



WILDLIFE CONFLICTS COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORT

Wild Predator-Livestock Protection Program (2014-15)

The number of verifications performed for cattle losses were average last year, with 88 done by the COS and 61 by producers (149 in total, compared to 139 in 2013-14 and 164 in 2012-13). Forty-one percent of verifications were completed by producers, an increase over 36% done last year. Verification training continues to be delivered by the COS to producers as required.

The BCCA has also been tracking livestock losses by surveying their membership (22% return).

The Cariboo is again highest with ranchers averaging 10% losses (2.5% across province). In some areas ranchers are giving up grazing licences due to excessive losses. Losses are not limited to dead or injured livestock but also include harassment and associated weight loss that carries a heavy cost to the producer that does not qualify for compensation.

Predator response statistics 2014-15

Number of Black bears removed was up significantly in 2014-15 (90 destroyed compared to 31 in 2013-14 and 41 in 2012-13). Wolf removal was also up (60 compared to 45 and 41, respectively) while cougar were down (26 compared to 49 and 39).

Predator	Number of Calls	Number Attended	Destroyed by COS	Destroyed by Other	Total Destroyed	Translocated	Hazed	Cubs to Rehab
Black Bear	298	105	58	32	90	0	8	2
Grizzly Bear	32	14	3	4	7	0	0	0
Cougar	172	101	20	6	26	0	1	0
Wolf	133	64	45	15	60	0	0	0
Coyote	81	19	18	5	23	0	0	0
Unknown	65	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	781	332	144	62	206	0	9	2

Due in part to lack of resources for Conservation Officers and the difficulty in responding in a timely manner to remote locations, in early 2016 the livestock protection program reverted back to the BC Cattlemen s Association to administer and deliver, under government oversight. Qualified producers and trappers will respond and verify reports of predation on livestock by wolves and coyotes. Cases involving other predators, such as bears and cougars, will continue to be managed by the COS.



2015 YEAR END REPORT

Continued ...

Reports of human-wildlife conflicts to the COS and other sources for all species are available on the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program hosted by the BC Conservation Foundation: <http://www.wildsafebc.com/WARP> .

Wildlife Health

There are a number of wildlife health related topics of interest, including the Domestic/Wild Sheep Separation Program, Psoroptic mange (*Psoroptes ovis*), Chronic Wasting Disease, etc. I am going to take an easy out here – Dr. Helen Schwantje, Provincial Wildlife Veterinarian (www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth), is attending our 2016 AGM/Convention and will present members with a synoptic update of wildlife health issues in the province. Following convention her presentation should be available on our website.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Doug Janz
Wildlife Conflicts Committee Chair