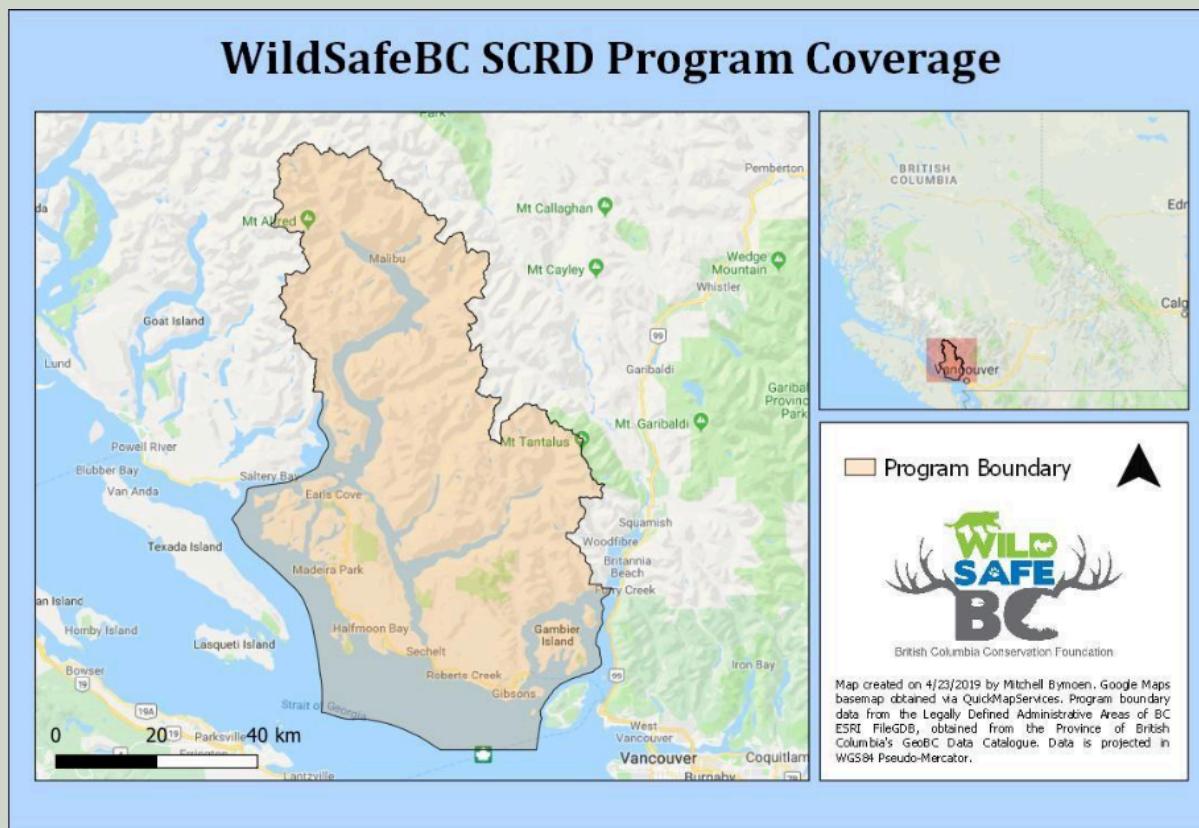
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# Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Sunshine Coast program for the 2025 season between June 2nd 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 Sunshine Coast program area covers the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), which spans approximately 3778.17 square kilometers from Port Mellon to Egmont, including the traditional territories of the Shíshálh (Sechelt) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.



## 2025 Highlights

**302**

**Students Educated**

**1282**

**Community Members Reached**

**10**

**Community Event Booths**

**158**

**Bins Tagged**

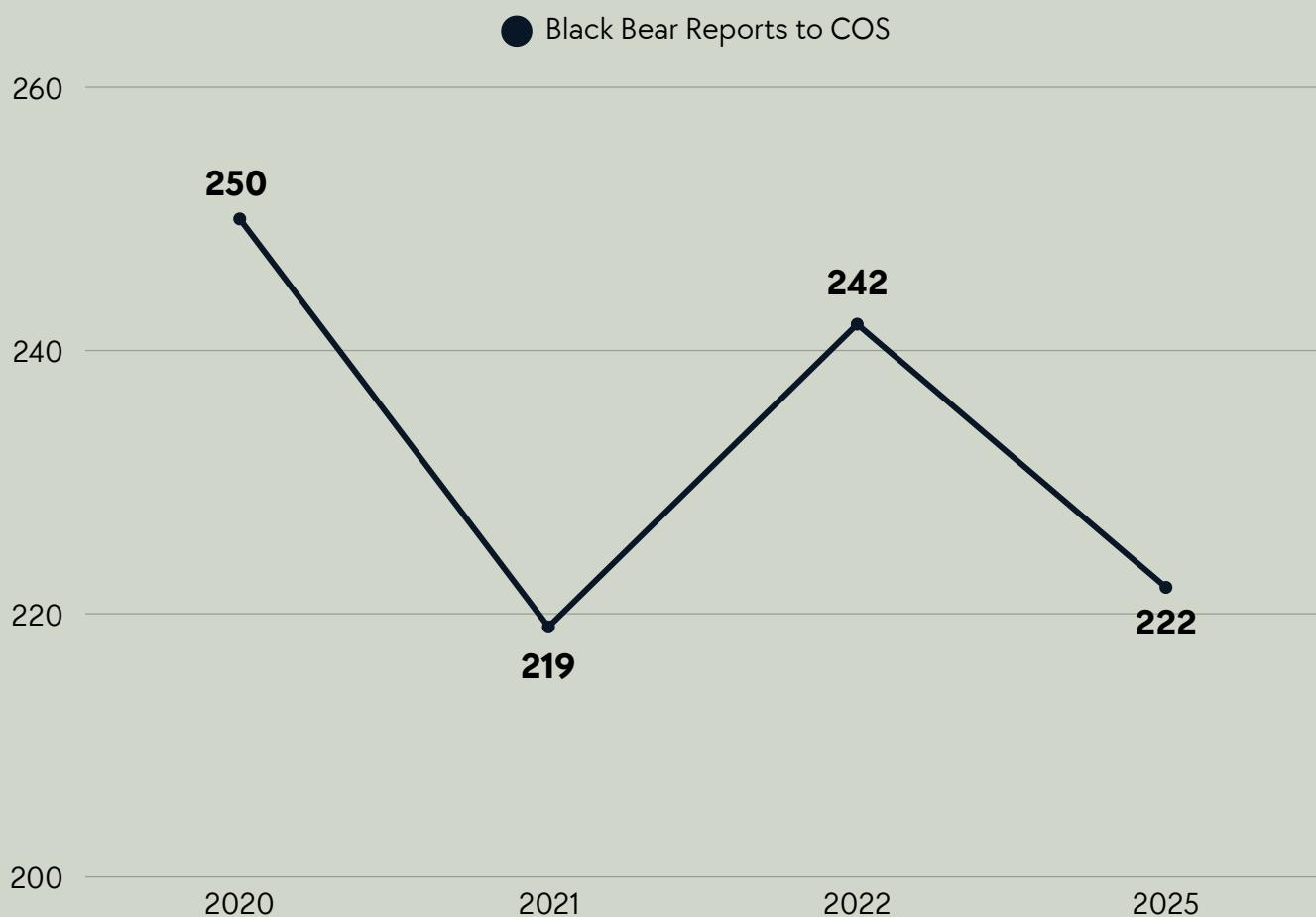
**27,500**

**Facebook Users Reached**

# Conservation Officer Service Reports

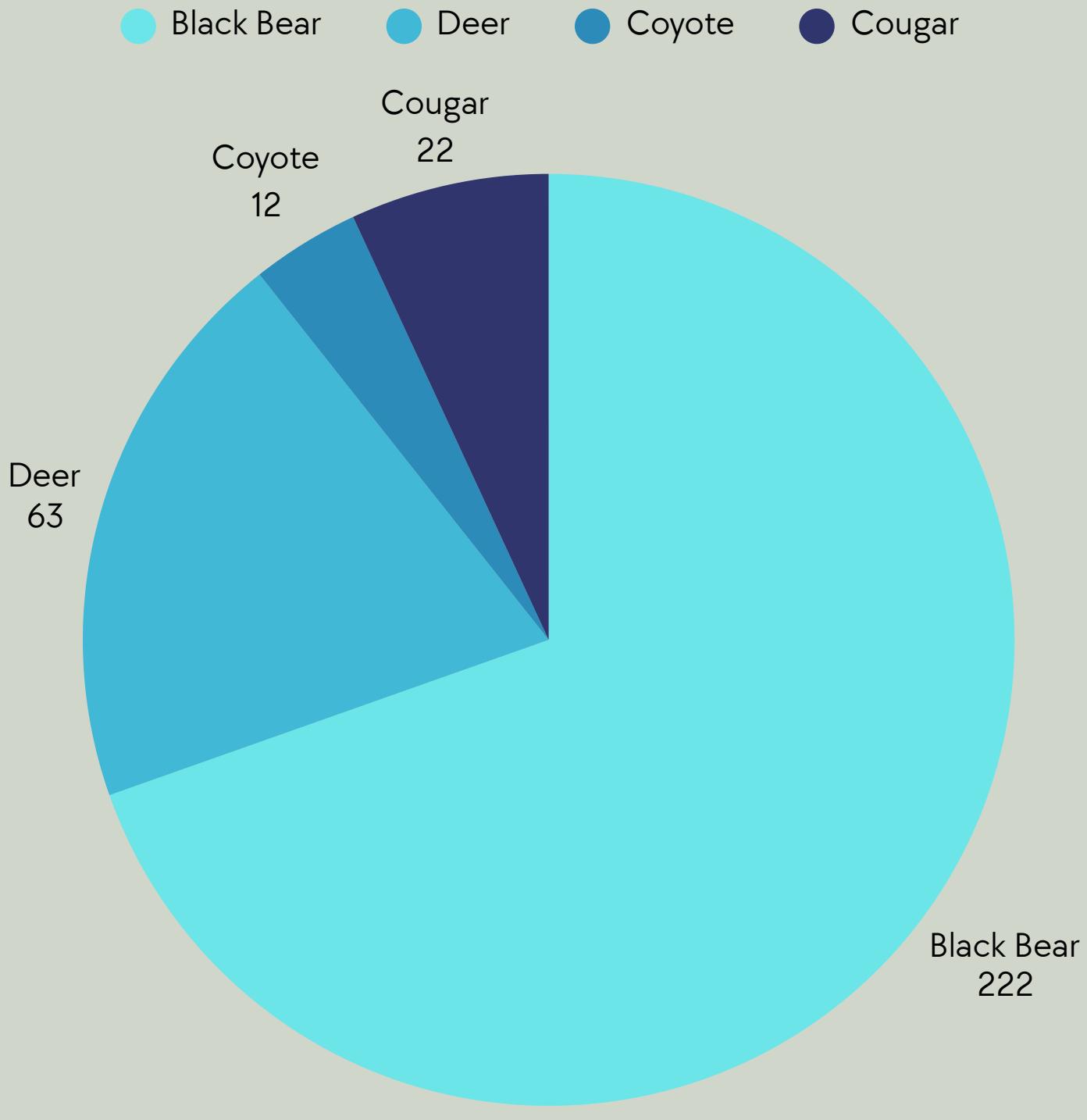
From January 1st to October 28th, 2025, a total of 342 wildlife reports have been made to the COS through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>).

Similar to previous years, black bears were the species most often reported to the COS in 2025, followed by deer. The majority of deer reports were associated with motor vehicle accidents. From January 1st, 2025, to October 28th, 2025, there were 222 black bear reports, which is lower than the number of reports made in 2022. Although complete data for 2023 and 2024 were unavailable at the time of reporting, the 2025 number of black bear reports falls slightly below the average observed over recent years. Annual fluctuation in wildlife reports can be influenced by natural food availability and seasonal weather patterns. Changes in public reporting habits can also affect numbers.



*The number of black bear reports on the Lower Sunshine Coast for the years 2020-2022 and 2025.*

# Conservation Officer Service Reports



*The number of black bear, deer, cougar and coyote reports on the Lower Sunshine Coast in 2025*

# 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 Sunshine Coast coordinator delivered 13 WRP presentations to 3 elementary schools, and 1 youth program. A total of 302 children throughout the Sunshine Coast became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them.

School/Group	Grade	# Reached	Date
Gibsons Elementray	1-5	116	September 19 and 23
Roberts Creek Elementary	1-5	145	September 26 and October 3
Langdale Elementary	3-4	22	October 8
NatureKids Qathet (Texada Island & Powell River)	Mixed	19	October 25



## 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 800 people visited WildSafeBC display booths at 10 community events across the Sunshine Coast. Booths were set up at the Gibsons Public Market, Davis Bay Farmers Market, Persephone Apple Festival, Banditry Cider Apple Festival, and an Intertidal Event in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park. People were eager to approach the booth to feel the black bear hide and get a closer look at the cougar skull, which offered the opportunity to provide fun wildlife facts and discuss the importance of attractant management in our communities. Gibsons Public Market had the highest volume of tourists and new residents, many of whom were unaware of the number of black bears that live on the Sunshine Coast. Many people commented that they learned something new from visiting the booth and were thankful for the brochures and additional learning material.



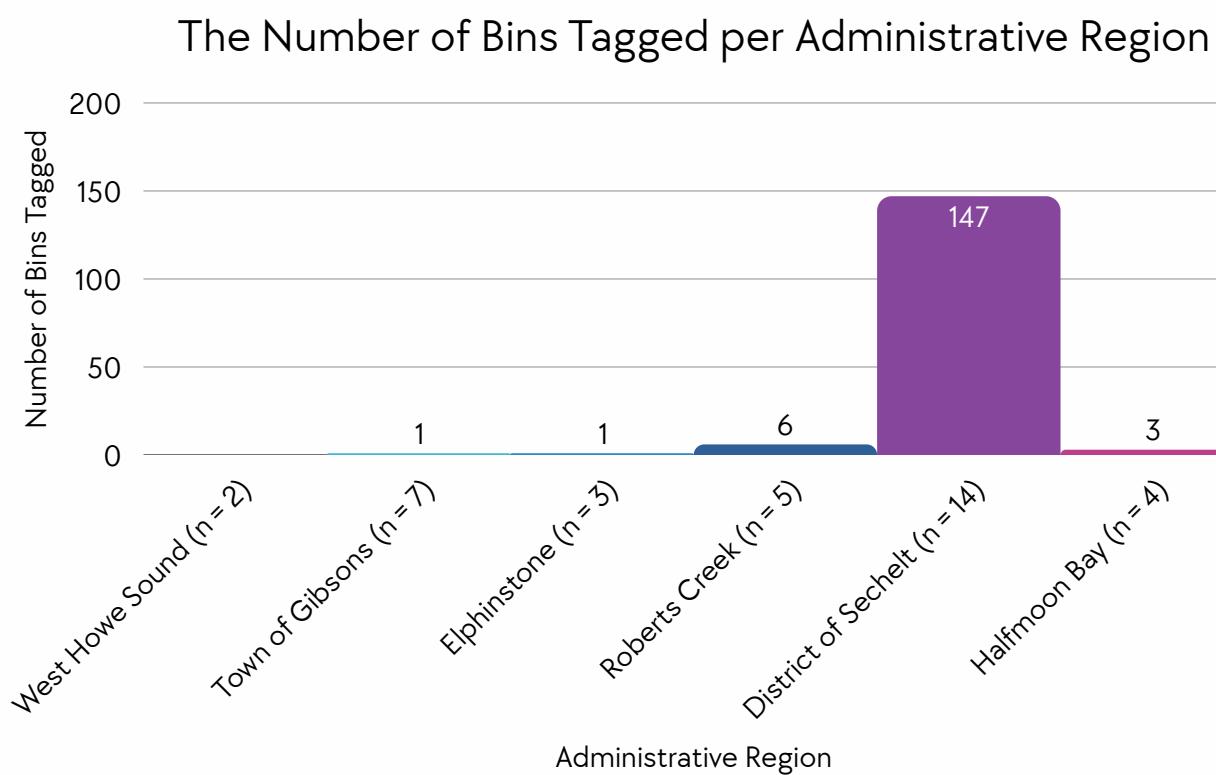
BC Park Ranger Elyse Guzek and Sunshine Coast Community Coordinator Mackenzie Douglas in front of a WildSafeBC booth at Sargeant Bay Provincial Park.

# Bin-Tagging

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 158 bins were tagged across 6 administrative regions from June 7, 2025, to November 30, 2025. The regions included West Howe Sound, the Town of Gibsons, Elphinstone, Roberts Creek, the District of Sechelt and Halfmoon Bay.

The District of Sechelt (DOS) became a primary area of focus for bin tagging due to the consistently higher number of bins placed out early before collection day. On average, 10 bins were tagged per outing in the DOS.

However, the total number of bins tagged in 2025 ( $n = 158$ ) was substantially lower than the number of bins tagged in 2023 ( $n = 314$ ), even with a higher sampling effort (35 outings in 2025 vs. 25 outings in 2023). This decline suggests a meaningful reduction in early-set curbside containers and may indicate improved community compliance and/or increased effectiveness of management actions.



*The number of garbage, compost and recycling bins tagged in each administrative region ( $n =$  the number of outings per region) from June 7, 2025, to November 30, 2025.*

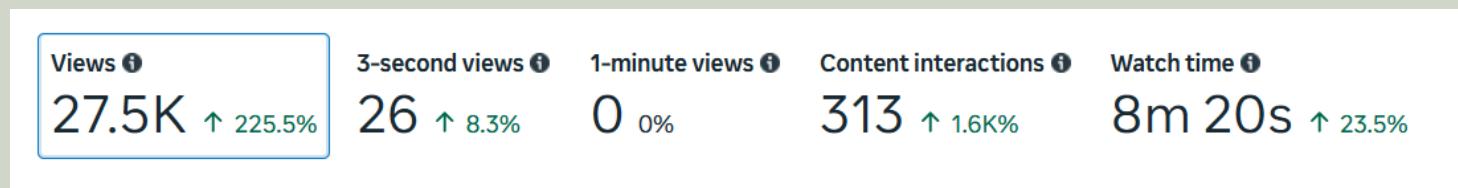
# Door-to-Door Education

Door-to-door education reached 433 people through the distribution of door hangers and brochures. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinator also knocked on doors and engaged 125 residents in conversation about the wildlife in their neighbourhood. Door-to-door education provided the opportunity to share wildlife safety and attractant management tips with neighbourhoods experiencing higher levels of wildlife activity. Information regarding residential wildlife sightings and conflicts was reported to the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator by the Conservation Officer Service, Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance, and residents via email, Facebook, or in person at display booths. Most neighbourhoods that received door-to-door education were targeted due to reports of black bears accessing garbage bins, fruit trees, or livestock. Door-to-door education proved effective for connecting with new residents who were still becoming familiar with the frequency of wildlife interactions on the Sunshine Coast. This form of outreach increased awareness of local wildlife, promoted attractant management practices, and was generally well-received by residents.



# Social Media

The WildSafeBC Sunshine Coast Facebook page came out of hibernation on July 8, 2025, with an introductory post. Over the season, the page has had 72 new Facebook followers, from 1,717 followers in November 2024 to 1,789 followers in November 2025. Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC 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 Sunshine Coast Facebook page. In total, 36 Facebook posts were created that reached 27.5K people from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to November 25th, 2025. Many posts reached over 200 Facebook users, with the most impactful post being a public service announcement regarding coyote activity at Cliff Gilker Park, posted on September 12th, that reached 870 people and was shared 6 times.



**Coyote Activity - Cliff Gilker Park 🚨 🐾 At...**  
Fri Sep 12, 1:05pm  
870 views, 4 likes, 2 comments, 6 shares

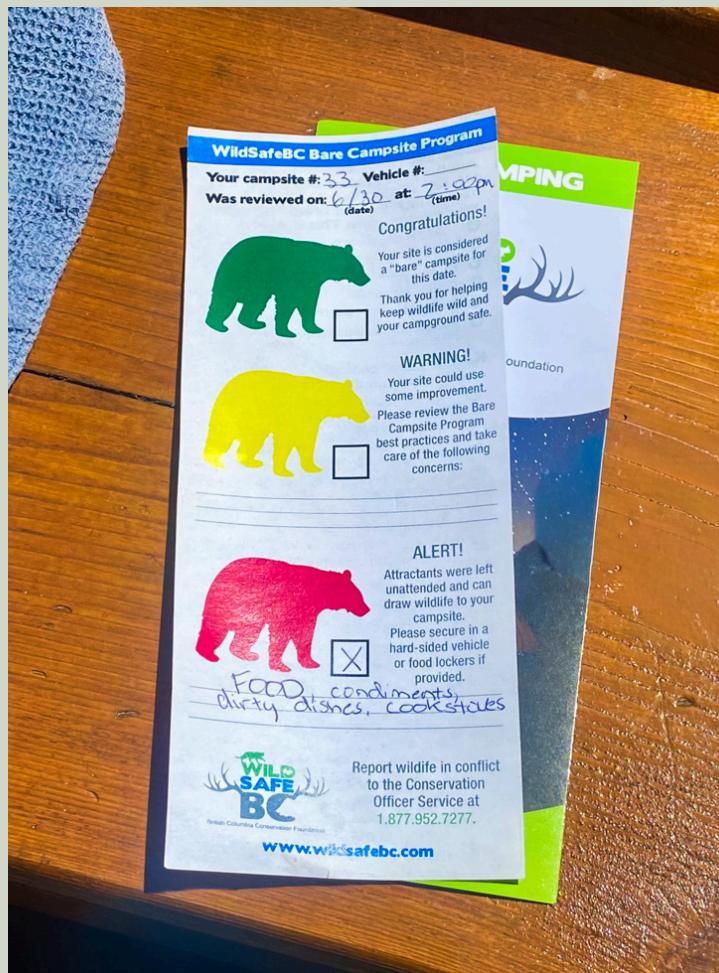
**Fruit Season is Here! 🍎 Across BC,...**  
Fri Aug 8, 1:49pm  
843 views, 3 likes, 0 comments, 4 shares

**I had such a great time travelling to Powell...**  
Sun Oct 26, 11:42am  
296 views, 9 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares

**Come say hi at the Davis Bay Market...**  
Fri Jul 25, 12:27pm  
276 views, 9 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares

# 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. This season, the Porpoise Bay Provincial Campground was approached in collaboration with BC Park Ranger Elyse Guzek. A total of 40 campers were engaged in conversations regarding local wildlife and campsite cleanliness, and each site received WildSafeBC Bare Camping brochures. Children were provided with BC Parks activity booklets to support continued wildlife education. Six campsites were evaluated using Bare Camping report cards to assess the level of unsecured attractants, and two sites were issued warning tickets by Ranger Guzek for attractant-related non-compliance. Overall, the majority of campsites were found to be clean and attractant-free. Bare Camping education remains important on the Sunshine Coast, where increasing visitation and growing numbers of new campers create a continued need for accessible information on campsite attractant management.



## 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. The Sunshine Coast Community Coordinator attended two community apple festivals with a WildSafeBC booth at Persephone Brewing Company and another at Banditry Cider. At both festivals, the Coordinator emphasized the importance of residential fruit gleaning, especially during the fall when bears enter hyperphagia (a period of intense eating before winter denning). Children were provided with their choice of colouring sheet for the BC Goes Wild colouring contest, alongside crayons for on-site participation.

In total, six Facebook posts were created to promote the BC Goes Wild colouring and photo contests, including two posts specifically highlighting WildSafeBC's presence at the apple festivals. The colouring contest was an effective engagement tool, drawing in families to the WildSafeBC booth and allowing for meaningful conversation on attractant management.



# Challenges and Future Goals

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

- **Continue bin-tagging across all administrative regions**
  - Maintain consistent tagging of early-set bins to track trends, identify hotspots and assist in targeted education.
- **Continue door-to-door education**
  - Engage new residents and provide refreshers for long-term residents on attractant management.
- **Advocate for stronger and more consistent wildlife-attractant bylaws**
  - Collaborate with the SCRD to expand existing bylaws beyond garbage to include fruit trees, bird feeders, compost, and other wildlife attractants.
- **Expand electric fencing education**
  - Host workshops for small farms, livestock/fruit tree owners, and beekeepers.
  - Explore the potential for a cost-share program to promote widespread adoption.
- **Formalize and expand fruit gleaning programs**
  - Partner with local food banks, farms and local organizations to recover surplus fruit, and assist individuals with maintaining their high-yield fruit trees.
- **Strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities**
  - Collaborate with the shíshálh (Sechelt Nation) and Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) to integrate Indigenous knowledge into outreach initiatives and participate in learning opportunities.
- **Target outreach to new residents and seasonal visitors**
  - Partner with realtors, rental hosts and tourism groups to increase education on wildlife awareness and attractant management.

## Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Sunshine Coast Program is made possible through funding support from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation. Thank you to Andrea Patrao, Karen Valair, and Marc Sole with the Sunshine Coast Regional District for their guidance. Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program, including Sergeant Miller and Officer Lafferty. Thank you to BC Park Ranger Elyse Guzek for your collaboration. Thank you to Diane Henley, Irina Fox, and Stephanie Taylor for your work on the Sunshine Coast. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers this season, Denise Rick and Kristine Boxall. Lastly, the WildSafeBC Sunshine Coast 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!*



## Testimonials

"Mackenzie did a fantastic job of sharing important, relevant, interesting info about the wild animals that live in our region and how we can be thoughtful about sharing space with them. The kids loved the felt board story activity and were super engaged as Mackenzie demonstrated how our considerate actions like cleaning our barbecues, putting away bird feeders in the summer, storing our garbage, and picking ripe fruit from our trees can ensure that we do our best to eliminate attractants. They appreciated the stickers, rulers, and booklets. I'm impressed with how much the kids shared, learned, and reflected together in the short visit, and I'm grateful to Mackenzie and WildSafeBC for the opportunity! :D"

**Michy from Gibsons**

"Mackenzie visited my grades 1/2 class at Roberts Creek Elementary school for a 30 minute presentation. The felt story [board] and Mackenzie's presentation were super engaging for my students. The activity book and animal track tattoos were good quality and special touches that students could take home to further talk about their learning."

**Michelle from Roberts Creek**