



Opportunities for Local Government to Support Human-Wildlife Coexistence in Fernie

Clayton Lamb

Committee of the Whole

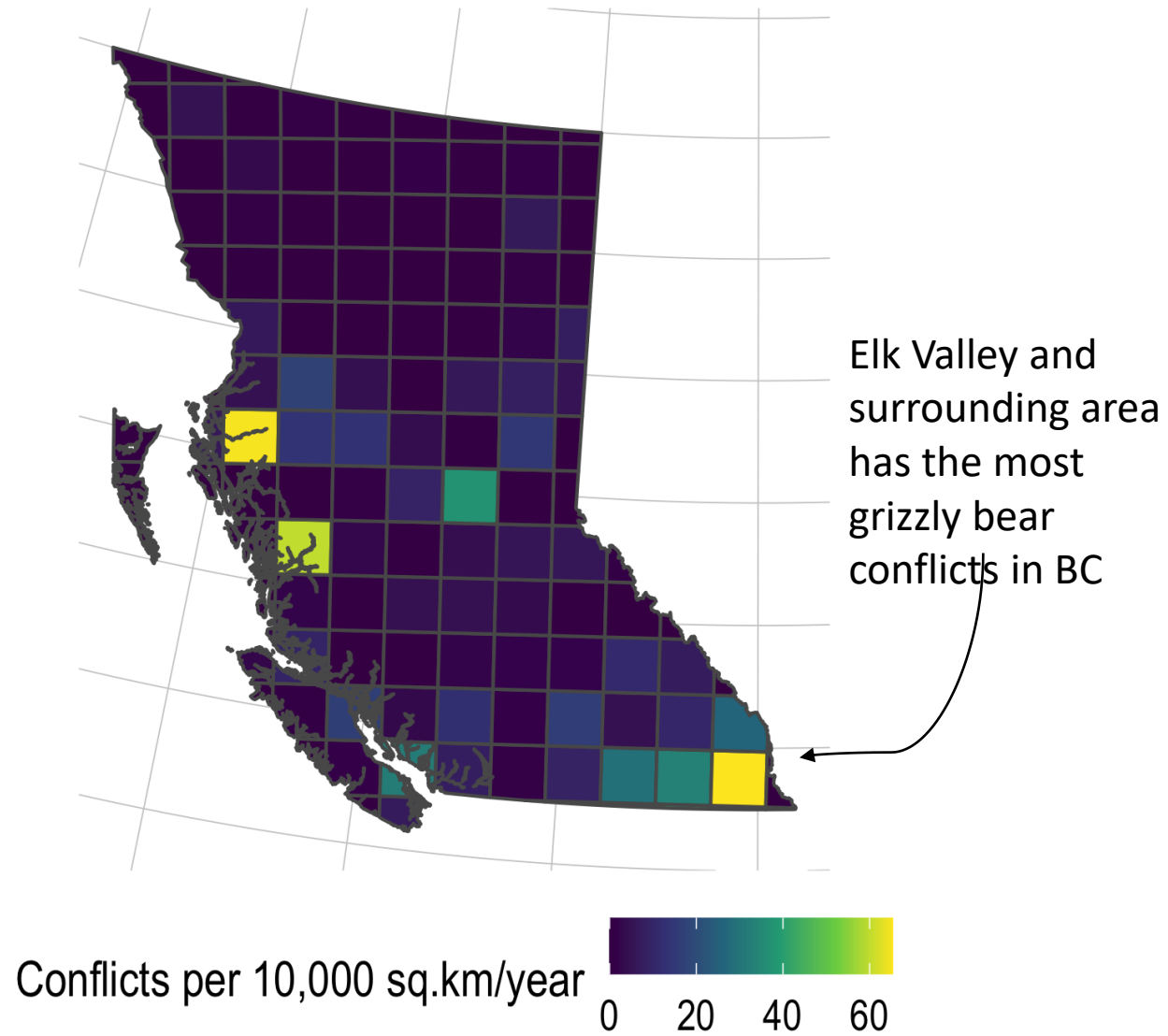
May 16, 2022



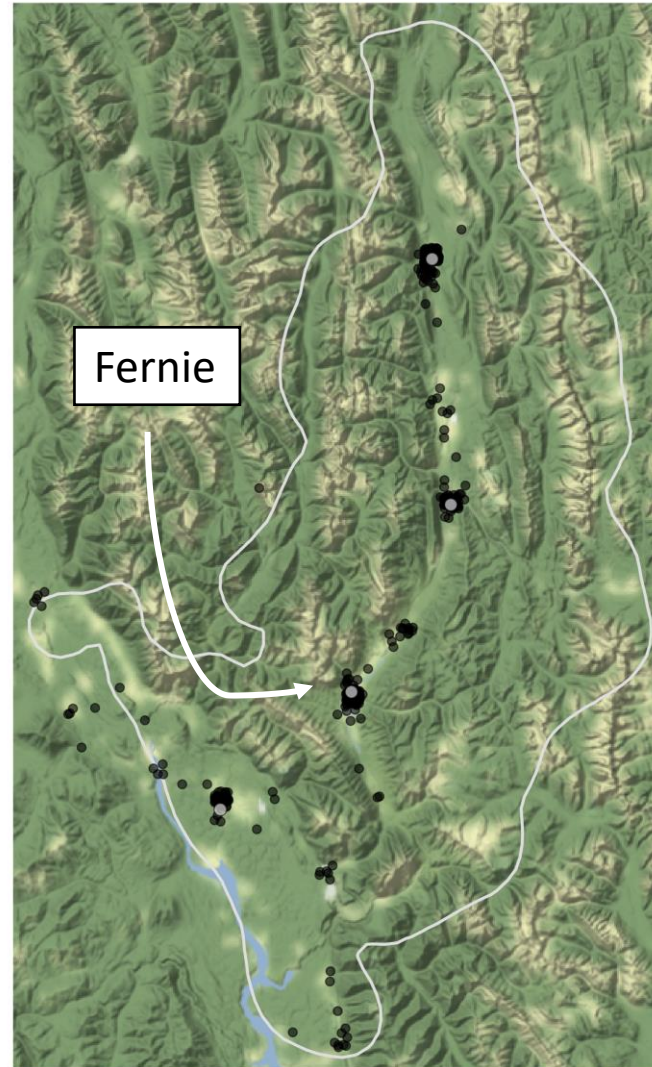
A Bit About Me

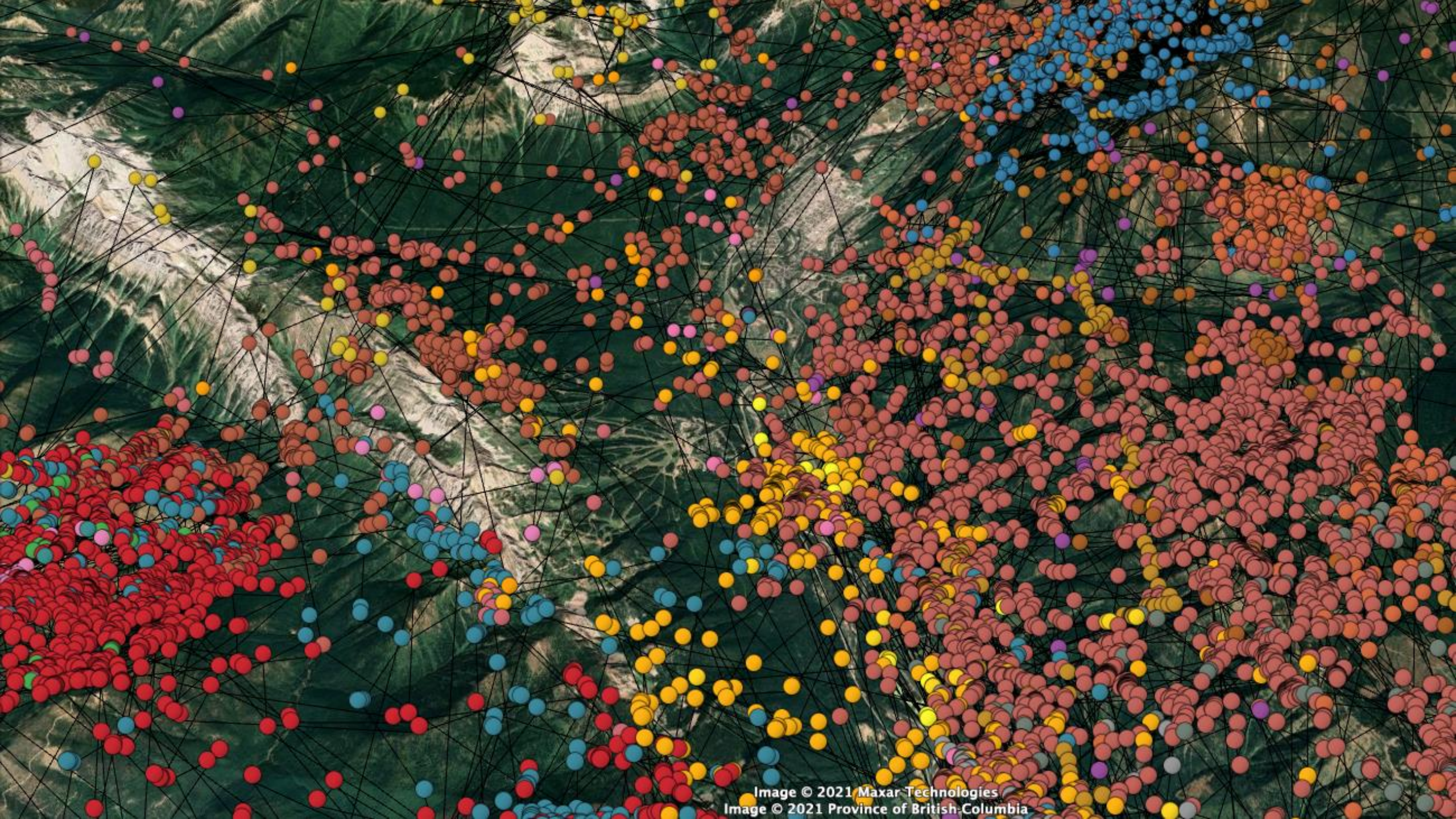
- Wildlife scientist @UBC that works on large mammals across western North America
 - Focus on Kootenays as it's home and a place I care deeply about
- My work focuses on producing science that supports meaningful outcomes for wildlife, landscapes, and people

C) Provincial conflict hotspots



A) Human-bear conflicts





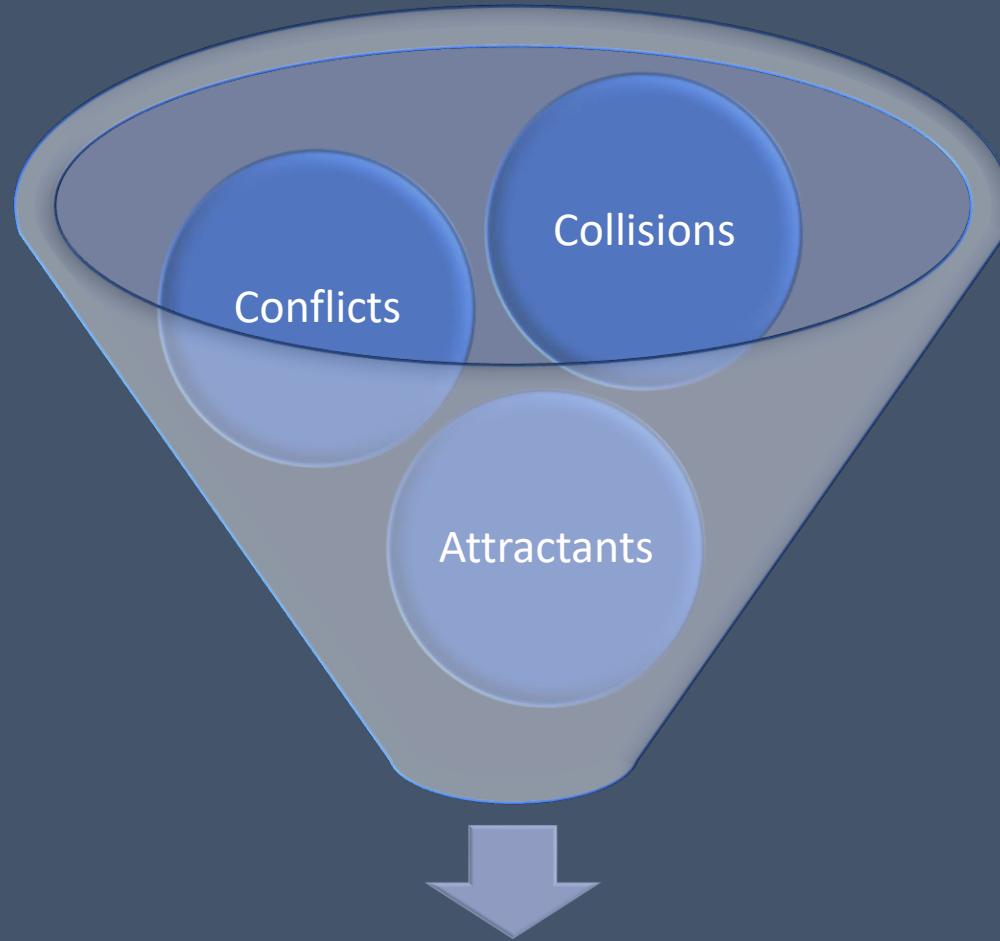
British Columbia

31 bears had to be killed in B.C.'s Elk Valley this year, conservation officers say

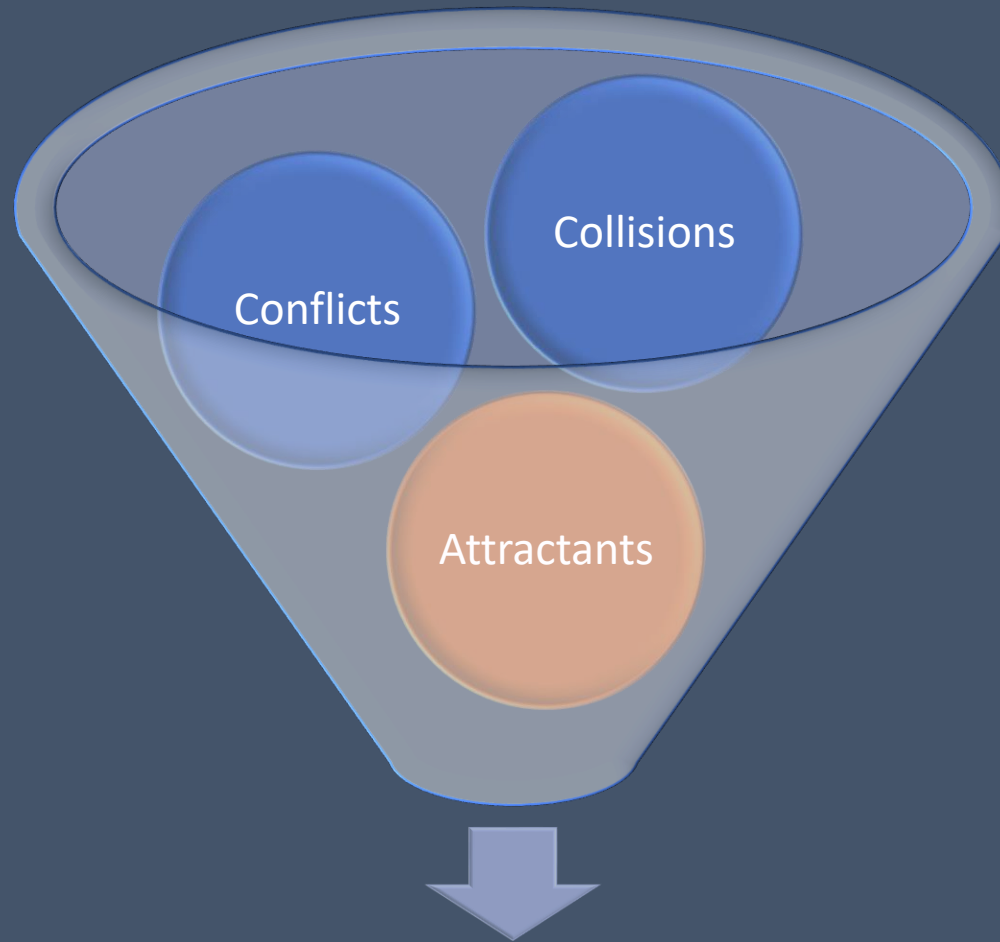
Bear encounter near What's Up Doc trail in Fernie leaves dog with injuries

The dog is healing, and the trail is closed for five days

[JOSHUA FISCHLIN](#) / May. 13, 2022 6:30 p.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)



Population not self-sustaining



Population not self-sustaining

Goal: Reduce unmanaged
attractants to reduce human-
bear conflicts



City of Fernie has made great improvements on waste management



FRUIT TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT



New Initiatives



ELECTRIC FENCING

City of Fernie Support for Coexistence Solutions

1. Bylaw to preclude planting of new fruit trees, could be softened to only preclude trees not behind an electric fence

- a. Secure investments in fruit tree removals and work towards fewer attractants
- b. Can CoF investigate feasibility of this solution?

2. Backyard chickens potentially signal more, not fewer attractants. Many conflicts and dead bears from poultry raised in the valley

- a. Concerns about electric fence compliance, maintenance, and drain on conservation-supported cost share program
- b. We need to be headed towards fewer, not more attractants.

3. Attractant inventory?

Calgary

Banff eyes legislation that would force residents to chop fruit trees



Town is also mulling a ban on bird feeders

“In the nearby town of Canmore, bird feeders are already banned between April 1 and Nov. 30”

“Banff Town Council is considering a new bylaw to ban bird feeders and fruit trees.”