

# BOUNDARY ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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*Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe*



Regional District of  
Kootenay Boundary



Settle down.



Christina Lake Stewardship Society



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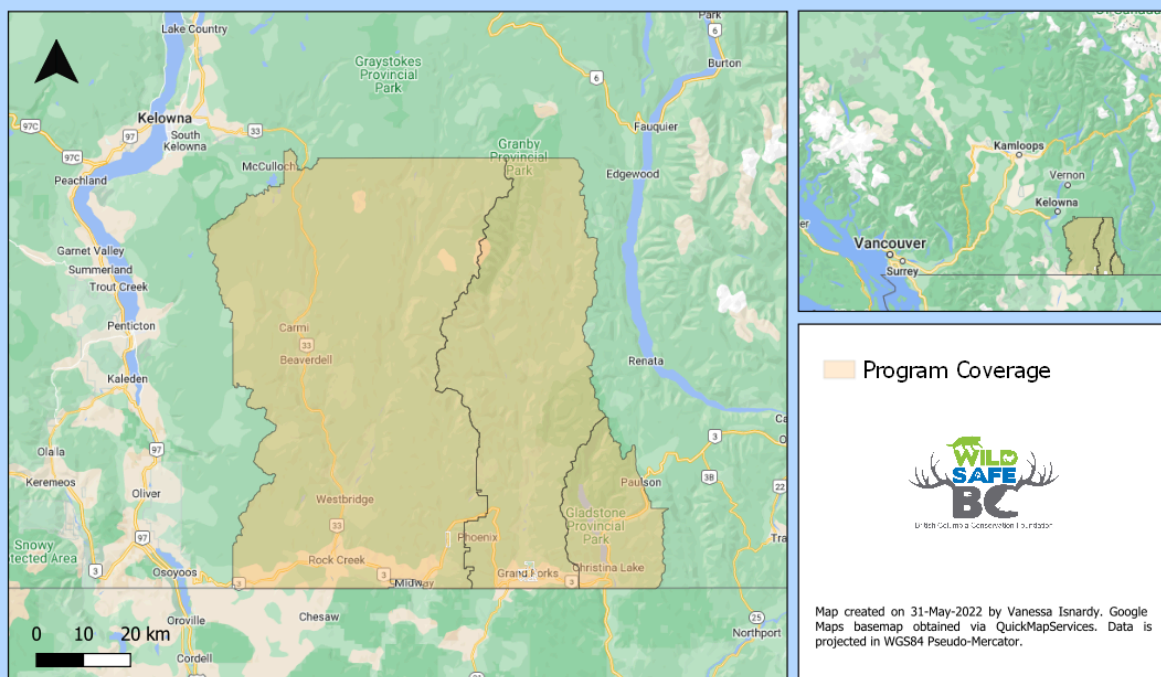
# Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Boundary program for the 2025 season between June 4th and November 30th 2025. 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 2026 based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

## Program Coverage Area

The Kootenay Boundary covers approximately 8,200 square kilometers. The Boundary is located between the Okanagan and Kootenay Regions. The WildSafeBC Boundary program coverage area includes Electoral Areas E, D, and C of the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) and the municipalities within, such as Christina Lake, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Midway, and Rock Creek.

### WildSafeBC Boundary Program Coverage



## 2025 Highlights

**60**

**Students Educated**

**1,550+**

**Community Members Reached**

**8**

**Community Event Booths**

**12**

**Bins Tagged**

**2.7K**

**Facebook Users Reached**



# Conservation Officer Service Reports

From January 1 to November 30, a total of 187 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, deer were the species most often reported to the COS in 2025, followed by black bear and cougar. From January 1st, 2025 to November 30th, 2025, there were 18 black bear reports, which is more than 75% lower than the number of reports made in 2024. While many factors can contribute to fluctuations in wildlife reporting, community members throughout the season shared anecdotal observations that suggest the significant reduction in black bear reports is likely associated with fewer bears frequenting residential areas in 2025. At display booths and community events, residents consistently shared that they were seeing far fewer bears than in previous years. Informal monitoring of local social media groups also showed a decrease in posts related to bear activity or sightings.

Although no formal assessment was conducted, one potential explanation for the diminished bear presence in Boundary communities is an increased availability of natural food sources. Another contributing factor could be the cumulative effect of ongoing attractant management by the communities in response to programs like WildSafeBC. These explanations are speculative but may offer insight into the unusually low number of reports this season.

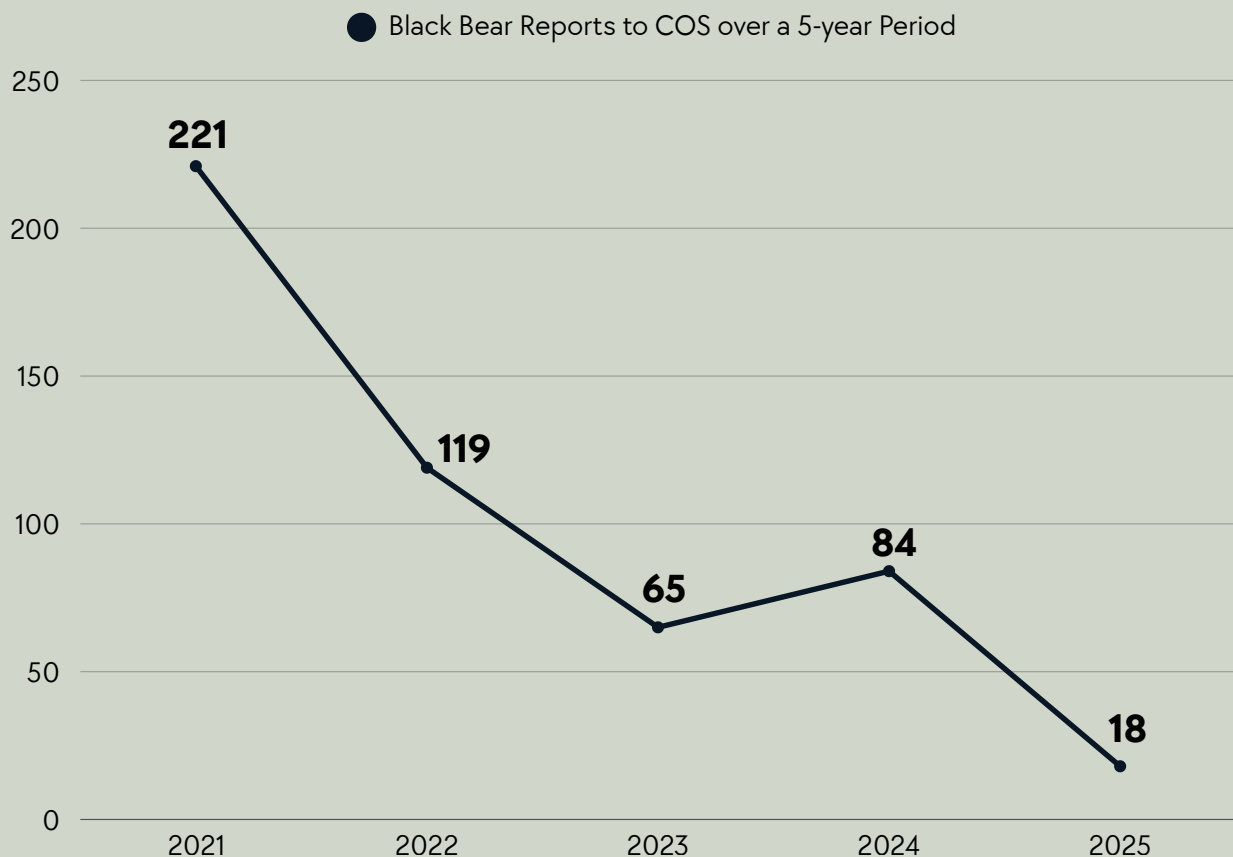
While black bears experienced the most notable change in report volume to COS in the Boundary, several species showed variation from last seasons reports. Reports related to deer increased from 88 calls in 2024 to 127 calls in 2025. Of these, 103 calls were from Grand Forks and were reports of injured or deceased deer. Grand Forks experienced an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in September and early October, resulting in the loss of an estimated 200 deer and accounting for the elevated call volume.



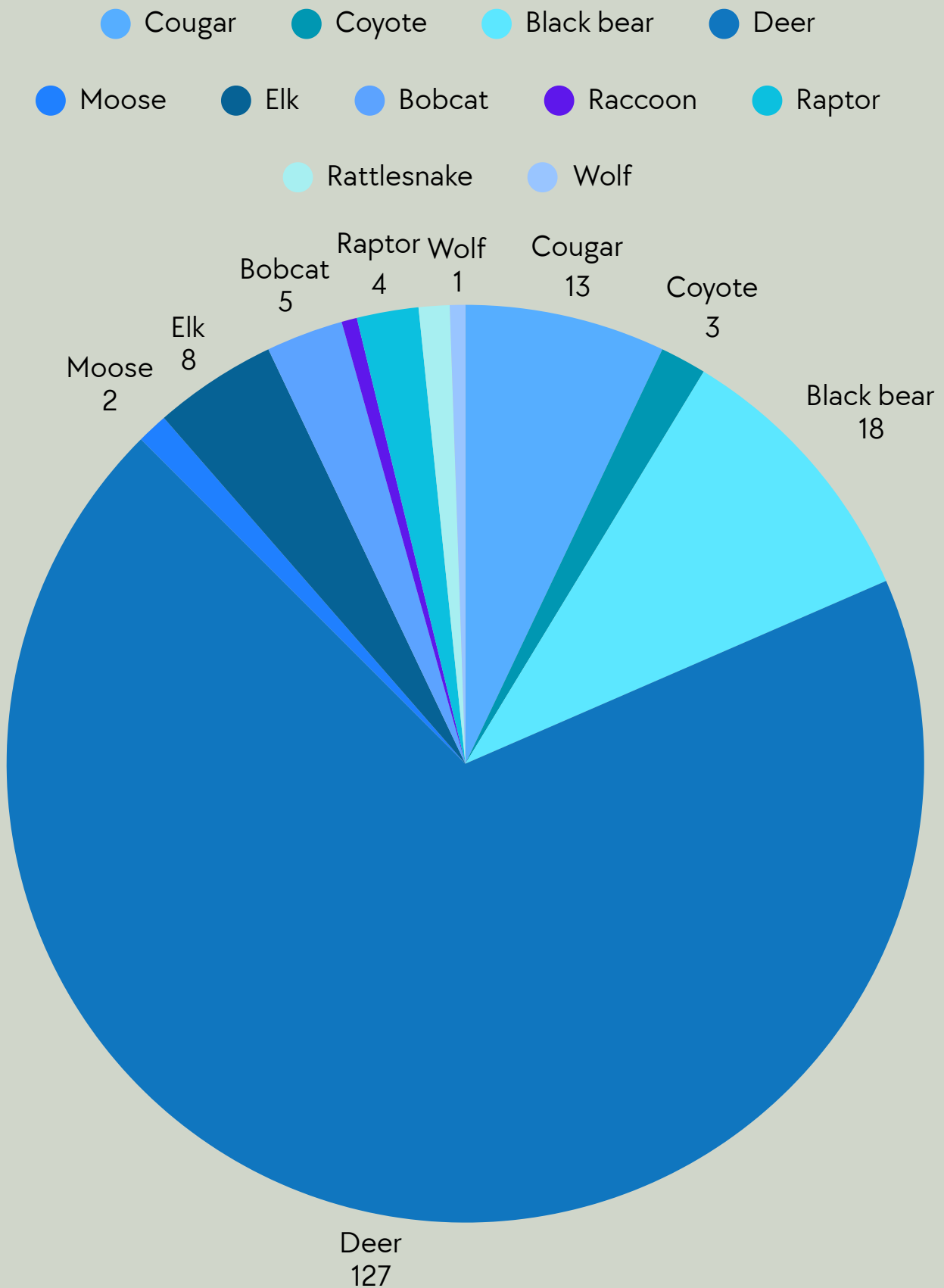
# Conservation Officer Service Reports

Others species with noteable changes this season include:

- Elk reports increased from 4 in 2024 to 8 in 2025, with 3 of these calls being attributed to an aggressive elk in Christina Lake. WildSafe BC placed signage to alert residents and encourage safe behaviour.
- Bobcat reports increased from 0 in 2024 to 5 in 2025, with all reports coming from Christina Lake. Two calls were related to predation on pets, and three calls involved an injured bobcat.
- Rattlesnake reports increased from 0 in 2024 to 2 in 2025, with additional reports made to community Facebook groups being noted. Of the official calls, one rattlesnake was relocated and one was referred to WildSafeBC who provided attractant management guidance.



# 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 and manage backyard wildlife attractants. Students also learn how to have a safe and respectful relationship with wildlife. The program complements the BC Science K-9 Curriculum. The WildSafe Boundary coordinator delivered three WRP in collaboration with local community group youth programs. A total of sixty children throughout the Boundary region became WildSafe Rangers and recieved a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them.

At local community events the community coordinator was able to witness the extensive efforts of prior WildSafe community coordinators, as many local children were excited to share their status as an official WildSafe Ranger! At the request of the Christina Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS), the first WRP this season was an interactive, hands-on experience that delivered the traditional messaging in a unique way. This format was very well recieved, particularly by children who had participated in WRP in past years and were familiar with the content. When delivering the WRP to Ember's and Sparks and Sunshine Valley Child Care Society, the community coordinator focused on including new learning experiences for the students. CLSS kindly shared their Bat Education Kit which allowed for integration of additional content into the WRP. These collaborative and experiential approaches helped strengthen youth engagement and enrich the program while maintaining its core focus on respectful relationships with local wildlife.





## Community Groups

WildSafeBC offers free bear spray workshops and wildlife awareness and safety presentations within the program coverage areas. These sessions provide community members with important knowledge about wildlife behaviour, safety practices, and attractant management.

In 2025, the Boundary Community Coordinator promoted these workshops and presentations extensively through outreach at community events. While there was interest expressed, no individuals or community groups requested to book a workshop this season. To increase awareness and encourage participation in future seasons, a promotional ad was developed for inclusion in the Christina Lake Fall/Winter Leisure Guide. The WildSafeBC Boundary community coordinator is hopeful this will increase awareness of WildSafeBC's educational offerings and build connections with local groups seeking learning opportunities in future seasons.



### WildSafeBC Community Program

Local coordinators deliver education and outreach:

- Door-to-door outreach
- WildSafe Ranger presentations for school-aged children
- Wildlife awareness and safety presentations
- Bear spray workshops
- Booths at community events
- Garbage tagging awareness campaigns
- WildSafe Business Pledge, Bare Campsite Program

### Keeping Wildlife Wild and Communities Safe

## WildSafeBC is in the Boundary this fall!

Need tips on managing wildlife attractants or interested in scheduling a workshop? We're here until November! Connect with us today or join our newsletter for updates.

WildSafeBC is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions.



contact us locally

[boundary@wildsafebc.com](mailto:boundary@wildsafebc.com)

[WildSafeBC Boundary](#)

To learn more, please visit [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

# Display Booths

Display booths provide an important opportunity for the public to view and interact with our educational materials, learn about wildlife safety, and discuss wildlife attractant management. It also allows the community coordinator to connect with various groups of residents, identify concerns and areas of community interest, and network our program offerings. In 2025, the WildSafeBC Boundary community coordinator hosted eight display booths in Christina Lake, Grand Forks and Greenwood. CLSS kindly provided access to nature artifacts and educational materials that encouraged interaction with families and youth. The display booths were well attended by the communities, with over 1,5000 community members visiting the WildSafeBC display booths this season.

These interactions created valuable opportunity for meaningful conversations with residents about keeping wildlife wild and communities safe. Through respectful and open-minded communication, the community coordinator was able to address community concerns, emphasize the importance of attractant management and timely reporting of wildlife in conflict, and offer insight into the potential consequences to both humans and wildlife when wildlife becomes human-habituated in communities. Overall, the 2025 WildSafeBC Boundary display booths increased community awareness of wildlife, encouraged responsible interactions between humans and wildlife, and fostered positive connections with local organizations.



# Display Booths

Venue	# of Visitors	Date
Homecoming	226	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
Founders Day	345	July 19 <sup>th</sup>
Grand Forks Farmers Market	143	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Grand Forks Farmers Market	178	August 29 <sup>th</sup>
Grand Forks Fall Fair Day 1	228	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
Grand Forks Fall Fair Day 2	134	September 7 <sup>th</sup>
Parade of Programs	100	September 10 <sup>th</sup>
Trunk or Treat	200	September 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Total Number of Participants = 1,554</b>		



## 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. In 2025, the WildSafe Boundary community coordinator surveyed the Christina Lake and Grand Forks garbage collection zones twice, an initial survey in September and a follow-up survey in October. Bin tagging occurred during these months because there is an increased likelihood of wildlife in communities as they search for food prior to hibernation. A total of 12 bins were tagged this season, with no instances of the same residence requiring repeat tagging.

The intention of the bin-tagging program is to remind residents that garbage placed curbside overnight can attract wildlife and contribute to human-habituation and food-conditioning. This season's efforts suggest that regular monitoring and consistent messaging had a positive influence on community behaviour, as bins tagged during an initial visit were not observed being put out early in the subsequent survey. Surveys were conducted in the early evening and may be a conservative reflection of early bin set-outs in the areas.

### WildSafe Bear Tips

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.

-  Keep garbage, compost and other attractants secure - indoors is best!
-  Never put your containers out prior to the morning of collection
-  Freeze smelly items and keep containers clean



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## Social Media

The WildSafeBC Boundary Facebook page came out of hibernation on July 4th 2025 with an introductory post. Over the season, content from the page was interacted with 38 times and was viewed by 2,300 Facebook users, with four new followers gained this season.

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. 13 Facebook posts were made, many of which were also shared by Facebook users into other groups or on their own personal timeline, which helped promote the WildSafeBC Boundary Facebook page.

### Views breakdown

Jul 4 – Nov 17

Total

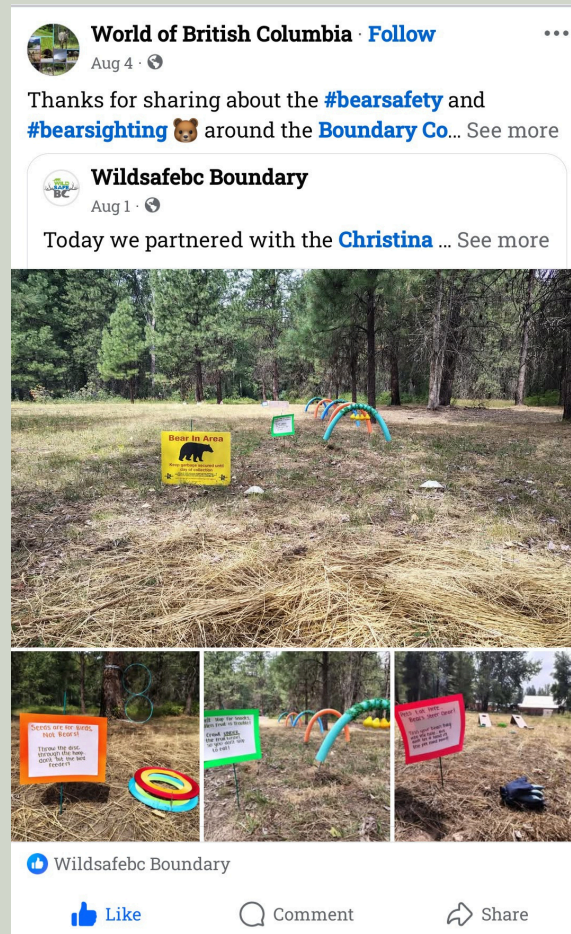
2,398 ↑ 123.1%

From followers

1,098 ↑ 186.7%

From non-followers

1,300 ↑ 87.9%



## 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 Boundary. 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 Boundary Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2026:

- Continue a strong presence at local events and markets, as in-person conversations proved highly effective for engaging residents and sharing WildSafeBC messaging.
- Continue to engage with community members at local events surrounding proper reporting of wildlife in conflict. Many community members this season expressed a hesitancy to report wildlife in conflict. The Boundary Coordinator utilized display booths as an opportunity to respectfully discuss these hesistancies and provide consistent and clear messaging on proper reporting of wildlife in conflict. This approach should be continued in 2026 as community members seemed highly receptive to these discussions.
- Prioritize delivery of WildSafe Ranger presentations to children who are unfamiliar with it's messaging and continue the incorporation of interactive and experiential learning tools for returning students. The vast reach of the WRP achieved in subsequent years was noted by community members and local community groups this season. Local youth who attended this seasons WRP were excited to deepen existing knowledge of local wildlife and to learn about additional species in the area.
- Focus bin tagging efforts on late-evening canvassing. This season determined that bin tags are effective at deterring members of this community from placing their bins out early but was limited by early evening surveys. Next season's coordinator could expand on this years success by following a similar bin tagging schedule, where collection areas are visited multiple times, and implement a 9:00 p.m start time.

## Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Boundary Program is made possible through funding support from the Christina Lake Stewardship Society, the City of Grand Forks, the City of Greenwood, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, 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 Conservation Officer Marc Plamondon. A special thank you is extended to the Christina Lake Stewardship Society for their continued partnership and for sharing educational resources that greatly enhanced program delivery this season. The Boundary Community Coordinator would like to express sincere appreciation to LeeAnne Wolf, CLSS Stewardship Manager, who was an invaluable source of knowledge, collaboration, and on-the-ground support this season. Additional gratitude is extended to Elora Beitz, the WildSafeBC Boundary community coordinator from last season, for offering continued guidance and support throughout the season. Lastly, the WildSafeBC Boundary 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!*



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