

BC Bear Smart Communities Program



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Wildlife Conflict Manager
Ministry of Environment

Human Wildlife Conflict Stats

- Five year annual average numbers:
 - **29, 691** wildlife conflict calls



Black
Bears

- **17,663** calls
- **140** hazed
- **25** translocated
- **644** destroyed



Grizzly Bears

- **521** calls
- **14** hazed
- **8** translocated
- **38** destroyed



Cougars

- **3063** calls
- **5** hazed
- **1** translocated
- **150** destroyed

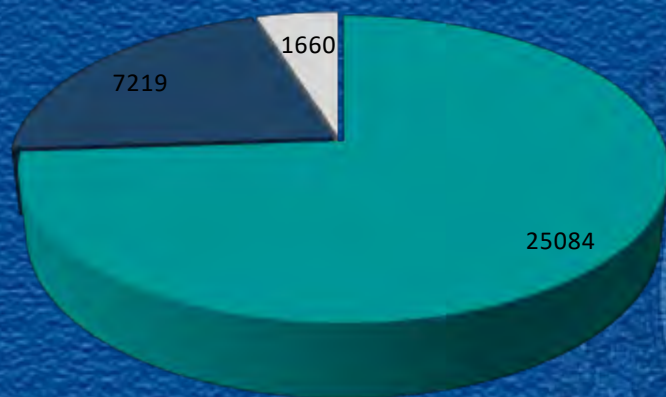
Predator Attacks in last 5 years

	<u>Black Bear</u>	<u>Grizzly Bears</u>	<u>Cougars</u>
# Injured	25	22	14
# Killed	1	0	0



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Number of calls to RAPP, 2017-18 (N=33,963)



■ Large Carnivore ■ Ungulate ■ Other

R.A.P.P.

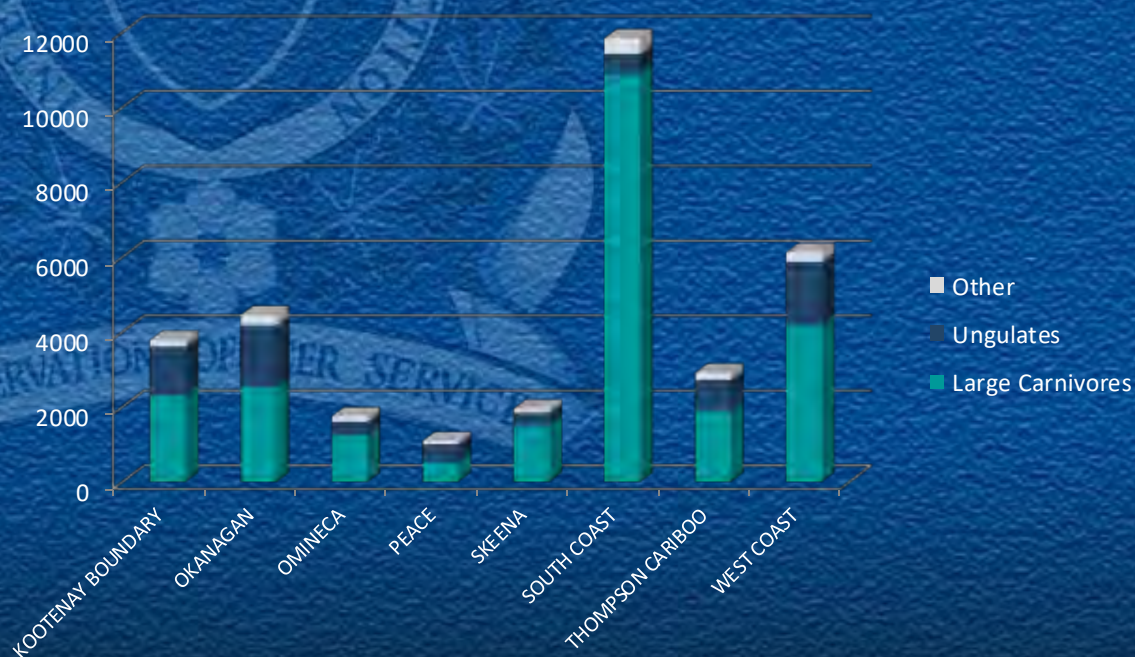
Report All Poachers and Polluters

Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline

1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Cellular Dial - #7277

Calls by Region 2017-18



Access to Human Food

People teach bears bad habits.

Habituated and food-conditioned bears are more difficult to drive away than wild bears.

Food-conditioned bears learn to expect human food and are more likely to approach people than wild bears.



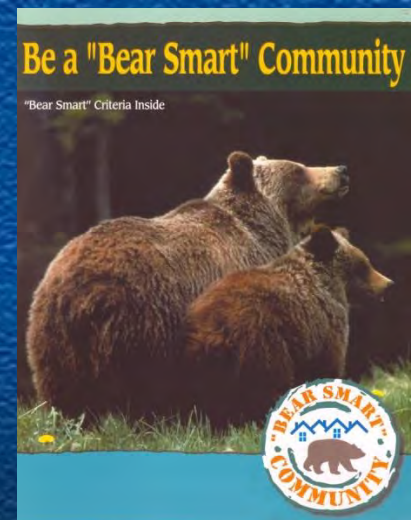
What is the Bear Smart Community Program?

A proactive conservation initiative developed in 2004 that encourages efforts by communities, businesses and individuals to reduce human-bear conflicts.

Focus efforts on addressing the root causes of human-bear conflicts.

Community led - completely voluntary

Each community will be unique



The Benefits of Being “Bear Smart”

Improved public safety

Reduced property damage

Fewer bears being killed



Criteria for Designated Bear Smart Communities

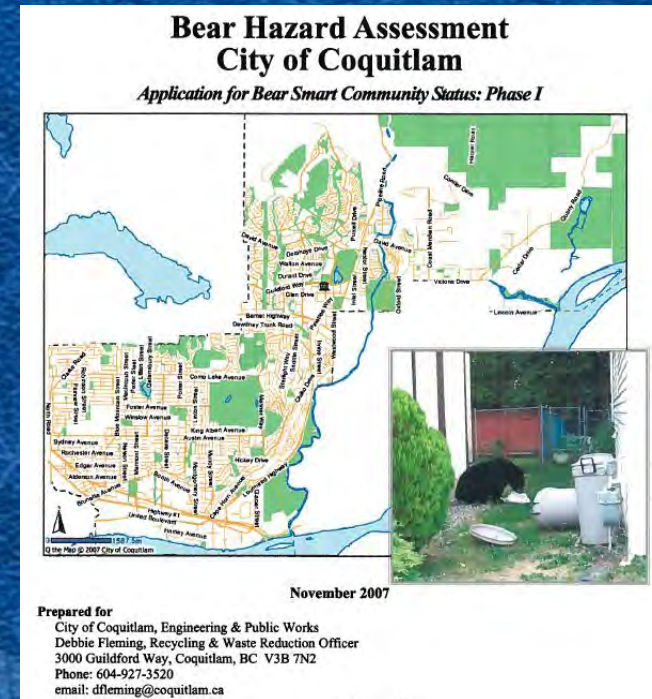
1. Prepare a bear hazard assessment.
2. Prepare a bear/human conflict management plan.
3. Revise planning and decision making documents.
4. Implement a continuing education program.
5. Develop and maintain a bear-resistant waste management system.
6. Implement Bear Smart by-laws.



Bear Hazard Assessment

The basic objective is to establish a general, community - specific overview of potential human - bear conflict in and adjacent to the community.

The purpose of these assessments is to identify existing and potential hazards.



Human - Bear Conflict Management Plan

The Plan should be designed to address the human-bear conflict issues identified in the Hazard Assessment for the community.

Human Bear Conflict Management Plan

for the

District of Ucluelet



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Waste Management and Development Planning Sections co-authored by Jur Bekker, B.Sc. Hort.

Habitat Assessment Section co-authored by Grant MacHutchon, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.

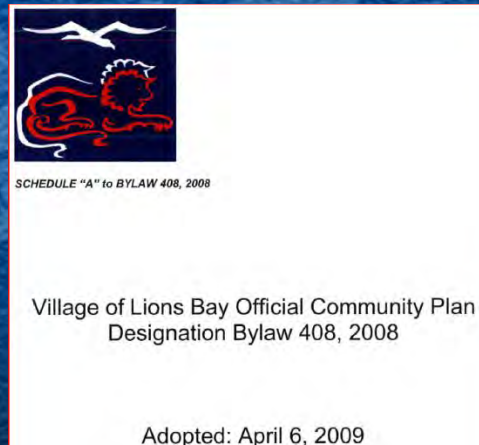
A Planning and Decision Making Process

Higher level plans may be appropriate such as:

- Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies

or as a minimum:

- Regional Solid Waste Management Plans



Implement an Education Program

Bear biology and behaviour.

Practices to manage non-natural attractants.

Proper behaviour during a bear encounter in the community.

A program for communicating current bear activity to the public.



Residential Waste Management Systems



1. Residential Dumpsters

Located throughout residential areas (i.e.. one per 20-35 homes)

2. Large Community Dumpsters or Transfer Stations

Several large bear-proof containers utilized by the entire community.



Residential Waste Management Systems

3. Retention of Curbside Collection

Discontinue curb side collection
or

Garbage cans must be kept in a
bear-resistant location at all times
except the day of pick-up.



4. Disposal Directly at the Landfill

Disposal directly at an electrified
landfill may be an option for
smaller communities.



Implement “Bear Smart” Bylaws

Bylaws may need to be developed to ensure compliance with the goals of the “Bear Smart” program.

A strategy needs to be created to ensure these bylaws are adhered to.



SCHEDULE “A” to BYLAW 408, 2008

Village of Lions Bay Official Community Plan
Designation Bylaw 408, 2008

Adopted: April 6, 2009

Bear Smart Successes

Nine designated Bear Smart Communities.



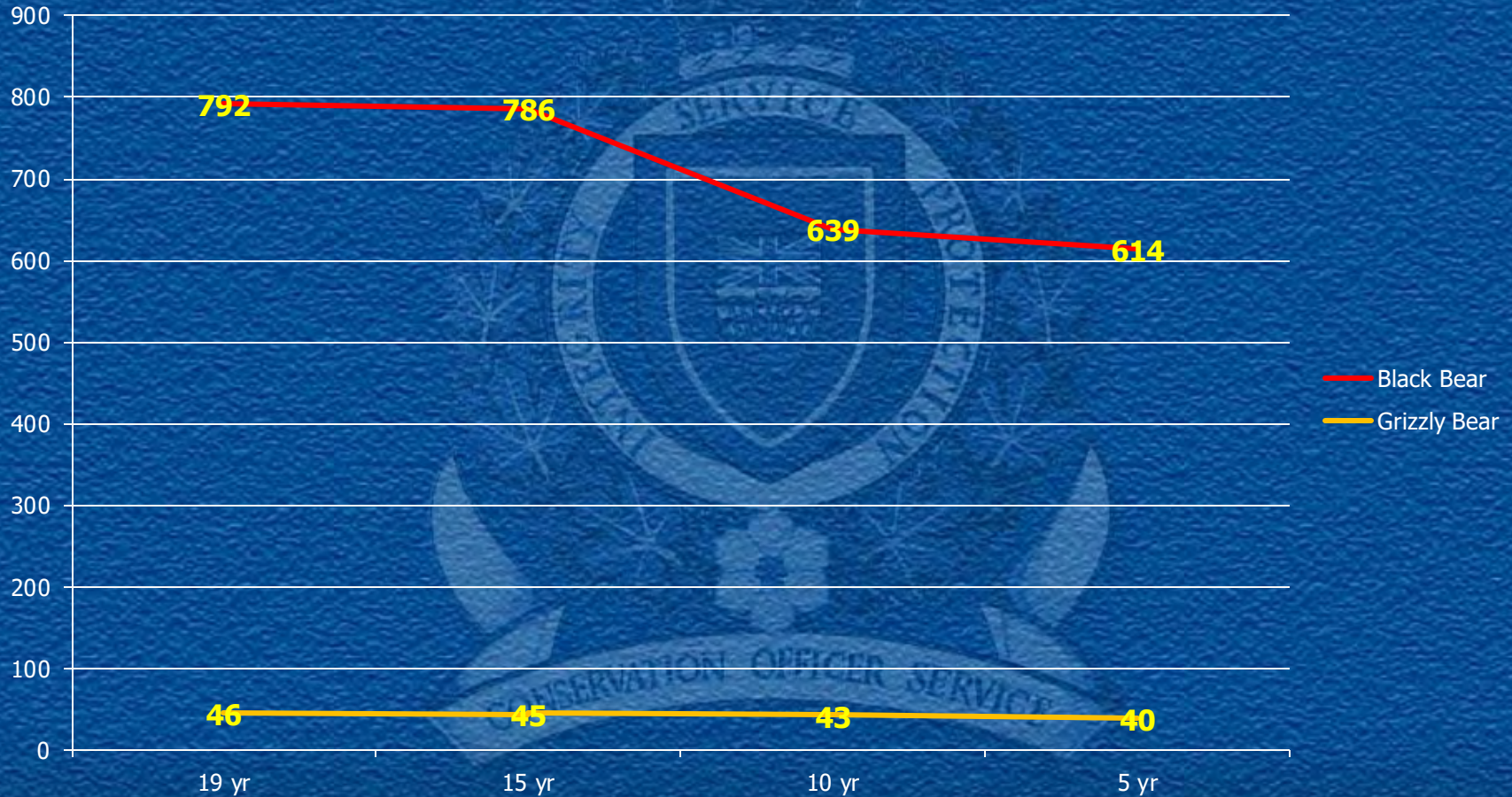
City of
Port Alberni



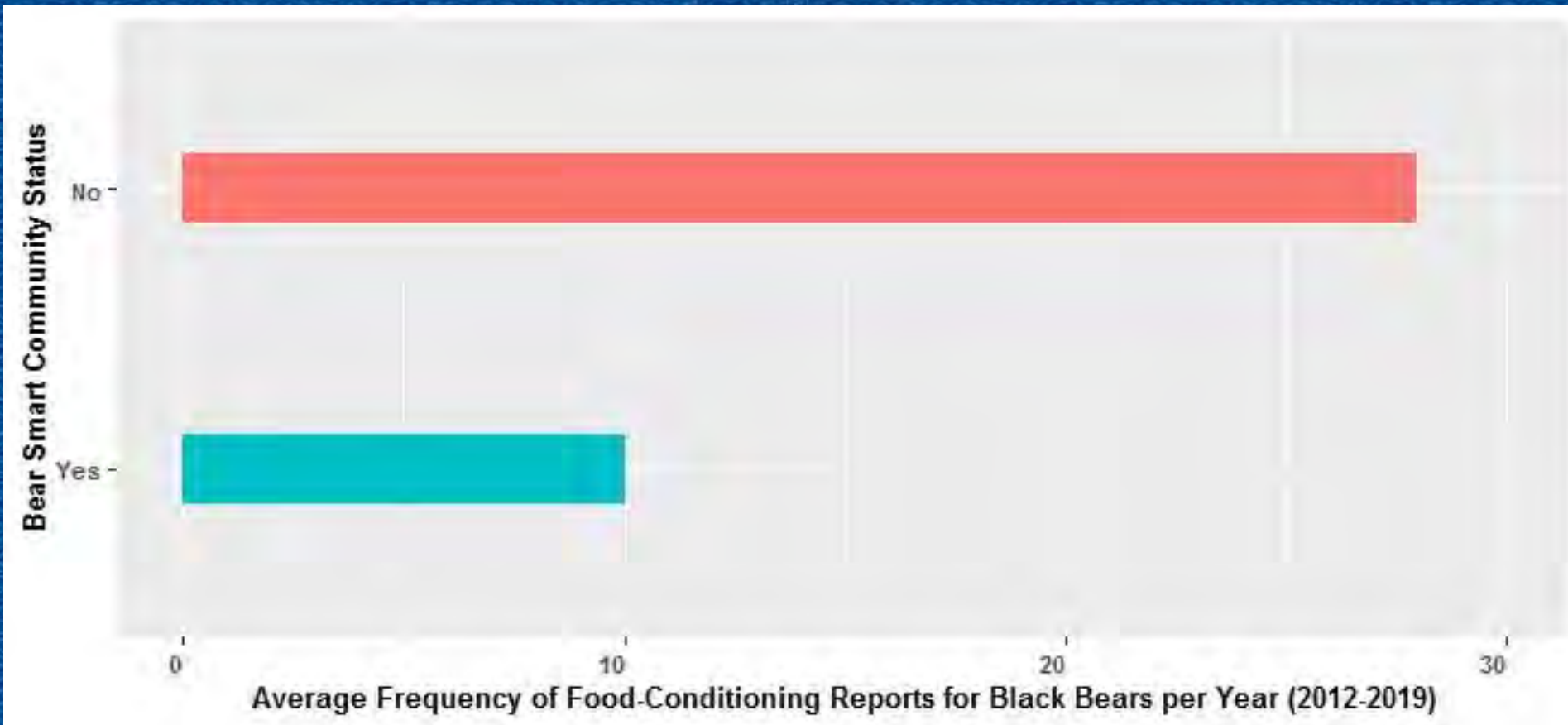
Over 20 communities pursuing Bear Smart criteria.

Bear Smart Successes

Average Number of Bears Killed Due to Conflict



Bear Smart Successes



Questions



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife/bears/bear-smart>

Issue...

There have been visible successes in participating communities, however, despite broad efforts we still see:

- high levels of human-bear conflict in many communities that are still not engaged in the program.
- individuals in participating communities that still do not take responsibility for proper management of bear attractants.



Objectives of the Review

This review looked specifically at opportunities to:

- Measure and improve the effectiveness of the Bear Smart Communities Program.
- Identify other opportunities to enhance the program and foster collaborative initiatives.
- Increase the number of communities attaining and sustaining official Bear Smart Community status.



Methodology

Eight designated Bear Smart Communities invited to participate in a survey to discuss successes and challenges.



Survey conducted by telephone interviews structured in ten questions that were shared before the interview.

Research Findings

Foster a sense of shared stewardship

Recommendations

Provide consistent support and direction, backed by strong policy and regulation



Research Findings

Build continuity and consistency in local Bear Smart programs

Recommendations

Formalize local stewardship groups as a key criteria

Celebrate success



Research Findings

Municipalities to be informed and aligned regarding conflicts and response

Recommendations

Increased focus on outreach, particularly when a bear has been destroyed.



Research Findings

Focus on behaviour and act in a way that matters to people

Recommendations

Reframe the messaging to align with the audience

Focus on effective behavior change



Acknowledgements

BC Bear Working Group



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

