



British Columbia

For Immediate Release

The British Columbia Conservation Officer Service is seeking to remind the public that bears are getting ready for hibernation and are actively seeking any available food sources.

In 2019, The Conservation Officer Service has received an exceptionally high volume of dangerous wildlife complaints. Several bears have been euthanized because of poor attractant management and husbandry practices. Each situation was human caused and preventable. The Conservation Officer Service will be conducting audits of all unsecured attractants in local communities. Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders will be issued stating attractants must be removed within a set time frame. The public is reminded that it is an offence under the Wildlife Act to have attractants accessible to dangerous wildlife and to feed dangerous wildlife. Any non-compliance will result in Conservation Officers issuing violation tickets and fines.

As bears prepare themselves for hibernation, they seek any possible food source to build fat reserves for the upcoming winter. Common food sources within the urban setting include bird seed (from feeders), household garbage and fruit trees. It is important to ensure that all bird seed is removed from feeders and any spillage has been cleaned up. Household garbage and compost must be securely stored in a location that is inaccessible to dangerous wildlife. Fruit from fruit trees is a major attractant for dangerous wildlife and must be picked and removed. The Conservation Officer Service also suggests that if homeowners are no longer planning to utilize their fruit trees, that they remove them.

The Conservation Officer Service asks for communities to work together to be a part of the solution instead of a part of the problem because a fed bear is a dead bear.

Anyone who wishes to report incidents involving wildlife is requested to contact the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

**Ministry of
Environment**

Conservation
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