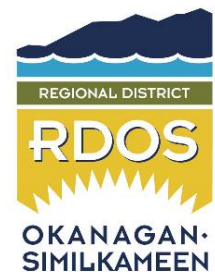


WildSafeBC Annual Report 2020

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Prepared by: Zoë Kirk, RDOS WildSafeBC
Community Coordinator



Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the 2020 RDOS WildSafeBC Program. The region's program encompasses nine Electoral Areas ("A" through "I"), and five municipalities; cities, towns and communities within the boundary, as Princeton has its own WildSafeBC Community Coordinator; see Figure 1. The program's 10,400 square kilometers lies within the unceded traditional territory of the *syilx* peoples. In contrast to many other programs, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) program has matured out of annual Provincial seed funding; the ideal objective of the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) sponsored WildSafeBC Program. Due to the respect for, and close relationship with WildSafeBC, the RDOS continues to brand itself and align with the BCCF owned program.

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic affected more than just the delivery of the program. It also influenced wildlife activity within the region. Reduced air and ground traffic noise and 'normal' activity saw more wildlife moving down into the lowlands. This combined with more citizens at home for extended periods, contributed to an increase of calls to the RDOS WildSafeBC Community Coordinator (WCC) as people saw or interacted with more wildlife.

The WCC undertook an abbreviated outreach program this year. Following COVID-19 safety precautions, several of the standard WildSafeBC Program activities were modified to ensure proper sanitization and physical distancing measures were in place, or they were paused entirely for the year. Even with restrictions, many program deliverables were accomplished and engagement was made with citizens:

- 95 school children in seven in-classroom presentations
- 166 participants from community groups in seven separate presentations and/or training sessions
- 1646 citizens reached through mailers
- Year-round accessibility to the public; calls ranged from elm seed bugs, badgers, flickers, ants, crows, bats, stink bugs, ear-wigs, snakes of all sorts, fowl, raptors, squirrels, ground rodents, muskrats, starlings, rabbits, beavers, turtles and ticks in addition to the large variety of wildlife covered by the program

The WCC looks forward to a return to a more normal delivery model in 2021. Despite challenges, the program continues to be embraced by the RDOS, municipalities and staff, the BC Conservation Officer Service in the Okanagan Region, and many local environmental groups. The program enjoys and appreciates excellent media support and collaboration.

Even in a year of contracted outreach, the initiatives and collaborations undertaken will have helped to "keep wildlife wild and our communities safe."

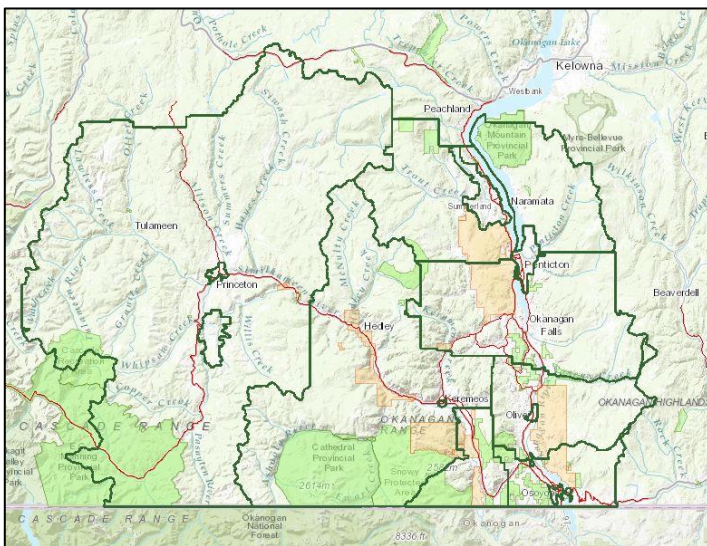
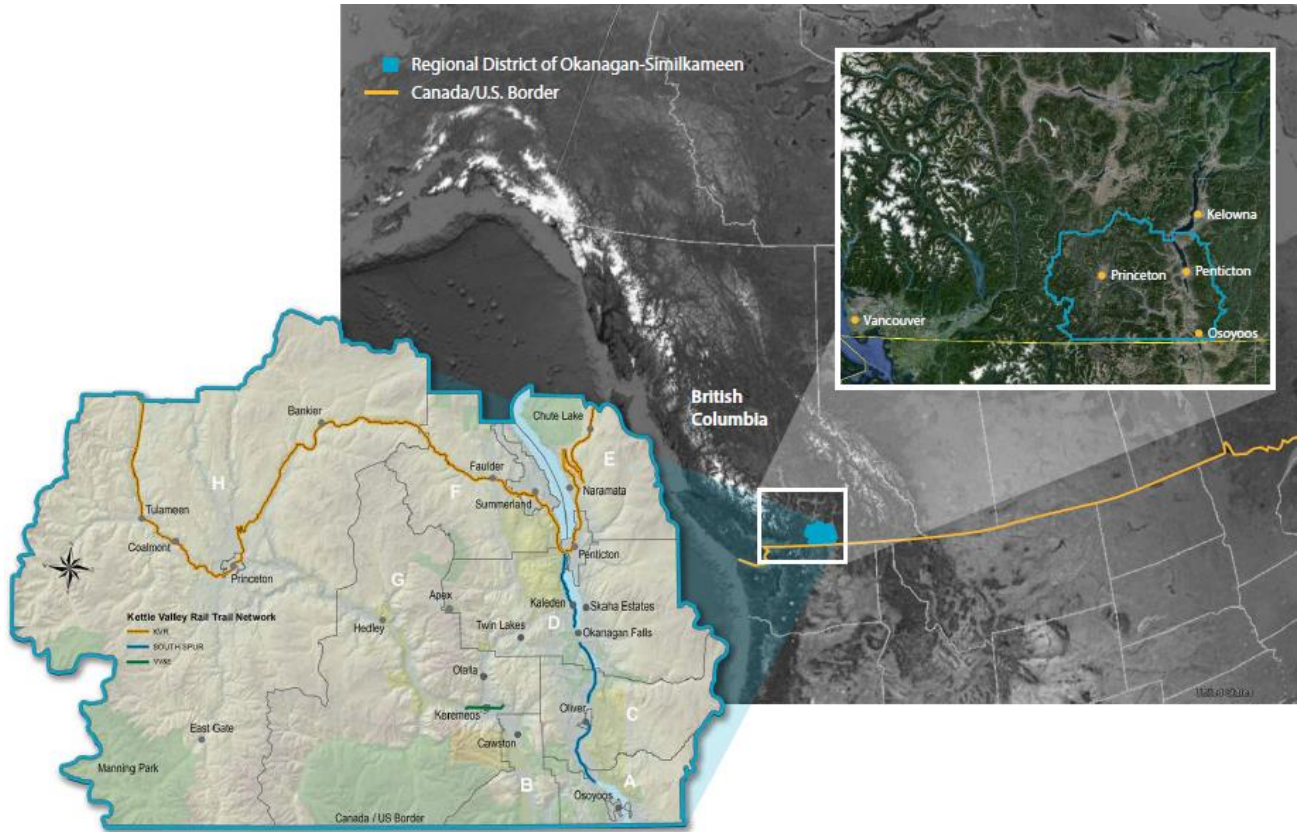


Figure 1. RDOS WildSafeBC program coverage area.

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Cover Photo: Submitted by Blanch Schroeder, black bear in Kaleden/Hwy 3 area

Highlights from the 2020 Season

Wildlife Activity

Reports of conflicts with wildlife are made to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) through the Report All Polluters and Poachers 'RAPP' line (1-877-952-7277) or online form available at: (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>). Also, logged calls are input into the WildSafeBC Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP). This data is updated daily and this report for the region includes data from January 1 to November 30, 2020. The following series of figures (graphs) will illustrate the various data reports (calls) both for 2020 and historically over time. Of particular note is the increase of deer calls surpassing bear calls (Figure 3). This may be in part by the high prevalence of deer in urban areas, and the increased incidence of risk of injury to urban-based wildlife.

Garbage remained the most reported attractant for human-bear conflict. This is similar to provincial numbers which reflected a higher than average year for bear conflict calls. COVID-19 may have exacerbated the human-bear conflict issue because citizens spent more time at home. This increased home-based time contributed to a rise in interaction opportunities and refuse volumes at the curb.

In 2020, there were 897 reports in all of the RDOS. Each is geo-coded to a location, but in some circumstances, such as calls from the West Bench (Area " F") would be included in Penticton reports.

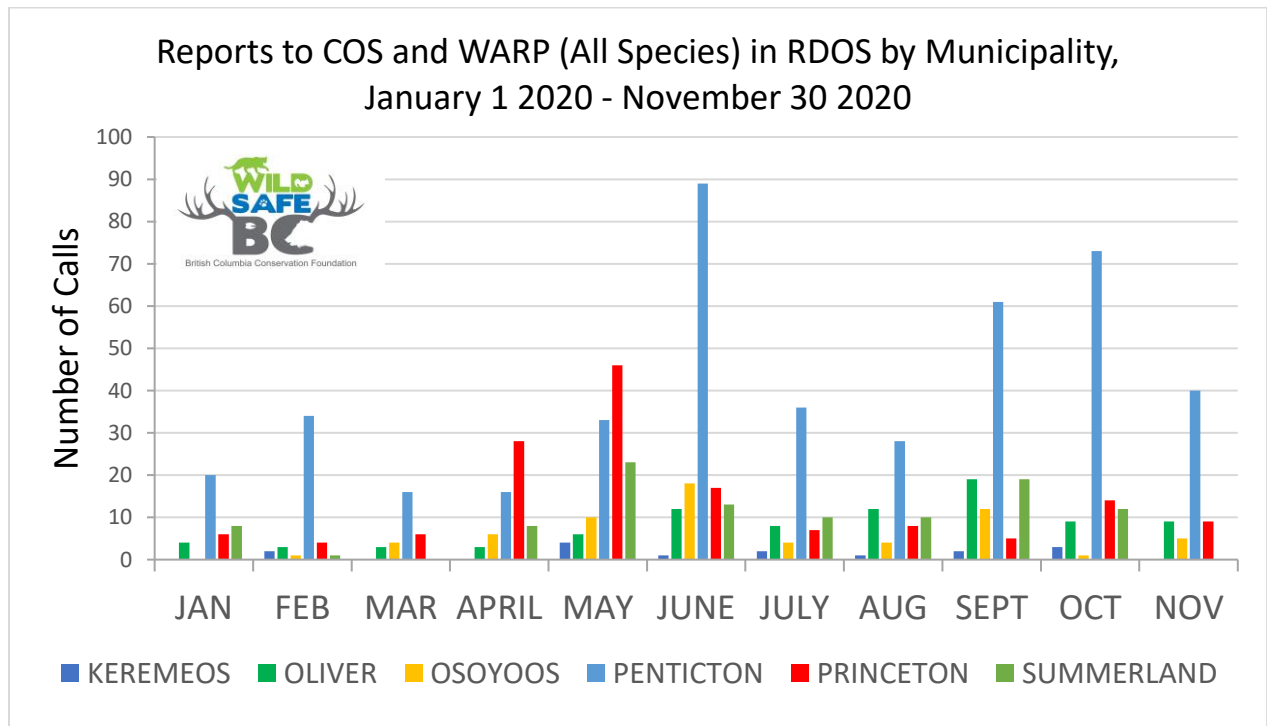


Figure 2. There were 271 Reports to the COS and WARP regarding all species from January 1, 2020 to December 1, 2020 in Municipalities in the region.

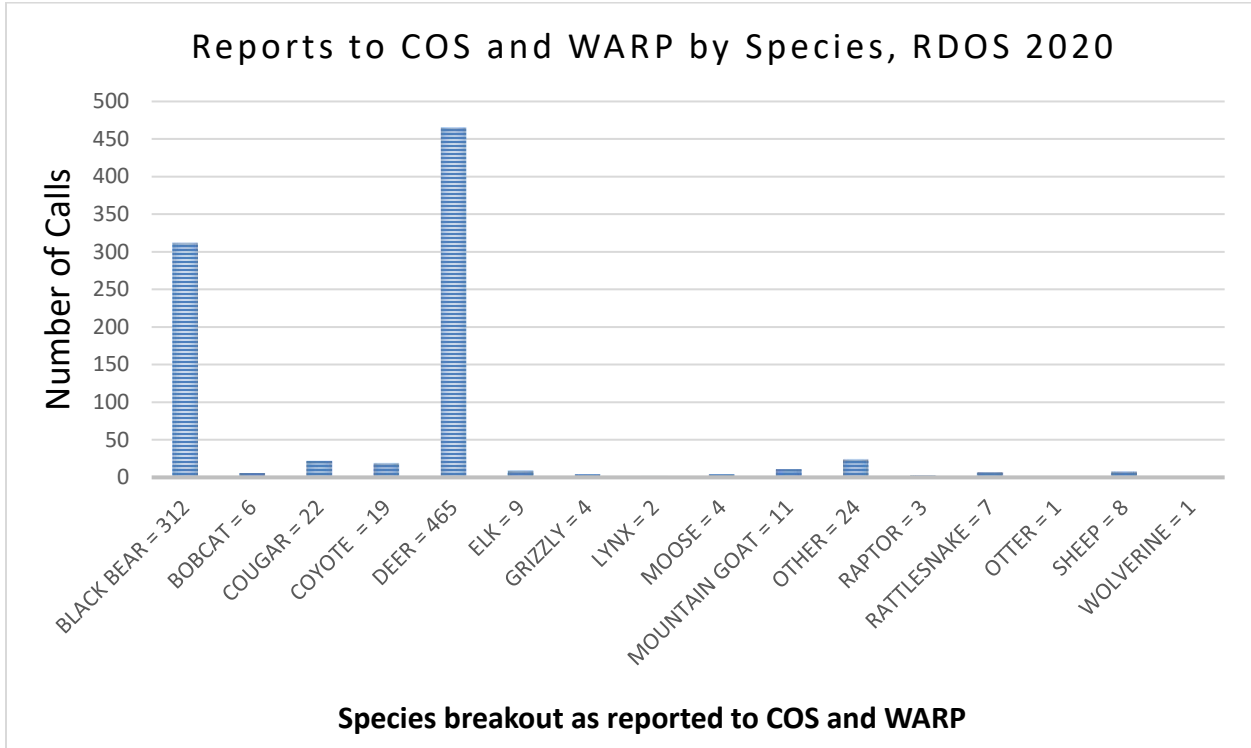


Figure 3. Reports to the COS and WARP by species in 2020 – RDOS data extraction from raw data supplied

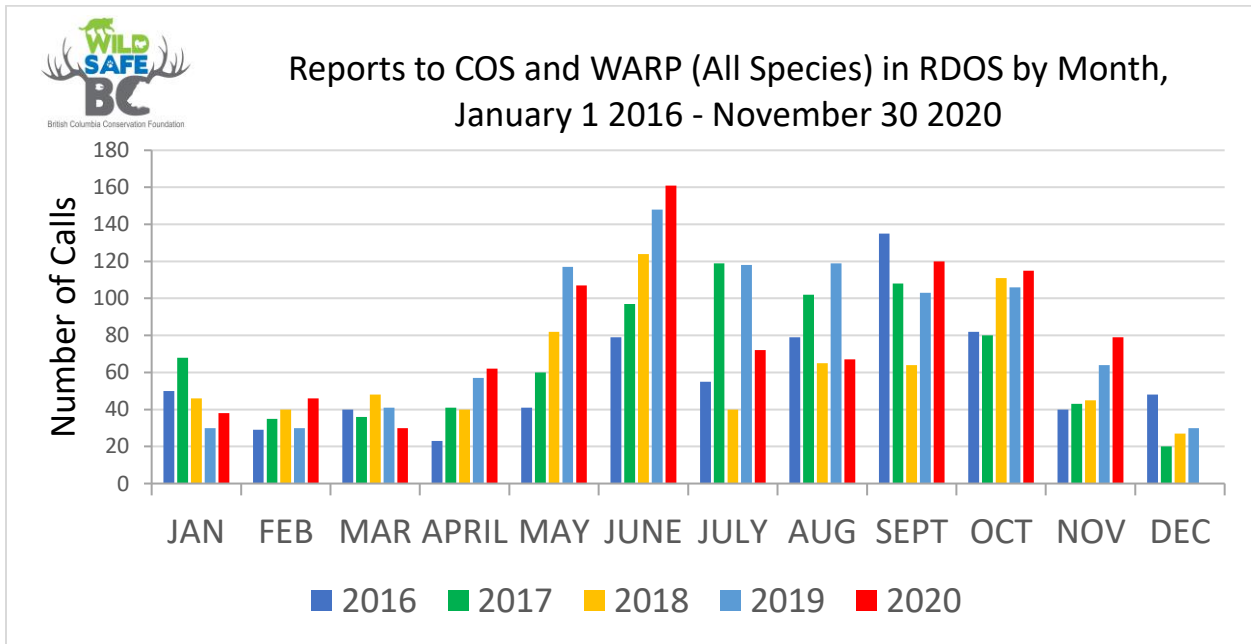


Figure 4. Year-over-year reports for all wildlife in the RDOS – stats supplied by WildSafeBC

In all sectors, the majority of calls requesting presentations from the RDOS WCC continues to be for black bear. Therefore, that component of the programming accounts for the highest amount of time spent. Figures 5 to 6 reflect the COS RAPP line calls on black bears and most common attractants mentioned.

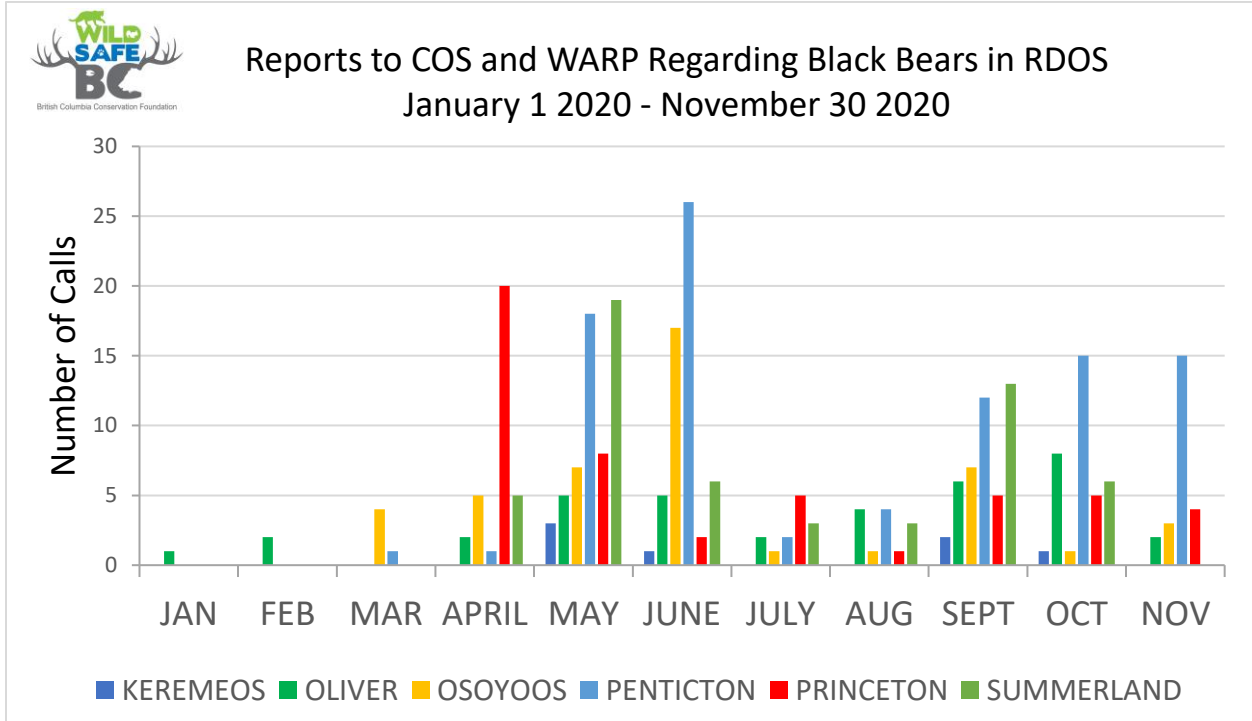


Figure 5. Calls to COS and WARP in 2020 – Black Bear

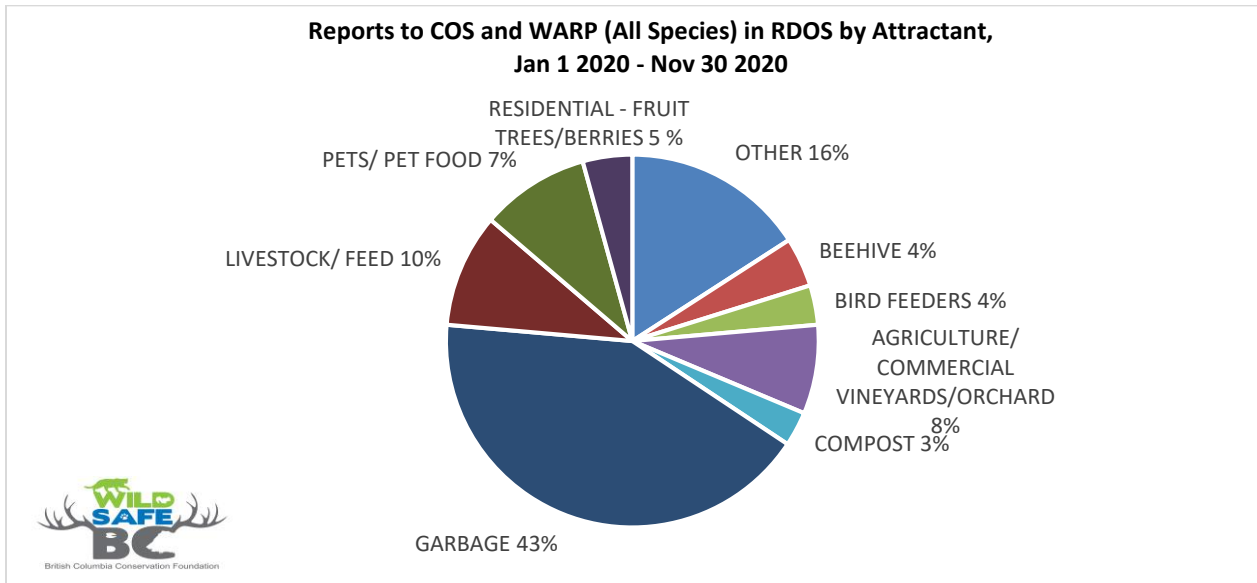


Figure 6. Breakout of 'attractants' by percentage – data supplied by WildSafeBC

WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program introduces youth to the concept of human-wildlife conflict. They have the opportunity to experience citizen science in the outdoor activities and in-classroom learning. This program is traditionally provided to outdoor oriented youth groups such as Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Scouts, and Adventurers as well as within regular school settings, in-classroom events and class walk-about. Students receive education and age appropriate take home materials, such as pencils, stickers, activity sheets and colouring books.

Pandemic protocols significantly reduced the number of activities in all facets of face-to-face outreach in the WildSafe Ranger Program for 2020.

Table 1. Schools that received the WildSafe Programming in 2020.

School	Grade	Students
Parkway Elementary x 2	K-2	45
Wiltse Elementary x 2	K-1	50
Columbia Elementary School	Beavers/Scouts	45
Summerland Youth	Girl Guides	25
Summerland High School	Online	30

Presentations to Community Groups

The WCC provides a wide variety of presentations to community groups including homeowner associations, strata groups, naturalist and garden clubs across the region. Presentations vary according to request and include: wildlife awareness and safety, species specific, attractant and garbage management, bear spray, and residential fruit related options like electric fencing.

This year, face-to-face presentations were halted on March 11, 2021 with a few exceptions – only when confirmation of safe social distancing protocols were in place.

Table 2. Presentations and training to community groups

Group		# of participants
Naramata Garden	Club	12
Summerland Research Stn - online	Summer staff, managers	40
Agassiz Research Stn - online	Summer staff, managers	45
Anarchist Mtn Community Society		45
RDOS X 3 Landfill//Labourers	Staff, seasonal staff	8 + 6 + 4
OASISS	Staff, seasonal staff	6

Display Booths

Due to the fast onset in early 2020 of COVID-19, no booths were undertaken this year. This was a difficult decision made by the RDOS WildSafeBC Community Coordinator and the RDOS Health and Safety Committee.

BC Goes Wild: BC Goes Wild is a campaign to celebrate wildlife in BC occurring each September which is typically the month when human-bear conflicts are at their highest in BC. In 2020, no events were held in conjunction with this program due to COVID-19 protocols.

Door-to-Door Education and Bin Tagging

The WCC did not conduct any door-to-door or engage in typical garbage audit 'bin tagging' activities as has been done in the past. Education was modified to consist of educationally oriented letters sent directly to property owners (occupants) in neighbourhoods where bear activity had taken place or during drive-by garbage audits. Packages included an introductory letter, WildSafeBC bear brochures, and copy of bylaws (where applicable).

In response to bear activity, calls from residents and/or requests from a Conservation Officer, information was distributed to the following communities.

Table 3. Letters sent and information distributed in 2020

Neighbourhood	Electoral Area - Municipality	#of letters or information
Wiltse – City of Penticton & Wiltse Elementary	Penticton sent letters	250 brochures sent home w/ students
Wiltse Neighbourhood x 2	By City of Penticton	825 <i>*sent by City of Penticton</i>
Anarchist Mtn	Electoral Area "A"	382
Heritage Hills	Electoral Area "D"	75
Naramata	Electoral Area "E"	105
Victoria Pines Home Park	Keremeos	75
Willowbrook	Electoral Area "C"	85
Twin Lakes/St Andrews	Electoral Area "I"	74
West Bench	Electoral Area "F"	25

To bolster the 'reach' of messaging, the WCC employed the use of social media; community Facebook posts where available, Castanet, Penticton Herald and Western News e-media posts, interviews, and RDOS WildSafeBC Facebook Posts.

Bin Tagging: Garbage bin tagging consists of placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on top of containers set curbside the day before collection. Garbage tagging has a significant impact on recidivism and behaviour change.

The City of Penticton bylaw officers conducted targeted door-to-door outreach together with the BC Conservation Officer Service in the Wiltse neighbourhood in spring 2020. They also conducted a targeted mailing to areas where garbage was placed to the curb well before pick-

up day and was luring bears into the community. In this neighbourhood in 2019, five bears were destroyed in one single day due to cumulative un-natural food conditioning. See Appendix A

The District of Summerland also saw an increase of calls to the RAPP line and increased bear activity, prompting the Conservation Officer Service to conduct targeted garbage audits which lead to several Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders (DWPO's) served to residents. The first fine is \$385.00, and these actions prompted several local media outlet and newspaper stories.

Social Media and Press

Over time, the RDOS WCC has fostered a positive relationship with media. Each spring, e-media, print, radio and TV representatives contact the WCC for an interview or segment, and 2020 was no different. Following on this annual coverage, the media contacts the WCC as situations develop in communities, (e.g. Summerland, and Penticton) when additional messaging was broadcast to residents. The WCC also coordinates with the CO Service and encourages media to include local CO's and other municipal staff or politicians to contribute to the depth of media outreach. (Appendix A – D)

Wildlife in Area Signs

When bears (or aggressive wildlife) are active in communities or neighbourhoods, the WCC places prominent sandwich board style signage out in the affected area(s). This season, the RDOS signage was used in concert with new signage developed with the City of Penticton. RDOS signage includes bear, deer and cougar (the predominant conflict species). (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Penticton signboard

RDOS signboard bear - deer

Also, this season the RDOS, City of Penticton and Penticton Indian Band collaborated on the placement of ‘Deer-in-Area’ signage when aggressive does were threatening residents and walkers on local trails and neighbourhoods that crossed over jurisdictional boundaries.

Naramata Bear Smart added a new sign at the entrance to the hamlet underneath the original Bear Smart sign. This was in celebration of another ‘5’ years of Bear Smart status received in October 2019. The specially designed sign is multi-purpose, to alert the community to bears as well as other wildlife issues. When not being used to warn the community, it sports a ‘cover’ sign acknowledging the renewed Bear Smart status. (Figure 8).

New sign addition 2’x3’



uncovered w/ info



special alerts for Zombies



Figure 8: New signs for Naramata Bear Smart – with a seasonal twist

WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program

The WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program is a new initiative in 2020. Through the 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 program will be promoted in the RDOS 2021. The resources will be available via link from the RDOS website beginning March of 2021

Indigenous Awareness and Engagement

This year, in collaboration with the En’owkin Centre (an accredited Indigenous Post-Secondary Arts Institute) a brochure was designed and developed (with Elders), to provide information and raise awareness of the cultural values that are attributed to the black bear. Black bear is considered one of the founding four Food Chiefs and has significant reverence. The WCC will use the brochure in all aspects of outreach and education opportunities. Chief Black Bear is the first in a series which will include Cougar, Coyote and Rattlesnake. (Appendix E)

Special Initiatives

Special initiatives undertaken in 2021 were in part due to the reduction in face-to-face outreach. In truth, this was beneficial, as it provided time to assess the current program, make changes and modifications as well as add new components. This is still ongoing as of this writing including:

- The RDOS web site is undergoing a complete rejuvenation with updates to the WildSafeBC pages to reflect a fresher look and new engagement tools
- Online learning which required the overhauling of presentation formats, information and delivery was piloted with:
 - Summerland High School
 - Pacific Agri-food - Ag Canada Research Centre
 - Summerland Agri-food - Ag Canada Research Centre
 - K-2 video presentation (being vetted by elementary teachers)
- New formats and video(s) produced for teachers and the public as an online resource – via links from the RDOS web site – available March/April 2021
- RDOS Noxious Pests program which targets residential fruit and berry production has undergone a complete update. New materials/videos refer to human-bear conflict in relation to growing fruit; and the need for proper horticulture management. *See Appendix E*
- Anarchist Mountain Community Society made significant progress in their community through the organization of a sub-committee called the Anarchist Mountain Bear Group (AMBG). The group invited the WCC and CO's to a public open-air meeting. Bear Spray demos, education/discussion on garbage and attractant management were the focus. Subsequently, AMBG organized a successful bear cart purchase program (42 carts)
- When purchasing the bear carts, the AMBG also coordinated with Area "F" (West Bench area). Together with the Area Director, Riley Gettens, they were able to add another 32 carts to the order. The WCC and Area Director distributed the carts to their new owners with packets of care and maintenance information



Figure 9. Carts arrive at Anarchist Mountain Fire Hall (Area “A”) and carts being given out at West Bench (Area “F”)

Challenges and Opportunities

Without question, COVID-19 affected all aspects of the program and the operations at the regional district. It also affected local wildlife in both positive and negative ways. On the positive side, the lack of vehicles, planes, noise and other human activities, created a perceived safer travel into the lowlands and into areas close to communities. Citizens reported more wildlife in their yards, neighbourhoods and on recreational trails. On the negative, freer movement also provided the opportunity for wildlife to loiter in neighbourhoods and become attracted to foodstuffs and garbage; especially as citizens were spending more time at home, cooking, creating more garbage, and doing new things like putting in gardens. This added to the waste stream diverting tonnage from dumpsters to curbside. Messaging focused on this anomaly for several weeks in the spring.

The number of telephone calls and emails also reflected the fact that people were at home and ‘saw’ more wildlife up close, on their properties (often for the first time). The increased calls were an opportunity for one-on-one education and outreach.

Challenges also include the fact that waste pick-up methods are in flux, as more and more communities move to 3 cart programs. Waste contractors are moving switching to operations that are more streamlined; such as one-man trucks with ‘squeeze’ arms that lift the cart up and vertically discharges contents into the bin, rather than the two-men system, one driver and one loading garbage into the truck bays. This conversion disallows the use of a traditional bear cart that has locks that need to be unclipped or opened. The industry is in the midst of designing carts that are bear-resistant, yet still emptied automatically once held vertically over the open truck bin. This is (and will be) an ongoing challenge and concern in regional service areas until a solution is found and a more diverse range of carts is produced.

The reduced number of public presentations and outreach translated to a 90% decrease in direct, face-to-face interactions. Direct interactions in 2019 was 1,641 vs. 166 in 2020. The challenge to reach people became an opportunity with the need to evaluate and explore different outreach models during these tumultuous times. The modifications to delivery options and modalities is positive and will provide a wider selection of ways the public can engage and be educated, continuing even when face-to-face outreach can once again resume.

The following initiatives should be continued or implemented in 2021:

- Education campaigns to continue through social media, news articles, workshops, information distributed in utility bills
- Continued development of electronic learning opportunities
- Continue to collaborate where possible with local Indigenous groups
 - Continue Sylix brochure development –cougar, coyote, rattlesnake
- Expand the ability to connect to residents through webinars and online events

- Return to in person outreach – when safe to do so
- Increased door-to-door campaigns in hotspots – when safe to do so
- Continued collaboration with neighbouring municipalities and Indigenous communities

Acknowledgements

It takes a collaborative partnership to achieve a successful program. Many individuals, community sectors and administrative people tirelessly continue to contribute to the RDOS WildSafeBC program. Some are included here, but many more within and without the organization make up the collective movement to help 'keep wildlife wild and communities safe.' The RDOS WildSafeBC Community Coordinator would like to acknowledge the support and contributions from the following:

- BC Conservation Foundation team from Kamloops (WildSafeBC Provincial Head Office) Vanessa Isnardy, Heather Richardson, Trina Radford, and Shelley Nohels
- Local BC Conservation Officer Service and administrative staff; Insp Tobe Sprado, Sgt. James Zucchelli, CO's Mike Stern, David Cox, Jeff Henratty, Clayton DeBruin
- RDOS Board of Directors
- RDOS Manager of Engineering, Liisa Bloomfield, administrative staffers Darcy Kirkpatrick and Janice Johnson
- RDOS Solid Waste Dept staff Don Hamilton, Wendy Bennett, and Cameron Baughen
- Local media representatives, who are always ready to disseminate information and work alongside the WCC



Photo: Cindy Boehm - A view of the Similkameen River – fall 2020

APPENDIX:

Appendix A – City of Penticton Letter to residents (2nd reminder)

Appendix B – RDOS example of an information letter template

Appendix C: News You Can Use – BC Gov't News Release Bear Smart

Appendix D: Example of local media

Appendix E: Bear Brochure En'owkin Centre Collaboration

Appendix F: Example of Pest Control information for growing apple trees

Appendix A – City of Penticton Letter to residents (2nd reminder)

Date

Residents at:

XXXX

Penticton, B.C.,

V2A XXX

Re: Garbage Attracting Bears and Wildlife – 2nd Reminder

This spring there have been bears and cubs reported in your neighbourhood as such it is imperative that residents manage their garbage, recycle and yard waste in accordance with City's Solid Waste Collection and Recyclable Materials Disposal Bylaw.

Upon issuing the spring reminder letter "Garbage Attracting Bears and Wildlife" to residents, a noticeable improvement was observed in your neighbourhood, however some residents continue to place their garbage carts out the night before collection. Storing garbage improperly or placing it out for collection early will attract bears and other wildlife.

Bears that can access garbage and recycling become habituated, putting you and your neighbours at risk for a conflict with wildlife. Due to the need to protect residents from dangerous wildlife such as bears and cougars, the City of Penticton asks residents to:

- Place waste at the curb after 5:00am on the morning of collection,
- Protect waste inside a wildlife resistant enclosure
- Protect yourself and your neighbours by removing bear attractants from your yard:
 - Stock-piled refuse, bird feeders, non-productive composters,
 - Ensure composters are working correctly and yard/vegetable waste is composting
 - Securely store pet food and water.

Additional Bear Aware information is available on the RDOS website: <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/>.

The City of Penticton works closely with the WildsafeBC Program - Regional District Okanagan Similkameen and the BC Conservation Officer Service to reduce human-wildlife conflict. City of Penticton Staff follow up on reports of garbage left unattended, stored in an unsecure manner, and attractants like unpicked or rotting fruit. In the case of multiple complaints, the City may enforce penalties defined in the *Solid Waste Collection and Recyclable Materials Disposal Bylaw*.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact Len Robson, Public Works Manager by email at Len.Robson@penticton.ca or by telephone at 250-490-2500.

Sincerely,

Len Robson
Public Works Manager



Appendix B – RDOS example of an information letter template



RDOS File No: 5360.02
Improper Waste Management

Date: XXXX

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

Re: Waste Placed at Curb, or Not stored Correctly Can Attract Dangerous Wildlife

During a recent survey of your area by our WildSafeBC Community Coordinator, it was observed that at some properties waste had been placed out at the curb the night before garbage pick-up. Also, some residents/property owners are not storing garbage securely (safely) on their properties. Outside a garage, carport, at the back door, or just behind a hedge or fence, is not secure. Bears can access garbage/recycling and become habituated, putting you and your neighbours at risk for a conflict with wildlife; not to mention the mess bears and other wildlife can make, spreading garbage.

The RDOS would like to remind all residents in your neighbourhood about the potential of human-bear conflict and the increased risk of *food conditioning* bears when food waste is easily accessed. **CHANGEABLE FOR SEASON OR SITUATION Bears enter 'Hyperphagia' in September/October (Change to suit) – meaning they are driven to keep eating, sometimes upwards of 20 hours a day. Bears noses (olfactory glands) are rated at 5 times better than a bloodhound, so even what we assume is 'clean' recycling can attract them.**

Due to the need to protect residents from dangerous wildlife such as bears and cougars, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen Curbside Bylaw applicable in your area requires residents to:

- Place waste at the curb after 5:00 am on the morning of pick-up,
- Use a dangerous wildlife resistant garbage cart, or
- Protect waste inside a dangerous wildlife resistant enclosure.

RDOS WildSafeBC can provide details on how to build a dangerous wildlife resistant enclosure to protect your waste from bears and cougars. Also, freezing food scraps and placing them in your garbage container on collection day can greatly reduce the odour and potential access by bears. For more information visit: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/>

Please find the enclosed information on reducing human-wildlife conflict.

If you require clarification of this letter, or wish to discuss this further, please contact me by e-mail at zkirk@rdos.bc.ca, by facsimile at 250-492-0063 or by telephone at 250-490-4110.

NOTE: If there is a renter at the property, please insure they are aware of bears in the neighbourhood, proper storage of waste and understand the curbside Bylaw 2819-2018.

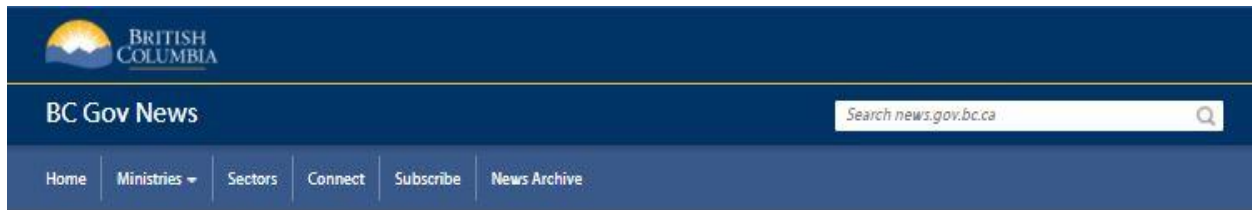
Sincerely,

Zoe Kirk,
RDOS WildSafeBC Community Coordinator, 250-490-4110, zkirk@rdos.bc.ca



Appendix C: News You Can Use – BC Gov't News Release Bear Smart

Links to full story on Gov News site: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/>



Environment and Climate Change Strategy

PRINT

Bear Smart Community Program helps people live peacefully with bears

Share



News You Can Use

Victoria
Friday, April 17, 2020 6:30 AM

Media Contacts

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Media Relations
250 953-3834

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- Climate Change and Climate Action
- Environmental Assessment Revitalization
- Professional Reliance

Featured Services

- Translink
- Environmental Protection & Sustainability

It's the time of year when bears emerge from their dens and search for food, often bringing them into the nearest community.

With more people staying home due to COVID-19 and some waste and recycling services impacted as a result of the pandemic response, it's more important than ever to be vigilant about keeping bear attractants at bay.

Eight communities in B.C. are already setting a strong example of what to do during this extraordinary time. Kamloops, Squamish, Lions Bay, Whistler, Port Alberni, Naramata, New Denver and Coquitlam have had official Bear Smart status for several years through the Bear Smart Community Program. The program is a voluntary, preventative conservation measure that encourages communities, businesses and individuals to work together to reduce conflicts with bears. Several more are actively pursuing the designation.

"If bears do not have access to non-natural food sources, such as garbage, fruit and bird seed within communities, they have no reason to hang around. This results in increased safety for both people and bears," said Mike Badry, provincial wildlife conflict manager, BC Conservation Officer Service. "Residents could turn this unusual time into something positive for wildlife by taking extra time to secure attractants and educate themselves about Bear Smart practices."

Nine years ago, Zoe Kirk, a public project works co-ordinator for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and the residents of Naramata started to notice an unsettling trend – an average of four to eight bears were destroyed in the village every year due to ongoing conflicts with people.

Located on the east side of Okanagan Lake, the community of 2,400 residents consists of fruit farms, large acreages with livestock, a small village centre and tourists flocking to vacation properties during the summer. The area is also home to a healthy population of bears going to and from the lake and fishing in a creek that runs through the village. Unsecured garbage left outside overnight often lured the bruins into the community.

"The community is nestled in perfect bear habitat, but some folks were being lackadaisical about attractant management, which put neighbourhoods at risk for a conflict with wildlife," Kirk said. "Many residents were frustrated by this and began petitioning for a

Appendix D: Example of local media

Castanet Penticton | March 2020

Bears may suffer amid [virus](#)

[Mindy Hildebrand](#) - Mar 23, 2020 / 7:00 pm



Photo: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Bears are beginning to emerge from hibernation into a new reality: the COVID-19 pandemic, and although not directly affected by the virus, they still could be impacted.

So how could this be?

With some store shelves looking bare and people buying more perishables, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen expects more food to go to waste, generating more garbage.

Restaurants have also continued to operate through take-away and delivery services using single-use containers.

Household garbage and recycling will increase including reusable wipes and diapers, all things bears are fond of. All of these products are expected to end up in peoples [curbside garbage](#).

While the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen commends how adaptive people and businesses have been during this time, they want people to remember how to deal with waste products which attract wildlife.

Bears have five times better smelling senses than dogs. Rats and racoons can also easily smell out food sources. To ensure these animals are not accessing your garbage, store waste in secure areas such as a locked shed or garage.

Be diligent with securing garbage bags to reduce odours and wash all food and recyclable containers before disposing of them in bins. Freeze stinky leftovers including meat and fish before placing into garbage, just before the trash is scheduled to be picked-up.

Do not leave your garbage carts or containers at the curb, only put out your garbage the morning of pick-up. Bears will have plentiful options of natural food sources when they rise from their dens and it is our responsibility to ensure bears are not capitalizing on unnatural food availability.

If we fail, bears become conditioned and habituated which never ends well for the bears.

[Back to Homepage](#)

Appendix E: Bear Brochure En'owkin Centre Collaboration

Three fold brochure – (order as shown) inside flap , back panel, front



Photo: Blanche Schroeder

Who We Are

The En'owkin Centre is located on the Penticton Indian Band reserve. The En'owkin's unique building design reflects a traditional Okanagan winter home also known as a pit house. It is a gathering place where families and community members can replenish themselves spiritually. It is also a teaching place where story, co-operation and artistry come together.

En'owkin Centre



www.enowkincentre.ca

En'owkin is a dynamic institution that puts into practice the principles of self-determination and the validation of cultural aspirations and identity. An Indigenous cultural, educational, ecological and creative arts organization, En'owkin plays a lead role in the development and implementation of Indigenous knowledge and systems, both at the community and international levels.

Contact RDOS WildSafeBC:
 phone 250.492.0237
 email rdos@wildsafebc.com
 web www.rdos.bc.ca

This brochure was designed and created by the En'owkin Centre in collaboration with the RDOS WildSafeBC program. Limlamt

“We have the highest respect for skəmxist, who is represented in our captik^w. Like our grandmother, they play a big part in our Culture.”
 - x^wəstikn, knowledge keeper

yilmix^w m skəmxist



Photo: Linda Blair

Bear Safety

BEARS NEED:

- People to stay away and respect them
- Large and varied designated habitat areas
- No domestic animals in habitat area to reduce competition

PEOPLE NEED TO:

- Adhere to syilx women protocols by staying out of skəmxist areas and mountains during menstruation
- Travel in groups, stay together
- Bang sticks, rocks or sing songs to let skəmxist know you are in their space
- Ensure not to startle Mother Bears when she has cubs, as her protective instincts are very intense and fierce
- Make sure children and youth are not crying or screaming in skəmxist territory, it can sound like cubs in distress and cause skəmxist to investigate

Chief Black Bear

Inside three fold

skəmxist Rights – the syilx people recognize equal rights with us. We have a right:

- to eat **salmon**, which provide nutrients back to forests,
- to eat plants, berries, and **replenish** essential plant life by redistributing seeds,
- to clean **water** on our homeland for denning and raising our cubs,
- to our wild **food** sources, that we share with the syilx,
- to maintain and live in a healthy **environment**,
- to freely **move** in our territory with our presence respected,
- to our physical **health**, and to live our lives garbage free.



Photo: Ermet Schneider

skəmxist’s gifts to syilx traditional ways teach us:

1. The **4 food chiefs** story teaches us our Governance
2. That syilx people have the highest **respect** for our skəmxist as our relative
3. That our people can **co-exist** alongside them
4. That skəmxist **gives** us food and hides for clothing

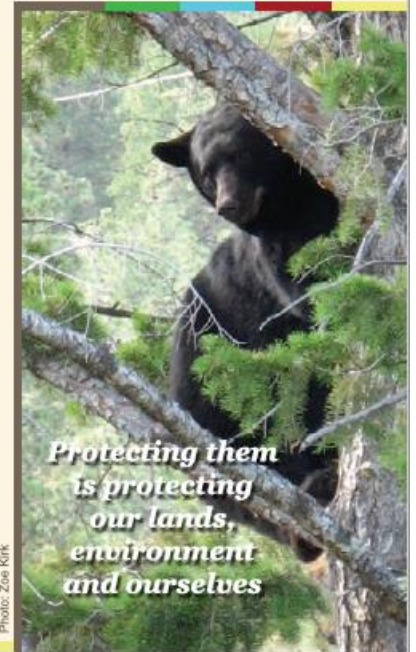
skəmxist loss of syilx recognized rights means:

- Naturalized food sources disappear. **Encroachment** in urban areas increases bears’ access to garbage consumption
- **Disruptions** to the ecosystem
- Our ecosystems become **out of balance** without bears’ work to provide nutrients to the land
- **Relocating** them does not help them, there is no food to keep them healthy - they do not know where the food is in a new territory
- Fences, houses and development interferes with **natural corridors** for them to travel, to live and spread their genes

Only good land use planning will respect their corridors, denning, sites, and maintain enough natural food sources



Photo: WildSafeBC



Protecting them is protecting our lands, environment and ourselves

Photo: Zoe Kirk

Appendix F: Example of Pest Control information for growing apple trees



Important Notice:

Before planting fruit trees, it is the residential growers responsibility to familiarize oneself with the RDOS [Bylaw](#). It is necessary that proper care of fruit trees is taken to prevent & control pest infestations.

Before Planting your Tree

Apple trees can only produce healthy fruit if home growers pay careful attention to pruning, sanitation, pest management, & harvest practices. If you are planting the tree for shade or ornamental purposes, consider planting an ornamental tree that will be less bothersome, costly to care for & manage.

General Apple Tree Care

Sanitation: Diligent sanitation practice will reduce the risk of pest infestation. Remove dead & decaying fruit & leaves from the tree & ground. Maintain a good weeding & visual inspection routine to avoid pests.

Pruning: Avoid pruning in fall or winter to prevent winter injury, which makes the tree more susceptible to pests. In early spring (before bud break & at least two weeks after last frost), remove all dead & diseased branches first. Prune the upper part of the tree more than the lower part to maximize sunlight & airflow.

Thinning: Thin the fruit in June (6 inches apart) to improve crop quality & prevent pests, as they prefer to enter fruit where two fruits are in contact.

Harvesting: Remove ALL fruit at harvest (Aug-Oct) & make sure all diseased & insect-infested fruit is disposed of properly. Maturity of fruit is dependent on apple type & varies greatly. If the fruit is beginning to drop, harvest frequently & check for signs of pests.



Pest Avoidance & Management

Important: Keeping trees healthy by prioritizing sanitation practice will help reduce pest & disease problems. Avoid chemical intervention (pesticides) & use preventative strategies first.

Netting Tree & Bagging Fruit: Net the entire tree or place horticultural bags around the fruit when small & leave on for the majority of the growth process. This reduces the risk of pests, disease, & damage from birds.

Pesticides (last resort): If preventative measures are no longer adequate, consult professionals before use. Always begin with the least toxic product available first.

Pesticide Stewardship: Do not apply in daytime when bees are foraging, when wind speeds are high, or when rain is forecast.

rdos.bc.ca/public-works/pest-control/tree-fruit-pest-control

Be Bear Aware: B.C. is bear country, including densely populated areas. Fruit trees are attractants for bears and must be maintained properly to keep wildlife wild and communities safe.

NOTE: Each of 8 related horticultural videos (that complement the fact sheets) also has a segment on bear-human conflict and the responsibility of the property owner to reduce attractants through proper care and maintenance of fruit bearing trees/shrubs/plants.