

## **OPSRRA Wildlife Interaction Survey Comments:** **Do you have any suggestions or concerns about wildlife in your neighbourhood?**

I definitely would support a regulation by which it would be illegal to put garbage outdoors/on the street the night before the morning of garbage pickup. I would also support enforcement of such regulation with fines of \$100 (not some token amount) per violation. This would not be difficult to enforce as it would take only one drive around the neighbourhood on Sunday night, taking note and possibly a photo as evidence at all the offending addresses. If the offenders don't pay the fines then add it to their annual property tax invoice. This is a no-brainer and yet there are idiots who continually/consistently put their garbage out the night before pickup for some reason. These morons are not only harming the bears, but they are also endangering the people who are their neighbours. Education won't change the attitudes of this lazy minority, but a regulation, enforcement and some hefty fines would do the trick, and I believe would be supported by the large majority who are responsible and conscientious in managing their garbage.

it would be great to have a number we could call to report people that don't use safe practice. Talking to neighbours just doesn't seem to work.

With the excessive removal of trees in our area, there is no place for the animals to go.

Provide a supply source for bear proof garbage containers like the parks have.

Get the word out about bird feeders and fallen fruit and compost with posters at the mailboxes.

We might have more if we were employed earning a living off the land or through animal husbandry. We accept indigenous wildlife is part of our rural environment and enjoy it while adopting strategies over the drawbacks and dangers. We do get concerns when we see loss of a major stretch of habitat or if a local resident who doesn't take steps to avoid attractants, although that's not a major issue immediately around us.

We actually suffer more petty nuisance from feral cats and peacocks!

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Our Community needs to support an educational program. We need the WildSafeBC program in this community.. to teach us how to keep wild life wild and keep our communities safe. We live in a area that has lots of wild life. Most people do not know how to live and co exist with wild life! They need to be educated on attraction management. Education. When we first moved to otter pt. we stored our garbage/dog food inappropriately.. After a year of 'problems' with bears..and talking to our neighbours we learned how to do things the right way.now the bears walk through the property.... As they did before we built here.

People moving into communities such as ours should be aware of the wildlife before their move, instead of being surprised that the wildlife would be in their backyard.

we have bears regularly in Shirley.

we are concerned with the numbers of bears, as we keep seeing different ones every time.

we see 4-5 bears per month of varying sizes.

it is great being in bear country, and can manage having them around but we fear for neighbourhood children and pets.

If you have children out here, you should have a dog of substance. I don't hesitate to walk through my acreage for fear of cats but they are there and can snatch a child, quite brazenly, and disappear into the bush in a few seconds. A dog is not only great alarm and defence but a fuse as well.

Secondly, most people are either far too afraid of bears, or worse, not afraid enough. Bears, even smaller ones can be suddenly aggressive if startled or threatened with no escape route. But for the most part they just want an easy meal or access to wherever they want to go. They are seldom a threat to livestock, more so to defensive dogs. We raise a few sheep and cattle - cougars have killed numerous sheep, never touched a cow, killed one dog and a few swats at the next. And they never use the gates those darn bears, just climb over the fence...

Cars are far more danger to us than wildlife. Look at the accident reports - there are far, far more injuries and deaths on the road than there are from bears and cougars ( and yes, a few of those accidents are from hitting wildlife, but it's not the deer or bear that's travelling at over 60k)

We are living in their home - it is up to us to learn to safely co-exist

We should try to remember that we have intruded on their turf and it is up to us to coexist without further harm to them.

It's upsetting when my neighbours feed the deer because this tends to attract the bears. It also results in the deer coming onto my property more than I would like.

I think those that can't be bothered to co-exist with wildlife if they live in a rural area should be fined (or something like that; I realize this is not a realistic option but I don't know if there are other reasonable actions).

The deer are the worst. We also have to deal with large numbers of invasive grey squirrels. Raccoons afflict injuries on dogs and cats. The bears are fascinating. This their land too!

My only concern is the odd raccoon trying to get at my chickens....but it is up to me to protect the chickens properly. My dogs bark to keep any Bears at a distance and I leave nothing of interest to the Bears that is accessible.

They are here to stay. With the rare 'issues' surrounding rural wild animal attacks on livestock and small pets, the directly involved people should be able to deal with the circumstance preferably with a Conservation Officer ( in extremely short supply to cover our vast area). Humans have to answer for their actions, look after their garbage and orchards, eliminating temptation for the otherwise innocent wildlife just trying to co-exist.