

Wildsight Golden Annual General Meeting - March 11, 2026



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Land Acknowledgement

Ancestral territory of the Ktunaxa people

Shared with the Secwepemc people

Home to the Métis Nation Columbia River Society



Who is Wildsight Golden?

Branch Manager:

Monica Taylor

2025-26 Board of Directors:

Mathew Zaleski (Chair), Joan Dolinsky, Aita Bezzola, Christian Schlumpf,
Else Bosman, Kellie Sych, David Geselbracht, Bastien Lye, Meg Langley

2025-26 Contractors:

Rachel Darvill, Meg Langley, Verena Shaw, Ashley Lang

2026 AGM Minutes and Attendance



Call to order: 7:09 pm

- Land Acknowledgement by Graham Lee Rowlands
- Matthew Zaleski provided an introduction about Wildsight and some of the things that were achieved over the last years. The Board of Directors introduced themselves, Monica Taylor introduced herself and gave thanks to the volunteers and contractors.
- The 2026 agenda was presented and approved, none opposed.
- Motion to approve 2025 AGM minutes: moved by Bastien Lye, seconded by Joan Dolinsky, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report

- David Geselbracht provided a treasurer's report.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Joan Dolinsky, seconded by Matthew Zaleski. All in favour, none opposed.

Annual report

- Outreach, events, environmental education, and programs and projects presented by Monica Taylor (Branch Manager), Joan Dolinsky (Board Members), Mathew Zaleski (Chair) and Rachel Darvill (Contractor).

Member feedback, questions, and discussion

- Questions were asked about the cost savings of the invasive plant program; the status of the reflection lake project, and an update about the Air Quality Program.

Election of the Board of Directors

- Conducted by Monica Taylor. Motion by Denise English to adopt the slate as presented, David Geselbracht seconds the motion. None opposed. Continuing candidates: Joan Dolinsky, Aita Bezzola, Mathew Zaleski, Christian Schlumpf, Else Bosman, David Geselbracht, Bastien Lye.
- Nominations were asked from the floor 3 times, no other nominations, nomination closed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Present:

Rachel Darvill, John Jenkins, Elliott Darville-Jenkins, Calvin Beauchesne, Christian Schlumpf, Mathew Zaleski, David Geselbracht, Monica Taylor, Joos Hartman (non-member), Bastien Lye, Else Bosman, Aita Bezzola, Graeme Lee Rowland, Hanna Sander-Green, Joanne Lamoureux, Denise English, Camille Des Rosiers - Ste. Marie, Christine Bernier, Jane Bellward, Ron Ozust, and Bob Toothill

Treasurer's report



Profit and Loss: How much money have we made, and spent, from Feb 1, 2025 to Jan 31, 2026.

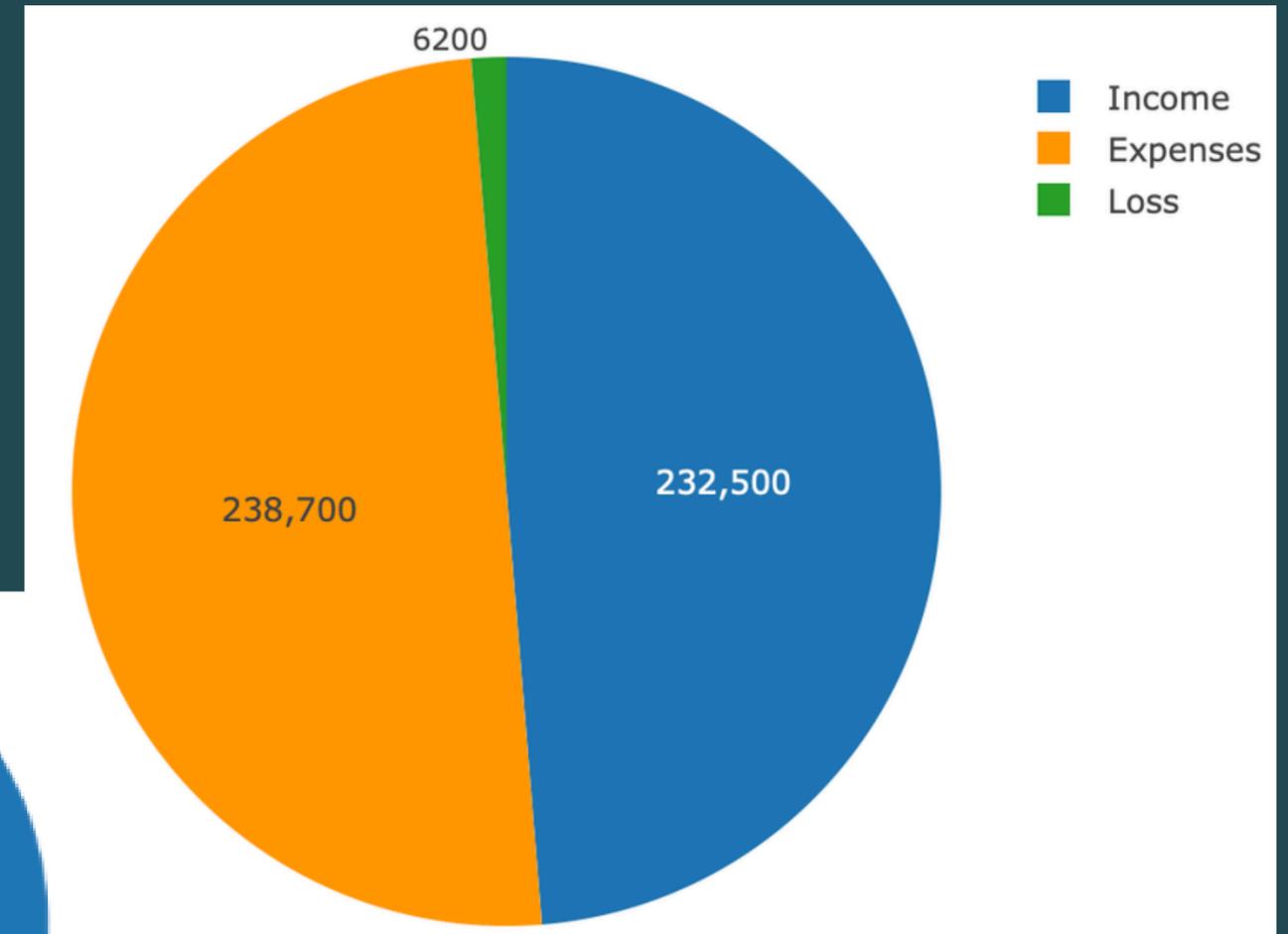
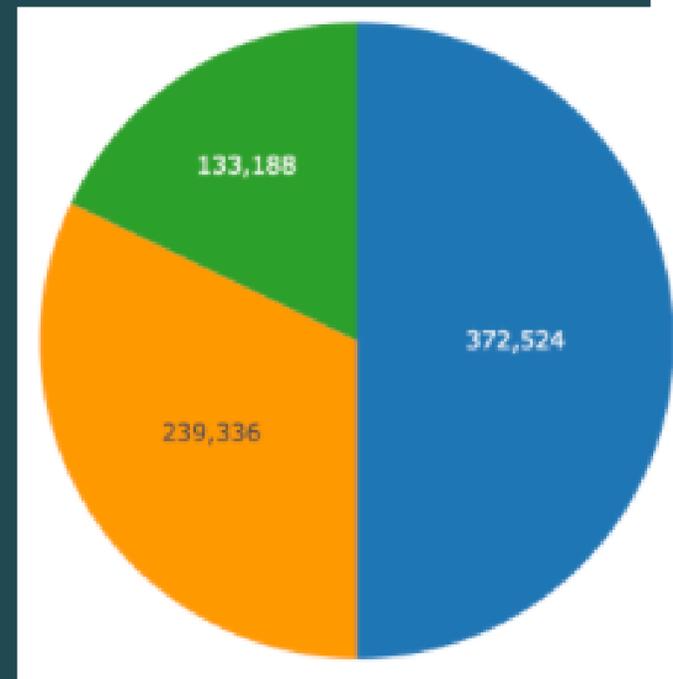
Key Points:

\$6200 loss (but in 2025 we allocated \$12k from Reserve Funds to cover this).

Also look at January: Where did the \$133k go?

- Majority of this money has been rolled over to the new fiscal year.
- This money included: New Gaming funds, unspent Air Quality and Upper Columbia Swallow Project \$

January 



Treasurer's report



Balance Sheet: A snapshot of WG's financial position at the current moment

- What we own (assets)
- What we owe to others (liabilities)
- What's left over (equity)

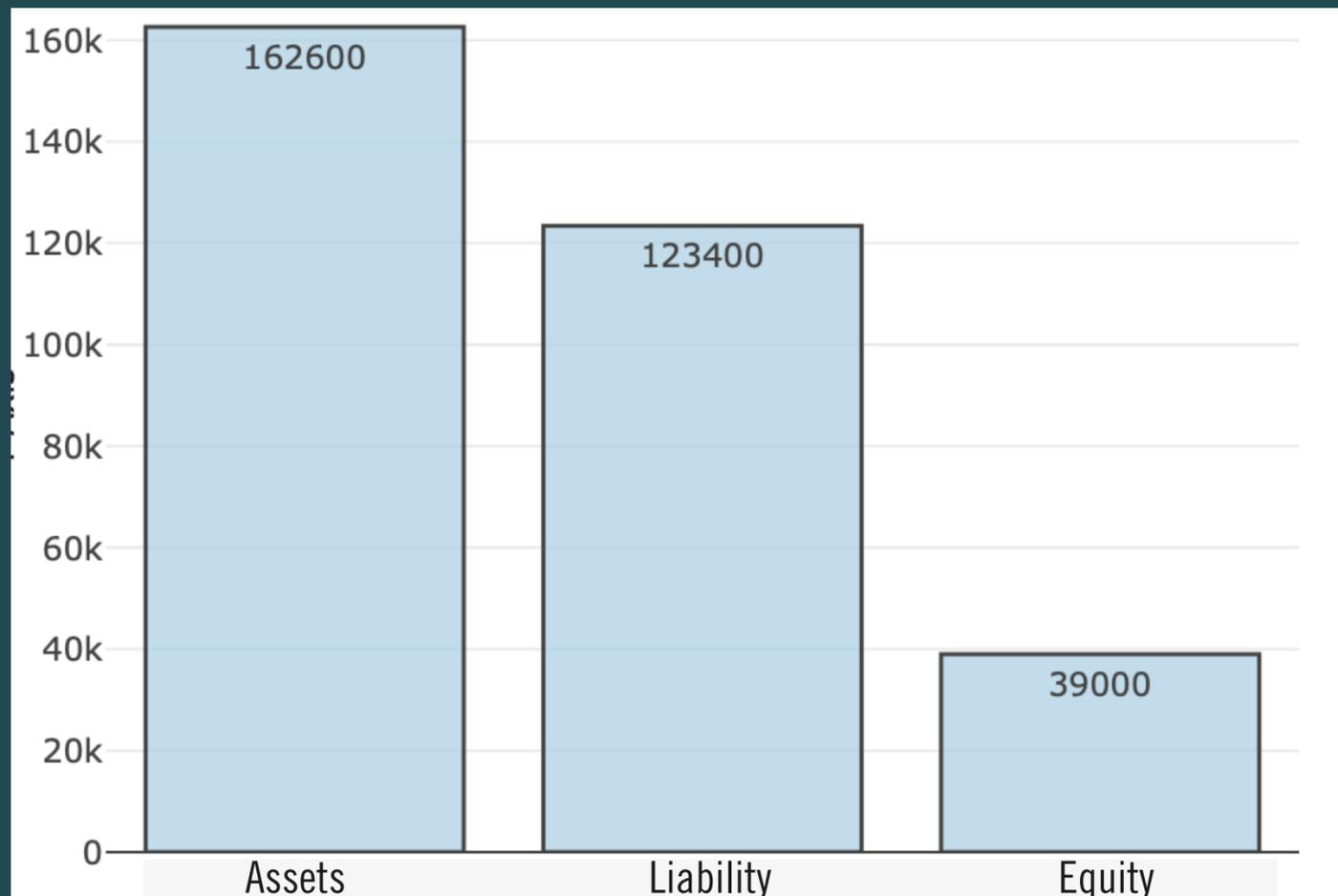
Key Points:

As previous graph, Liabilities here are the left-over restricted funds we transferred to 2026.

- In QuickBooks called "Deferred Income"
- From: Air Quality, new Gaming, UCSHEP etc.

Equity, here, is essentially our Operating Reserve.

- Note: The \$6200 "loss" from last fiscal year was covered by This Operating Reserve, and this was approved at the start of last fiscal year.



Treasurer's report



Budget vs Actuals:

- How much money we budgeted for last fiscal (Budget)
- Where we ended up (Actuals)

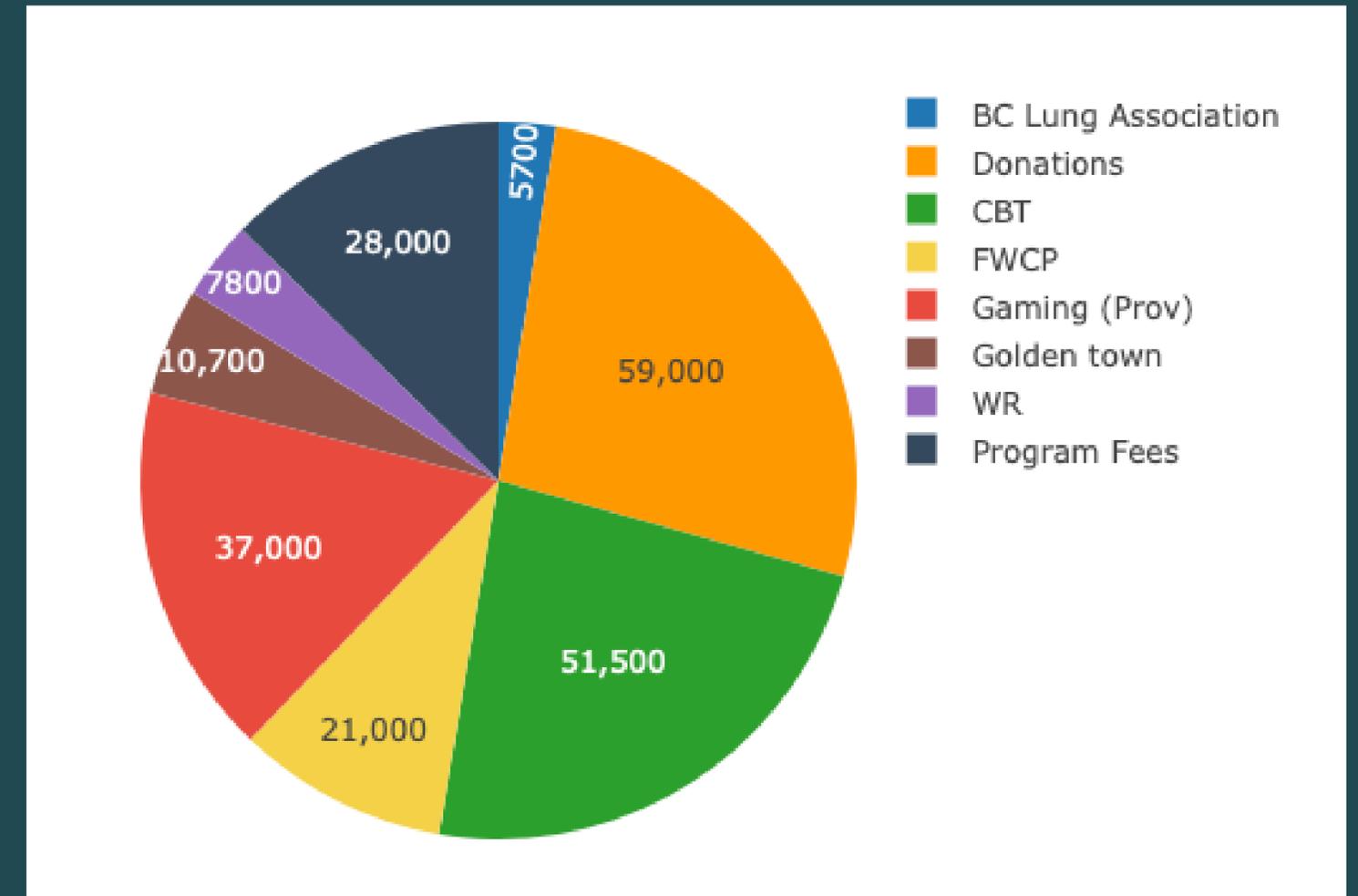
Overall:

- The Budget had income at \$299K
- The Actual income was \$232.5K (about \$73K below budget)

However, WSG spent less than what was budgeted, at \$238.7K

As discussed in previous slides, the difference between \$232.5K and \$238.7K was the \$6200 covered by the reserve funds.

Large income sources:



Annual report - Fundraising



We hosted a very successful Wild & Scenic Film Festival in October along with a silent auction, raising \$6000 to support our ongoing conservation and environmental education work.



THANK YOU to all of our generous sponsors!!

Annual report - Community Outreach & Environmental Education



Earth day clean up and potluck - 36.5kg garbage collected!



Barrier mural painting - swallows in flight

Annual report - Community Outreach & Environmental Education



Annual Migratory Bird Day Breakfast & guided bird watching walk



3rd Annual Bear Festival - keeping bears wild! Talks (+ bear spray demos!) from our local CO, WildSafeBC, bear guide, Parks Canada and grizzly bear refuge.



+ Naturalist presentations at the library throughout the year (orchids, spiders...)

Annual report - Get Wild! Summer Camp



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Mission: “To inspire youth to connect with our community and nature through fun inclusive outdoor activities”.

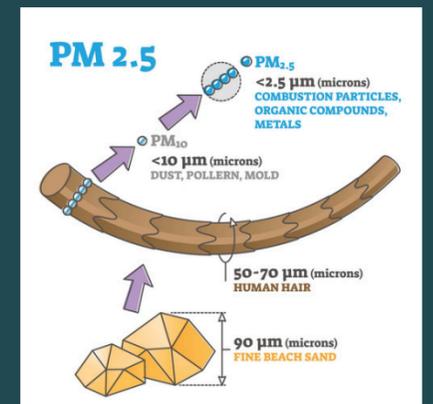
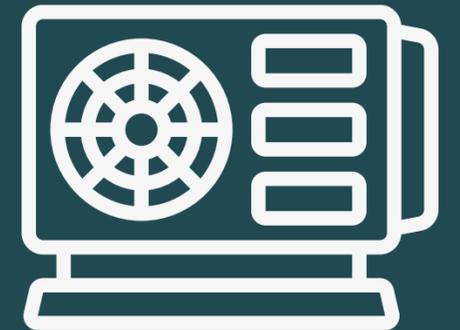
In 2025 we subsidised the camp costs of 5 at-risk kids, thanks to a donation from the Columbia Valley Credit Union and the sale of camp hats.

The *11th Annual* Get Wild! Camp. 7 weeks, with 12 kids in each week, ages 6-10.

Annual report - Air Quality



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Public outreach on clean wood burning practices, health impacts of air pollution, air quality data in Golden; delivery of the community wood smoke reduction rebate program; a DIY air filter workshop; a film; and much more!



Annual report - EV Car Share



The program was discontinued in Golden due to lack of 24/7 operational capacity. The car was handed over to Wildsight Invermere at the start of 2026 for their Spark Program.

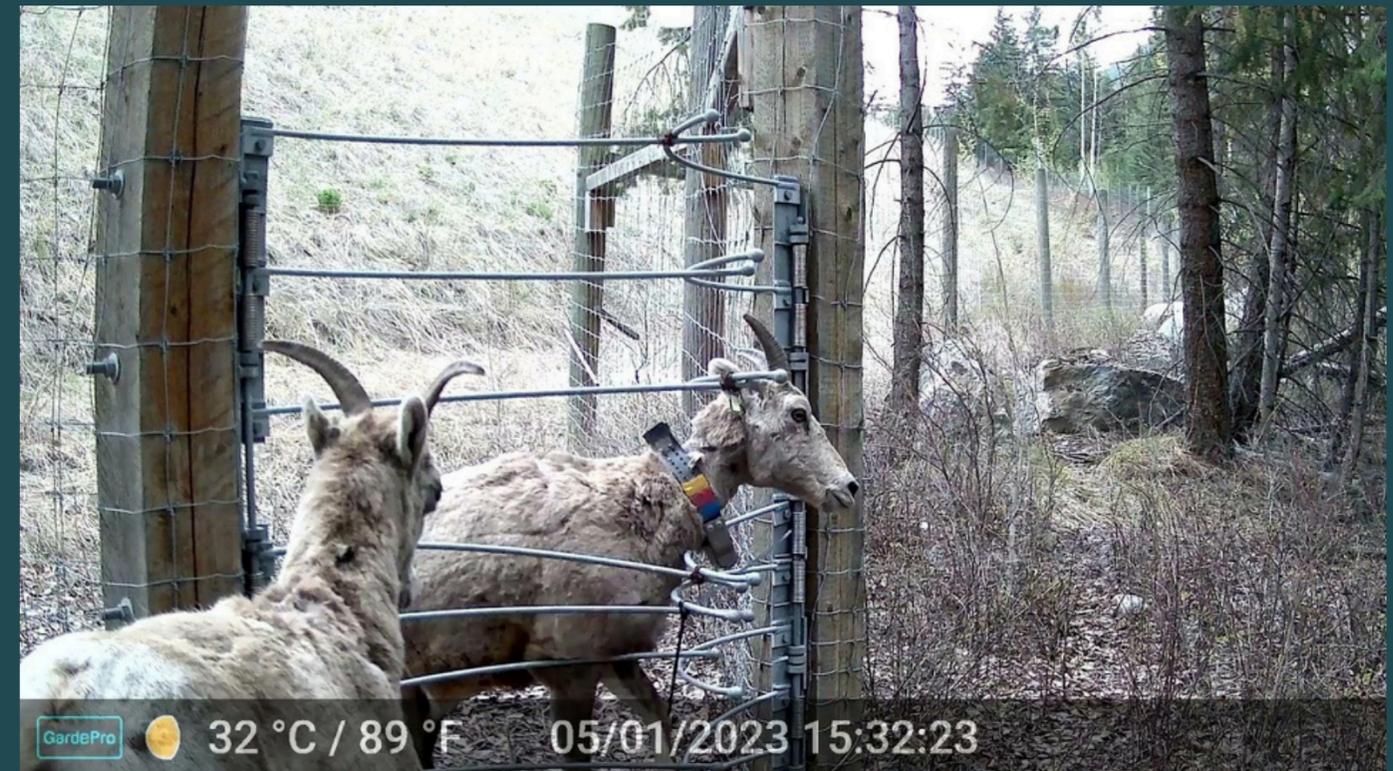
The sale of the car reimbursed \$20K to the Town of Golden (recouping public expense) and Wildsight Golden received the remaining \$4K to cover some of the insurance costs incurred. We unfortunately close this program at a financial loss.

Annual report - Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep



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Project wrap up in 2026 with the publication of a paper on the use of exit structures in wildlife exclusion fencing.



Findings from 3.5 years of remote-sensing imagery from cameras positioned at 3 jumpouts and five exit gates installed in wildlife fencing in the Kicking Horse Canyon. Over 400 of these structures exist in BC alone and little is known about their use or impacts.

Annual report - Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep



- Bighorn sheep were more likely to use these structures to access the highway than to exit with high success rates in both directions. Our findings led to closing the gates and adding height to the jumpouts after which sheep were no longer able to enter the highway corridor thereby reducing highway mortality, the main limiting factor on this small group of sheep.
- Eighteen other species also used or passed by the exit structures during the study period but only bighorn sheep used them to gain access to the highway corridor.
- Both mule deer and white-tailed deer had low success on attempts to exit at jumpouts; however, white-tailed deer successfully exited at gates, unlike mule deer.



Recommendations:

- The many exit gates in BC should be evaluated and closed in areas with bighorn sheep, and jumpouts should be made higher in areas where bighorn sheep are present.
- Wildlife managers should ensure that habitat needs are met outside of the fenced highway corridor and eliminate attractants that might be incentives for wildlife to access the highway.

Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



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Participate in Ministry of Forestry Processes

- Respond to proposed cutblocks by PWT, Canfor, and BCTS
- Invited to participate in provincial forestry advisory council
- Participate in community forest application
- Participate in wildfire risk reduction committee
- Prepare to comment on upcoming Timber Supply Review

More generally, advocate for preservation of biodiversity

- protection of inland temperate rainforest (ITR) north of Golden
- protection of caribou range

Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



Timber Supply Review (TSR) for the Golden Timber Supply Area (TSA)

A new timber supply analysis and review is underway for the Golden TSA

The analysis eventually results in BC chief forester setting the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for our area AND allocating volume

- Too high AAC forces local logging companies to be aggressive.
- Too low AAC reduces profit
- Analysis done by computer models
- At various stages the public is consulted
- Forestry committee aims to help community prepare!

We ran several public education events about the problems/process which started March 2025



Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



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Timber Supply Review (TSR) may ignore old growth and caribou range

The TSR ignores spatial considerations.

- It estimates timber supply from estimates of forested areas of our region. Kind of like using a spreadsheet instead of a map for directions...

It may be allowed to ignore old growth deferrals

- Namely pretend that the area of harvestable forest is unchanged by old growth deferrals

It may be allowed to ignore caribou range

- Even though federal law says caribou are endangered and hence their ranges must be protected the TSR process may fail to “net down” available timber by the area of the caribou range.

We believe that neglecting these spatial considerations stands in the way of preserving biodiversity and healthy populations of wildlife.



Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



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UBC visited Golden last summer looking for sites for field visits.

Many local forestry folks met with them, including representatives from Wildsight, local government, community forest and wildfire.

Very successful get to know — first field trip to occur in May 2026.



Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



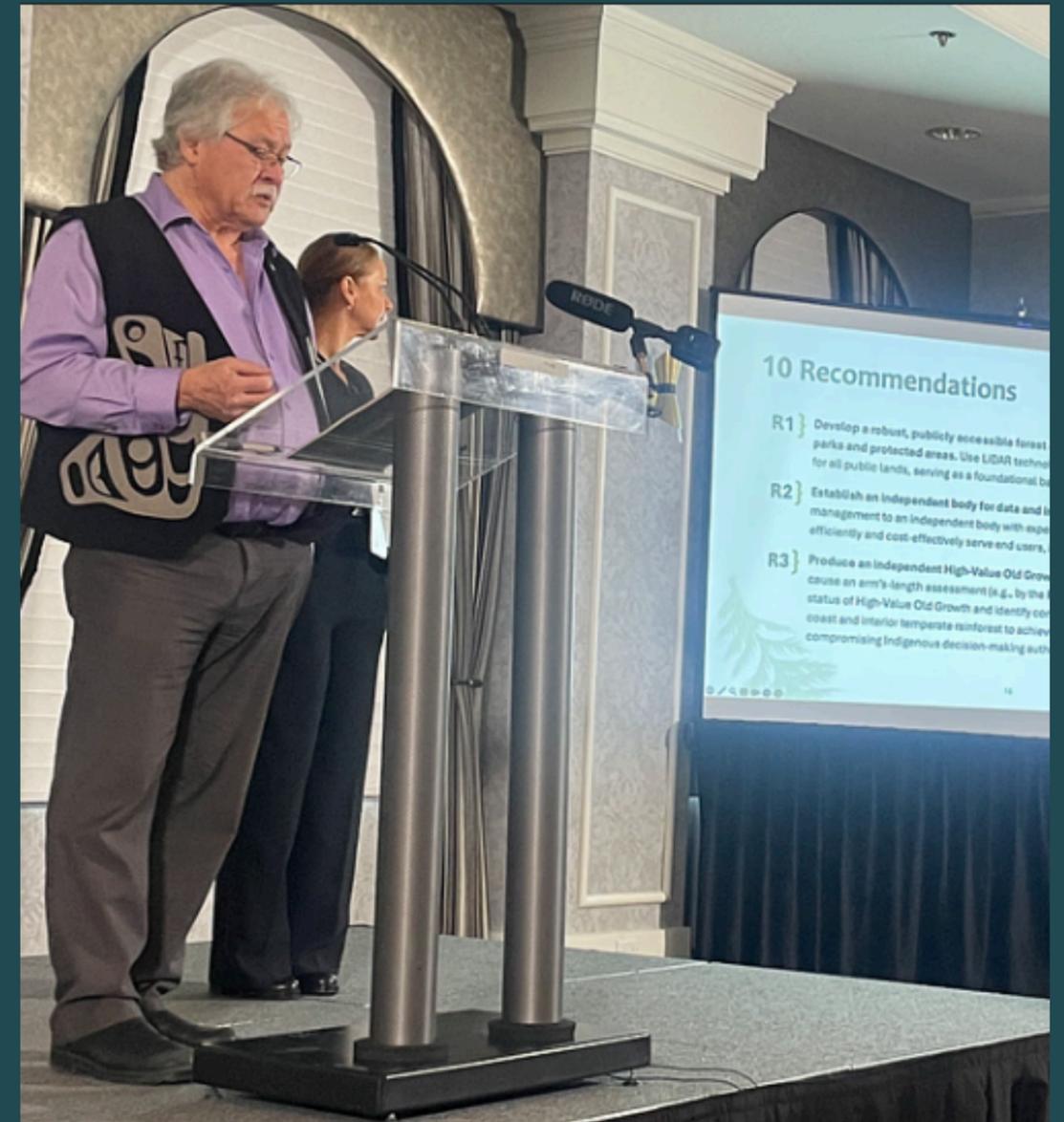
Provincial Forestry Advisory Council

At least partially due to the relationships formed by the UBC visit, Wildsight was invited to the PFAC presentation in Victoria (see pfac.ca/)

They have recommended a radical change to how forests are managed.

- Regionally managed, spatially analyzed.
- Hypothetical new legislation would provide guard rails to preserve biodiversity
- Address many of the issues we have with MoF
- Presumably requires local operators to cooperatively manage their region

A lot of work to operationalize their suggestions

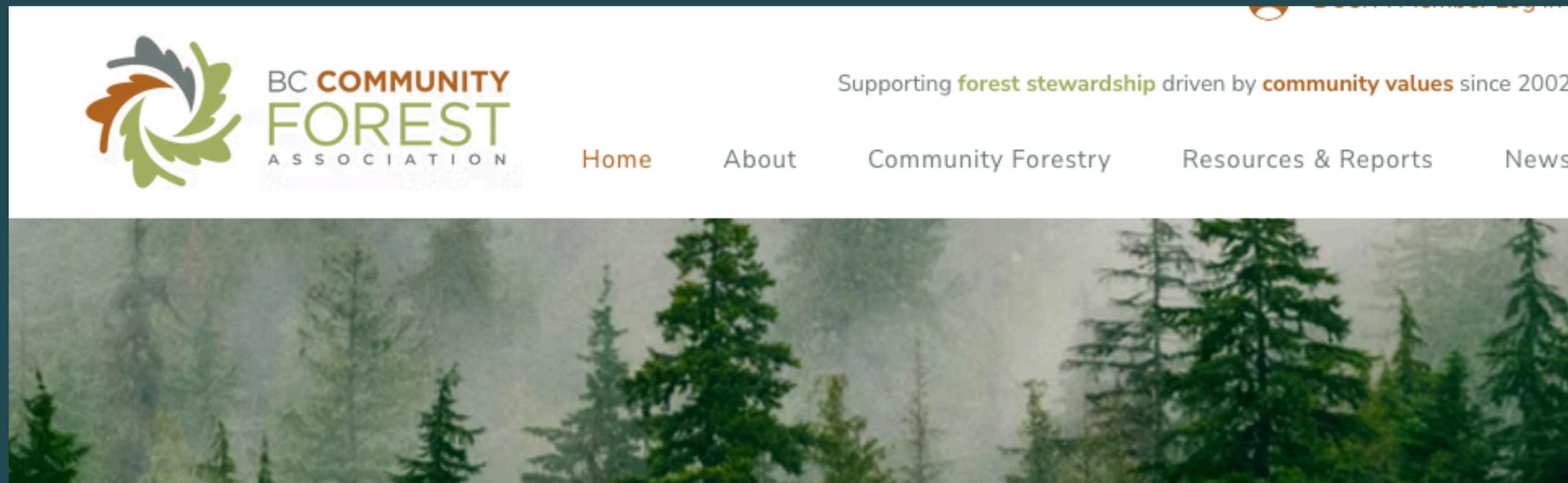


Annual report - Forestry and Conservation



Community Forest

- Committee from Golden, led by local foresters, working towards Community Forest in our area.
- A working forest with obligatory harvest volumes but area based and locally controlled. Profit stays local.
- This year Wildsight was invited to sit on the board
- The application was well received by the minister and we are optimistic that this time is for sure!



Annual report - ITR Mycoblitz



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Short, intensive survey focused on documenting as many fungal species as possible within a specific area and time period, similar to a BioBlitz but dedicated entirely to fungi.

Participating helps document the remarkable fungal diversity of the Inland Temperate Rainforest (ITR), a globally unique ecosystem that is increasingly threatened by logging and development.



By recording species, participants may discover rare, at-risk, or even previously unknown fungi, while also generating valuable inventory data that supports conservation.



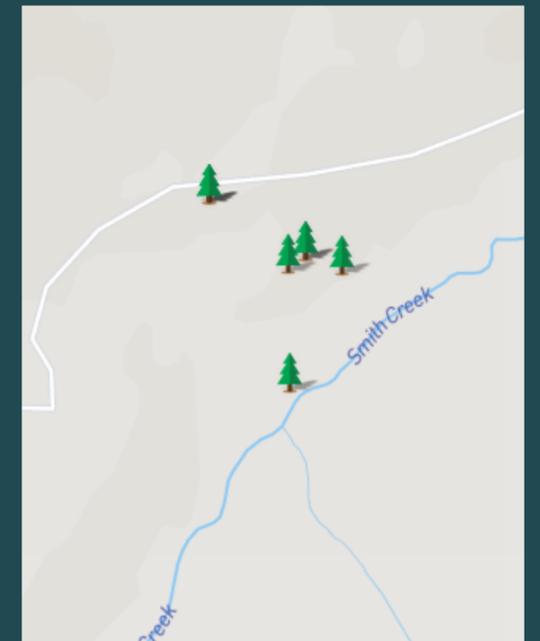
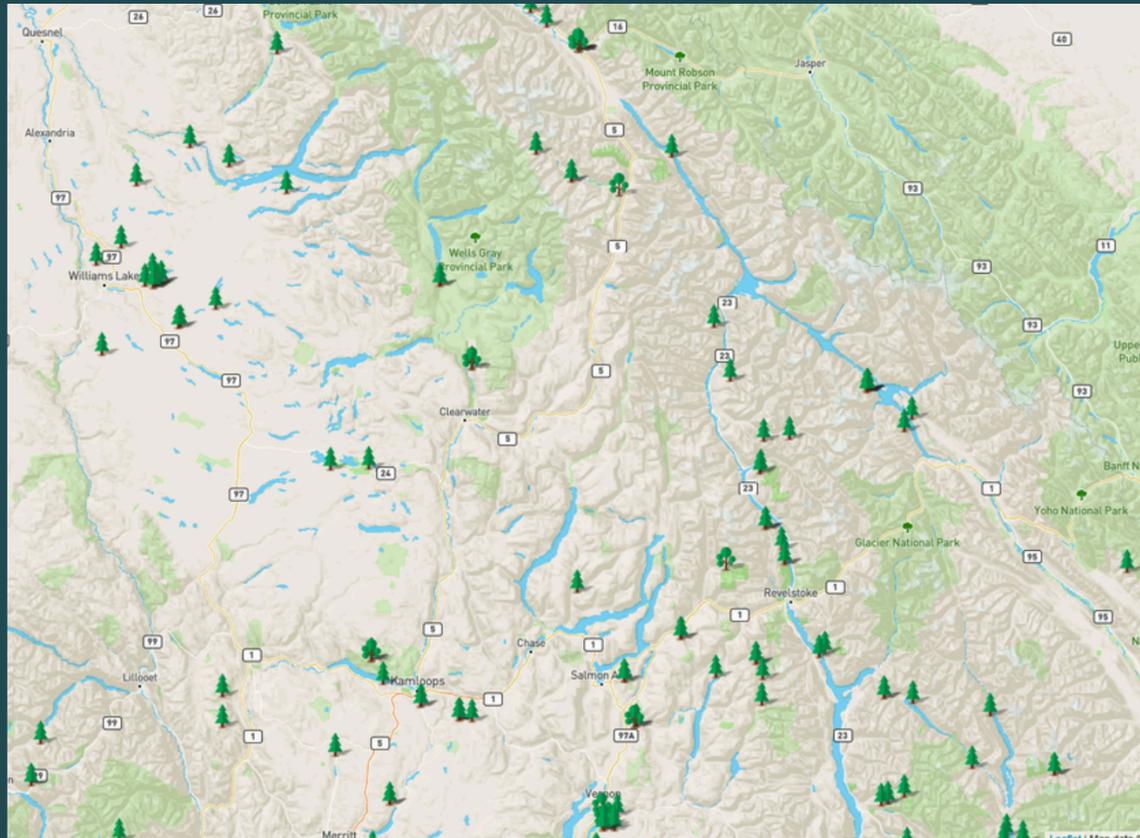
2nd year of participation! In October, 5 WSG members collected specimens from Smith Creek for Intercontinental Mycoblitz to start to ID some fungi in local ITR forest. 10 specimens were processed and mailed for lab ID.



Annual report - Big Tree Registry



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Mandate: To identify, describe, monitor, and conserve the largest trees of each species within British Columbia, and to educate and enlist the help of its citizens in this task.

6 WSG members documented some Big Trees at Smith Creek. Took measurements (e.g., DBH, crown spread, height), verified by RPBio. Submitted applications and 4 more trees were visible in the online Registry, as of January 2026.

Annual report - Tree Swallow Nesting Box Project



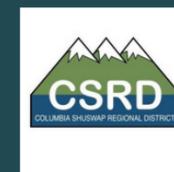
To support declining populations of Tree Swallows by enhancing local breeding habitat and contributing to natural mosquito control efforts.

Key Results:

- 85% of nest boxes (17 out of 20) were used to some extent by Tree Swallows during the breeding season.
- 12 boxes hosted Tree Swallow eggs, 11 boxes had chicks, and 10 boxes successfully **fledged a total of 43 Tree Swallows.**
- Clutch sizes averaged 5 eggs, with 74% hatching success and 93.5% fledgling success among hatched chicks.
- Other species, such as Eastern Kingbirds and Black-capped Chickadees, also made use of the nest infrastructure at Edelweiss Slough and produced fledglings at the nest boxes.



Thank you to the CSRD for financial support!



Annual report - UCSHEP

Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project (2021-2026)



Bank and Barn Swallows (aerial insectivores) have been facing significant population declines (>91% and 76% respectively).



Major goals of 5 year UCSHEP:

- Identify important breeding locations for bank and barn swallows.
- Provide volunteer opportunities.
- Enhance Barn and Bank Swallow habitat.
- Outreach and awareness, include Indigenous knowledge on swallows.
- Assist with providing unprecedented information on the timing and locations of Bank Swallow movements using Motus.



Annual report - UCSHEP



Summary of Inventory, Monitoring & Comms (2021-2025)

- 127 confirmed BANS colonies with 186 total (including those we've never seen BANS at)
- Barn swallow nests located & monitored at 140 structures at 69 sites.
- We've monitored at least 1,817 barn swallow nests!
- Located Cliff Swallows at 59 locations. Highest count for CLSW nests for a single year : 530 nests in 2023!
- Could not have done this without our 168 volunteers!



Communication type	2021-2025
PR in newspaper	18
Presentation	14
eBlast	35
Facebook post	95
Field trip	8
Poster	28
Additional story piece	7
Webinar	4
Training session	51
Private landowner visit	51
Videos created	6
Brochure	2
Interpretive signage	10
Event	8

Annual report - UCSHEP



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Summary of Habitat Enhancements for Barn Swallows

- 7 ANSs for Barn Swallows - 1 used by 2 pairs of BARS; two more had nesting material by end of 2025 breeding season indicating prospecting activity.
- 1 bat/swallow condo - used by bats with 2 BARS nests in 2025.
- Installed 107 nest cups to make existing sites more suitable and attractive for breeding pairs.
- Predator guards were installed on two structures in late 2025 to reduce nest predation risk.
- Restored a barn providing important roosting and breeding habitat for bats and BARS — used by both species shortly after restoration.
- Barn restoration in Edgewater with TNTBC.



Annual report - UCSHEP

Bank Swallow Habitat Enhancement Projects



Substrate mound before sloping work



Bank Swallow burrows dug first spring.

- Collaboration with District of Invermere prevented removal of an active colony & expanded available breeding habitat. Supported nearly 200 active nests in 2024, down to 36 in 2025.
- An innovative artificial Bank Swallow nesting structure was constructed near Donald on Ducks Unlimited Canada land to address habitat limitations where a re-naturalisation project is underway.
- BANS restoration at Windermere Lake Provincial Park - up from 5 (2021) to 11 active pairs in 2025!
- Birchlands Creek - resloping in 2024 to create habitat that had been destroyed.

Sensitive Nesting Area

Please do not disturb or enter
All pets should be on leash

This area had been enhanced to conserve and expand Bank Swallow breeding habitat, a threatened species.



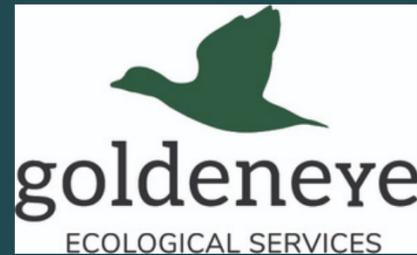
Annual report - UCSHEP



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Annual report - UCSHEP



This project could not occur without volunteers, partners and funders!

Huge thank you to Verena Shaw, program assistant.

Wildsight Golden graciously acknowledges the financial support of the following:



Thank you to the generous contributions of volunteers and landowners, and the following organizations/governments:



Annual report - Community Invasive Plant Program

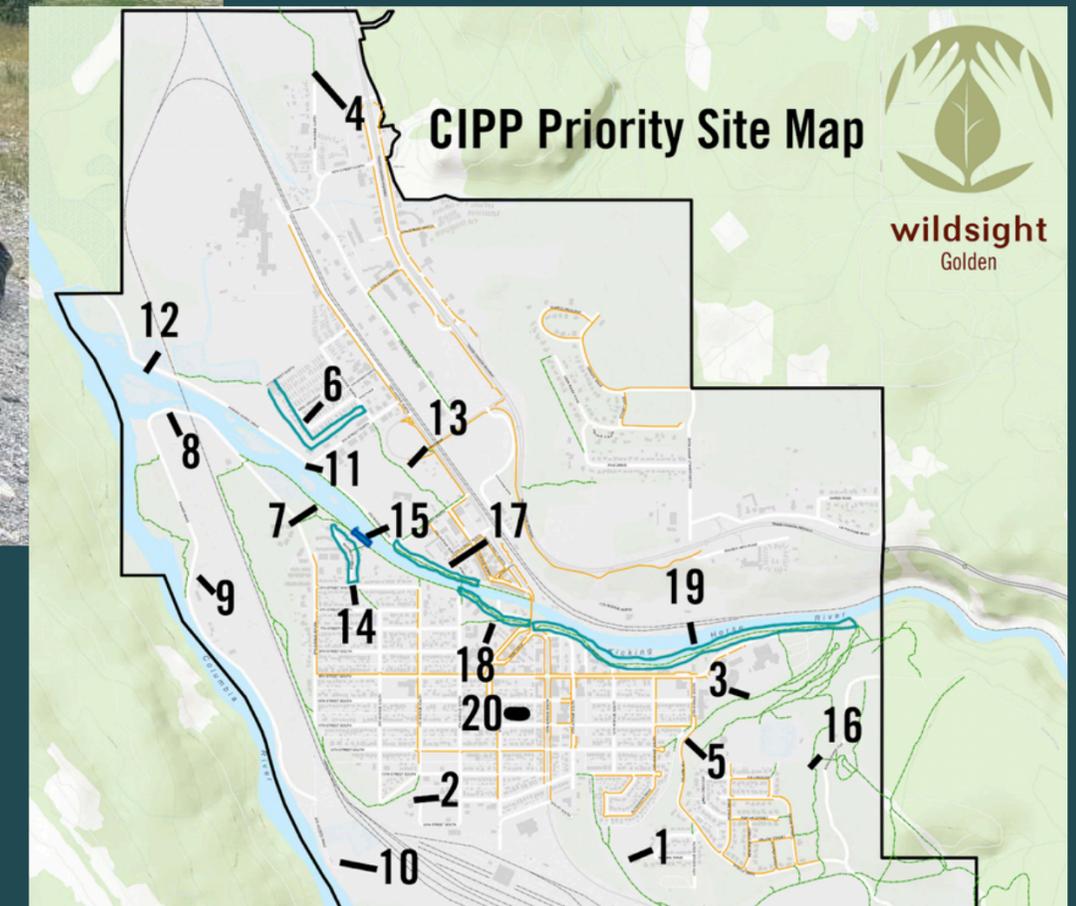


SEASON 16!

Coordinated by Ashley Lang; developed and managed by Rachel Darvill.

Strategies:

- Mechanical (non-toxic) removal of invasive plants
- Restoration with native revegetation
- Outreach and advice about IP's and best practices for removing them.
- 22 Priority sites in 2025



Annual report - Community Invasive Plant Program



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- 2,850 bags of invasive plants have been removed since 2010! (Not including stems/non seedy plants left on the ground).
- Native grass seed planted in restoration areas.
- Tarps to smother aggressive invasives.
- Community Weed Pull events, two in 2025.
- Wildsight Golden's GET WILD! Kids Day.
- Landowner outreach.
- Golden Farmers Markets



Thank you Town of Golden for financial support!

 **RESTORATION SITE**
This site is currently undergoing invasive plant control to help restore the native plant ecology.

At this location: Creeping Bellflower



Tarps have been staked down in an effort to permanently remove Creeping Bellflower in this area. Creeping Bellflower is a noxious invasive plant that is very high on our priority list for removal. If you see Creeping Bellflower in other areas, please report it to wildsightweedprogram@gmail.com.

 Learn more at www.wildsight.ca/invasivespecies 

 Supported by:  

GOLDEN'S 15th ANNUAL COMMUNITY WEED PULL EVENT
Saturday, August 10th 10:00am - 2:00pm
FREE BURRITOS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Come join us to help reduce the spread of invasive plants growing within Golden. Dress for the weather, bring some water, gloves, and come ready to work in exchange for good times and free food!



Please email wildsightweedprogram@gmail.com to RSYP (so we know your burrito order) and to find out the location!

NO DUMPING
NO YARD WASTE
NO LITTERING

Effective February 1, 2018, all yard waste and garden waste is FREE to dispose of at any CSRD refusal disposal site year-round.

We are grateful for funding in 2025 from:



Province of British Columbia Gaming

BC Lung Association

Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Columbia Basin Trust

Town of Golden

Golden & District Community Foundation

Columbia Valley Credit Union



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**A special thanks to ALL those who have volunteered their
time and supported Wildsight Golden this year.**

We could not do what we do without YOU!

2026.27 Board of Directors



- Mathew Zaleski (Chair)
- David Geselbracht (Treasurer)
- Else Bosman (Secretary)
- Aita Bezzola
- Joan Dolinsky
- Christian Schumpf
- Bastien Lye

Departing BOD:

- Kellie Sych
- Meg Langley