

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025**

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**SUBJECT**     **Wildlife Attractants in the Capital Region**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To report on activities related to working with municipalities to develop consistent policies and bylaws to limit wildlife attractants.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 8, 2024, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board directed staff, through a Motion with Notice, to work with municipalities to develop consistent policies and bylaws to limit wildlife attractants and prevent bear-human interactions.

CRD staff are in the process of reaching out to municipalities and electoral areas in the region to gauge interest in and create a participant list for the establishment of a wildlife attractants working group. The working group will provide opportunities for local governments to collaborate, share knowledge and develop policies for limiting wildlife attractants due to improperly managed waste. Working group goals would include identifying current issues, outlining potential steps to resolve issues, identifying and promoting policy development and exploring bylaw options in relation to waste management practices causing human-wildlife conflicts.

The creation of a proposed working group, focused on discussing limiting bear attractants, was brought to the Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group (LGWRWG). The LGWRWG membership includes representatives from 12 municipalities. Limiting wildlife attractants has been a topic of regular discussion at subsequent LGWRWG meetings where discussions focused on challenges faced by different municipalities, sharing of resources and updates on initiatives. Two municipalities have already expressed interest in participating in a wildlife attractants working group, namely District of Saanich and the Town of View Royal. The Town of View Royal has been a key contributor and has provided valuable insights into their process for implementing initiatives focused on limiting wildlife attractants in their municipality.

The Wildlife Attractant Bylaw Toolkit produced for Get Bear Smart Society (Appendix A) will be proposed as one of the main guidance documents brought forward to the working group for consideration. The toolkit provides insights into creating a stand-alone wildlife bylaw as well as options for incorporating wildlife attractant considerations into existing bylaws such as solid waste bylaws. Further guidance will come from the Ministry of Environment and Parks' "Bear Smart" Community Program. The program outlines a series of criteria for communities to follow to address root causes of human-bear interactions. The "Bear Smart" Community Program Background Report (Appendix B) outlines a series of steps and procedures to reduce the frequency of human-bear conflicts and requires a shift from reactive management of bears to a proactive management of attractants, such as solid waste.

**CONCLUSION**

Capital Regional District (CRD) staff were directed to work with municipalities to develop consistent policies and bylaws to limit wildlife attractants across the region. Staff will invite municipalities and electoral areas to participate in a wildlife attractants working group. The working group will consider tools, including the Wildlife Attractant Bylaw Toolkit and the Bear Smart Community Program to identify and address root causes of human-bear interactions and consider corresponding policy or bylaw development. If established, staff will share updates on wildlife attractants working group findings with the Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group, Environmental Services Committee and the CRD Board.

**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Get Bear Smart Society - Wildlife Attractant Bylaw Toolkit (2022)
- Appendix B: "Bear Smart" Community Program: Background Report (March 2002)