

RECEIVED

MAR 05 2015

Central Coast Regional District

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 423
SCHEDULE "C"

DELEGATION to BOARD REQUEST FORM

Date of Application: Mar 5, 2015 Board Meeting Date March 12, 2015

Name of person or group wishing to appear before the Board of Directors: C.A.U.S.E
group, carnivore working group. Christina
Hoppe or alternate to a

Address: Box 807 Bella Coola

Number of people attending: 1 Spokesperson Name: Christina Hoppe

Subject of presentation: Public Safety

Purpose of presentation:

- information only
- requesting a letter of support
- Other (provide details) _____

Contact person (if different than above): _____

Daytime telephone number: 250 799-5914 or cell 398 0063

Email address: clhoppe69@gmail.com

Will you be providing supporting documentation? yes no

- If yes:
- handouts at meeting (recommend delivered in advance)
 - PowerPoint presentation
 - publication in agenda (one original due by 4:00 pm seven days prior to your appearance date)
 - Other (explain) _____

* Delegations will have a maximum of 15 minutes to make their presentation to the Board.

Board Meeting
 MAR 12 2015
 CCRD ITEM 1.(c)

March 12, 2015

To: Central Coast Regional
District Board Members

From: Bella Coola Concerned
Citizens for Public Safety

STATEMENT

For decades the people living in the Lower Valley became used to having livestock, orchards, gardens and smoke houses for food production. We also became used to engaging in outdoor activities of all kinds without concern of being attacked by a wild animal. This was only possible because of a group of old-time farmers who killed enough bears and cougars each year to hold populations in check. Those old-timers are now almost completely gone. During the last 15 years the grizzly bear and cougar populations in the Bella Coola Valley have increased to the point that there is a significant danger of attack by these animals to the citizens of the Valley. During 2014, grizzlies invaded the Bella Coola townsite and the Nuxalk Reserve subdivisions. Many people spent the fall living in fear of accidentally encountering one of these bears when going about normal activities. There were also many cases of cougars hanging around houses that limited people's ability to go outside. We are now coming under pressure to turn our beautiful community into a prison camp where people live inside electric cages with bears patrolling the streets looking for any sign of weakness where they can break through a fence or dig under it. Bears live by their noses, and even if it were possible to fence all human attractants, the bears will still be near our homes because we cannot fence in the smells that attract bears in the first place. The people of Bella Coola have lost tremendous freedom of movement and control over their own lives and properties.

Another problem that we have is the Single Projectile 400 Meter No Shooting Area along each side of Hwy. 20 between the town of Bella Coola and the westerly boundary of Tweedsmuir Park. The Valley is very narrow, and this restriction covers almost all of the Valley floor with most houses falling within this zone. This makes it impossible to properly hunt bears in order help keep the population down. And even more important, this restriction makes it impossible to use dogs for quickly hunting down and eliminating cougars that are hanging around people's yards.

REQUEST

The Bella Coola Concerned Citizens for Public Safety request that the CCRD Board contact the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands And Natural Resource Operations, and ask him to have the Lower Bella Coola Valley, from the Government Wharf to the Nusatsum River, designated as a Human Priority Zone, where the Conservation Officer Service deliberately reduces the large carnivore populations in order to ensure public safety, and that the CCRD Board helps create a local committee

made up of Valley residents and government authorities to oversee the long-term project of keeping the populations of dangerous animals in check.

We also request that CCRD Board ask the Honourable Minister Steve Thomson to have the Single Projectile 400 Meter No shooting Area along each side of Hwy. 20 in Bella Coola Valley reduced from 400 meters to 100 meters. We presently also have existing restrictions that prohibit shooting near buildings that provides additional protection for public safety.

In addition, we ask the CCRD Board to review all past resolutions and bylaws to determine if any of these are in conflict with our proposed human safety plan and if so, to change any existing policies in order to make our proposal possible.

Attached is the Bear Events Paper with the last statement in bold removed.

Attached is Gary Shelton's Human/Bear Conflict Paper in a condensed version for brevity.

If the CCRD Board should come to agree with our proposal, we ask that this letter and the two attached supporting documents be enclosed with your request to the Honourable Minister Steve Thomson.

We will be conducting a petition drive for obtaining resident signatures of support for our proposal during the month of April and will provide you with the results.

We also have a copy for you of Gary Shelton's response to Jeff Bray's rebuttal of his original Paper.

Respectfully,



BEAR ATTACK, ENCOUNTERS, AND SIGHTINGS IN BELLA COOLA VALLEY DURING 2014

This information was recorded directly from written statements and Facebook postings by concerned citizens. **The following incidents represent approximately half of the total bear events in 2014.**

Information collected and assembled by Ryan Parr and then typed by Christina Hoppe.

Mid-June until the end of July 2014.

Thorsen Creek area during different nights: 3 different boar grizzlies as well as a 4-year-old male, a sow with 3 cubs, and a sow with 2 cubs in a resident's back yard causing a disturbance. Use of bear bangers kept them at bay. Comments were: potential for future problems.

Mid-June until December

Events witnessed at one home west of Hagensborg on Highway 20. Residents of this house counted 24 different bears in their yard from June to December. Only 2 were black bears, the rest were grizzlies. They were not getting into any livestock areas, but were very bold and coming close to the house. Livestock and garden areas are fenced. The one and only fruit tree was enclosed with an electric fence. The home owners shot into the air towards many of the bears with a 20 gauge shotgun. Most bears did not run from noise. 4 became aggressive; huffing, snapping teeth, posturing to charge and finally bluff charging. One large male grizzly had an injury and the home owner chased him off on foot. Amongst the 24 were 3 sows with 2 cubs each and 1 sow with 3 cubs. These bears often returned twice a day every day from 5:30pm until late at night. There was one sow that bedded down for several weeks in the yard, and the cubs could be heard playing at night. This resident family could not go out in the yard for several months without being armed. The bears were in the driveway and all around the house. The electric fence was taken apart by a grizzly and the apple tree damaged twice. Many tourists and locals viewed these bears on the east end of the property each night. This residence lost a hanging deer to a grizzly sow and 2 cubs on November 24th at 2am. Fresh tracks on Dec. 3/14 of a large grizzly. Comments were: these bears are not afraid of people.

Early August

A 2-year-old grizzly wandered into a resident's yard near Airport Road west in the daytime. He was digging in the compost bin. When caught he jumped out and trotted away.

Mid-September

A healthy grizzly crossed through a resident's yard west of airport. The bear saw the home owner and seemed to be in no hurry to run away. The bear just continued walking unafraid towards the home owner.

September 26th

The town site of Bella Coola is full of bears every day and every night. There are 4 hanging around by the song house, and 3 or 4 hanging around the streets and alleyways. Some are bedding down under porches and in grassy yards. Residents are posting warnings, and beware of bears on Facebook every

day. Residents are cutting their fish and strapping lids onto the fish tubs. Bears are biting the tubs. Residents are parking their cars and trucks around smokehouses while the fish are curing; the bears are jumping up onto the vehicles. The police are driving around shooting bears with rubber bullets, and residents are chasing them with pickup trucks and bear bangers, only to have them return within a half hour. We know of 2 bears shot on the town site. One was trying to break in to a smokehouse and the other one was fleeing across the river.

Late September

A sow and 2 cubs were seen in Smith subdivision area running onto the highway and almost getting struck by traffic.

Late September

Just off the highway west of the Bella Coola town site, a visiting doctor on a bicycle was chased by a sow and when he came to a log across the old road, he only had time to jump off and crouch against the log. He used his bicycle as a shield with the bear trying to bite and swat him. Fortunately for him, the cubs did not come with the sow, and the attack ended as she ran back to check on her offspring. He was very afraid for his life. Comments: this took place very close to the elementary school.

In the morning around 8:45am, a large boar grizzly walked right past Acwsalcta School in the Four-Mile Reserve subdivision towards the daycare center. At the same time, a sow with a cub was at a school bus stop less than a mile away. Many residents are worried about the safety of the children while walking to school or waiting for the bus.

Late September

On the highway west of Snootli Creek at 10:30pm, a large grizzly ran into the side of the pickup truck. The bear damaged the passenger side of the pickup and then went under and almost caused a rollover. The damage was estimated at \$6,000.00

SAMSS High School SD49: during the daytime, a huge grizzly came running out onto the school yard. Comments: heads up for the students, recommend a bear safety course.

Early October

October 2nd on the south side of Thorsen Creek: a grizzly sow and 2 cubs were in this resident's yard. As he pulled into his driveway, he realized he had separated the mom and cubs. He drove slowly to resolve the situation; the sow ran at his car putting a dent in the door. Comments are: the resident realizes she was protecting her young but is worried about the overall population of grizzlies this year.

October 2nd

Nusatsum Road south: a very large grizzly ate many chickens during the day time. The electric fence was only off while the children were doing the chores. The bear knew this and came back twice in a half hour. Comments are: the resident's neighbor also lost her chickens to a bear recently.

October 3rd

Olsen Road: residents saw a very large grizzly during the daytime. This may have been the biggest bear this resident has ever seen. Comments are: I hope he moves along soon.

October 4th

Just east of Grant Road a grizzly entered a fenced and locked chicken coop and ate all the turkeys and chickens, then came back 2 days later at night and was in the back of resident's pickup truck. This resident is out of pocket a fair bit.

October 5th

During the day by the Interfor Logging yard in Hagensborg: a very large grizzly walked out to the road. Comment: this bear seems to be the dominant one in this area.

During the night at Thorsen Creek area: a grizzly on the highway—the driver chased the bear down the road with his vehicle.

October 6th

Around noon at the Interfor yard in Hagensborg: a lady was walking home at lunch and came face-to-face with a grizzly. It started to walk towards her. If it had charged it would have been on top of her. A passing car stopped and picked her up. She was very shook up. Comments were: concern for the students walking to school.

October 7th

Approx. 6 miles from the Bella Coola town site along the highway at night time, a healthy grizzly bear tore through a garden fence to eat resident's garden. While resident was fixing the fence, the bear came back and tore away another section of the fence. Comments are: despite an electric fence and a vertical wooden fence the bear came through quite easily.

During the daytime across from Interfor Logging yard in Hagensborg: a medium to large reddish grizzly bear was eating the resident's crab apples. This bear is seen very regularly there. Comments are: home owner finally put up an electric fence, and residents wonder where the bear has moved on to.

Oct 8th

Grant Road at night time: sow grizzly and 2 cubs entered chicken coop by tearing off a sliding glass window. The bears killed 7 chickens and fatally wounded 2 others. The rest of the hens stopped laying and refuse to go back in the coop.

October 9th

Allison Road: a boar grizzly ripped off the front of resident's garbage bin and ate the garbage. Comments: are wondering how far they are willing to go to get food.

October 11th

Early a.m.: sow and cub passed through on Government Road.

October 12th

Daytime on Douglas Drive: grizzly sow with 1 cub passed through our yard with the dog barking loudly. The bear unaffected by the dog kept sauntering by. The Conservation Officers followed the bears and the resident heard 2 shots. Comments are: feel more secure knowing the CO's are in town.

October 12th

Four-Mile subdivision: a sow and 1 cub at night went into a smokehouse and took one of two hanging deer, then came back the next night but were unsuccessful. Comments were of safety concern.

October 15th

Tonquin Road: during the night has put out warnings of a boar grizzly wandering in a very populated area.

October 15th

2 miles east of Hagensborg during the day as well as at night: 1 boar and 1 sow with 2 cubs have been hanging around; posturing and trying to prevent home owner from going to check on the chickens. These bears hang around this residence until past November 20th.

Mid-October

West of Grant Road at night: there was a young grizzly trying to eat the chickens. This bear made efforts to climb 3 fences to get the birds. COs were called, and Fraser Koroluk came and set a trap. Bear was caught and later disposed of. Comments are: this farmer is tired of losing his livestock.

October 22nd

At Canoe Crossing during the night time: a sow and cub won't leave resident's yard. Conservation Officers were shooting rubber bullets at her and she did not leave. Comments are: move along bear I do not like you looking in my windows.

October 24th

A sow and 2 cubs walking during the day across front lawn. Comments are: contacted Wildsafe BC.

October 27th

At the Sinclair House around 5:30pm: a sow and a cub in a nearby creek.

October 31st

A public notice was put out by a town site business to trick or treaters for Halloween. A bear is still bedding down near Burke Ave in town. We want to keep children safe, so make noise and stay in groups when walking the streets downtown.

November 5th

At night time: a single healthy grizzly was struck on Highway 20, one mile east of Hagensborg. This bear had been seen in that area before. The bear was hit with enough force to damage the whole side of the car.

CONCLUSION by Christina Hoppe

A Community under siege

Last year in 2013, I was bluffed charged once on the dyke of a fish bearing stream, and my husband was charged twice. Then my son was violently treed and held there for an hour while I loaded the gun and

went to get him. The carpenter working on our house was mauled by a sow grizzly while hitch-hiking to our house.

This year was unbelievable! We started seeing grizzlies in our yard by the beginning of July. There weren't any fish in the creek then, which puzzled us. We stopped using our back yard, and let the neighbors know what was happening. The silent bears scared me the most. They seemed to pop up out of nowhere. We had injured bears, small males and very large males, as well 4 different sows with 2 or 3 cubs each in our yard twice a day for months. Our yard is 2 miles from the school, and we have neighbors on all sides.

Hagensborg has a large number of people who usually walk the highway for health reasons—but not this year. There were many reports of grizzlies near bus stops, so parents drove their kids to the school bus. The schools had grizzly bears running out of the driveways during school hours. The teachers were patrolling the grounds with cars for safety.

Right in the town site of Bella Coola was no better! On the east end of town residents were reporting bears bedding down under porches and in alleyways and all around the recreational hall. 75% of people living in town do not have a vehicle. They are on foot. We have a very elderly lady in a motorized wheelchair next to my office. When she wanted to go to the bank or Co-op, a vehicle would have to clear the way for her. Pickup trucks were often speeding around town chasing bears. The RCMP were shooting at bears with rubber bullets, but the bears never left town. Smokehouses were broken into and many hanging deer were taken. My very good friend has a son that refused to give up going to the hall to play basketball because of the bears. He sneaked out the back door and there was a bear right there so he climbed up on the smoke house and yelled. The bear left, but this scared and traumatized this family.

My clients at my pregnancy outreach drop in office receive a \$15.00 food voucher each week. 90% of my clients are on foot. We had 2 big boar grizzlies bedding down on either side of my office. My clients could not access my office very often this summer as it was not safe for anyone to walk in and around the town site.

Bella Coola Valley residents had one heck of a bear season! If all of the cubs that were seen this year survive, our conflicts may double next year. We need our Valley back. The blind lady who walks to get her groceries needs to be able to do that safely. My clients need to be able to come to my office for their food vouchers safely. The lady with seizures needs to be able to go on her walks without hearing car horns blaring. The children need to be able to run around and play without being escorted by people with rifles. And finally, all the rest of us who have high blood pressure from having to pack rifles and keep people safe need a chance to relax.

Respectfully, Christina Hoppe