

WildWise Yukon Final Report to YFWETF

Project Activities

The funds we requested from YFWETF this year were used for three projects that are steps towards reducing human-bear conflict in the Territory.

Project 1: Skagway Road Outreach and Research Project

In 2017 we piloted a project in the Traditional Territory of the Carcross-Tagish First Nation (CTFN) in response to concern from CTFN, the Carcross-Tagish Renewable Resource Council (C/TRRC), Parks Canada and Environment Yukon about the safety of humans and bears along the Skagway Road. To find out more about the problem we designed a survey to ask travelers and tour operators about their knowledge of food conditioning and habituation and prior exposure to bear aware educational materials. Our intent was to work with CTFN Environment Monitors to expand the number of outreach hours and to learn about CTFNs approach to managing tourists and bears in the area. Due to unforeseen circumstances, CTFN was not able to participate in the outreach part of the project.

We spent several days between the Carcross Desert and Fraser talking with travelers and gathering data. This also presented an opportunity to gather feedback on the road signs and brochures that we designed in 2016 to raise awareness about food conditioning and respectful bear viewing etiquette while in the CTFN Traditional Territory. This project directed further research this winter to develop partnerships with the tourism industry and to begin to develop outreach materials for tourist and tour operators. The work also led to our inclusion on the Skagway Interagency Bear Group which will help inform our work in this area over the next few years. We have a better understanding of the current and potential impacts of tourism on human-bear conflict and a good understanding of where and how to reach out to help minimize those impacts.

If we were to do the project again we would:

- Reach out to Skagway tour operators and Tourism Yukon at the beginning of our project
- Work with highways and public works to develop more effective road signage
- Develop a workplan with CTFN Environmental Monitors

Please see our attached final report.

Project 2: Door to Door Outreach Project

This was an expansion of our 2014-16 door to door work in the Southern Lakes District. We identified three communities, Carmacks, Pelly and Copper Ridge in Whitehorse, as 'hotspots' of negative human-bear interactions and took to the streets to talk with property owners and renters about their bear smart practices. We offered property attractant 'audits' to help people identify simple steps to reduce the risk of negative bear encounters and to gauge the willingness of people to use bear proof waste management strategies. The audit involved completing an extensive survey which we used to record availability of attractants.

Our work in Carmacks was cut short due to a tragedy in the community and the Selkirk First Nation was not interested in door to door outreach in Pelly. We redirected our efforts to three country-residential neighborhoods around Whitehorse instead (Spruce Hill, Mt. Sima and Wolf Creek). We spent over 120 hours 'in the field' and learned, by revisiting many of the properties on which had given tips and idea to the residents, that education on its own does little to promote behavior change. This was an important step towards demonstrating to the City of Whitehorse (and other municipalities) that bylaws and enforcement are needed alongside education to change the way we are managing attractants.

If we were to do the project again we would:

- Ensure that outreach work is done in teams of two or more
- Consider an incentive to encourage people to store garbage in bear proof enclosures. For example, if the City of Whitehorse develops a wildlife attractant bylaw, our door to door work could be used to inform residents of the new bylaw and penalties for non-compliance.

Please see our attached final report.

Project 3: Bear Learning Module

This was our most challenging project. We began with a loose concept of a learning module for Yukon schools. Our first step was to develop a list of potential partners and contacts and to reach out to gauge interest in working on concept design (see attached contact list). We worked with Environment Yukon, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve and the Department of Education/First Nations Partnership and Programs on an initial approach and it quickly became clear that consultation needed to happen in communities. Six Renewable Resource Councils expressed interest in meeting with us to hear about and give feedback on bear education. We travelled to Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Carcross, Tagish and Dawson City to hear about local perceptions of the human-bear system and whether there is an interest now in developing education modules that are locally relevant and locally driven. This activity has helped us to understand how to reach out to communities and what activities to direct our attention to in 2018.

This project was the first step in what we anticipate will be a long process. We hope to continue the work by visiting each of the communities we consulted this summer to carry out the activities they identified as being valuable to their communities.

Please see our attached summary.

Communications

All of our project outcomes and summaries are shared on our website. Additionally, we seek radio and newspaper interviews at every opportunity to introduce and explain the work we are doing. We take every opportunity to inform the public about who our funders and supporters are. This year we did two interviews on CBC to talk about the work that was funded by YFWETF. We hosted a bear event at the Beringia Centre in November which gave us an opportunity to describe all of our projects and contributions. We affix the YFWETF logo to our project reports and summaries and advertise the trust

fund as a partner and supporter on the main page of our website. The YFWETF logo is a click through link that takes viewers to the trust's homepage.

Financial Report

WildWise Yukon Financial Report for YFWETF - February 2018

	Budget	Actual	Invoice #
Skagway Road Project			
Wages	3000	3200	002-2017, 003-2017, 004-2017
Travel	1300	1300	001-2017, 003-2017
Materials	0	36	receipt attached
Total	4300	4536	

Door to Door Project			
Wages	3000	2825	07-2017-02, 09-2017-01
Travel	400	400	07-2017-02, 09-2017-01
Accommodation	800	175	09-2017-01
Materials	0	87.17	receipts attached
Total	4200	3487.17	

Bear Learning Module Project			
Wages	3960	3960	10-2017-02, 02-2018-02
Travel	2200	1396.48	02-2018-01
Total	6160	5356.48	02-2018-02

TOTAL	14660	13379.65	
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There are a few differences in our actual spending compared with our budget. They are summarized here:

- The Skagway Road project required a few more hours than we were anticipating so we allocated some of the hours from the Door to Door project there.
- There were material costs associated with the door to door and Skagway Road projects that we had not anticipated. We reallocated some of the funds earmarked for accommodation for the door to door project to printed materials. All receipts are attached
- We did not spend as much time in Carmacks as anticipated and the Selkirk First Nation did not want us to conduct door to door work in that community which significantly reduced our accommodation budget.
- We did not travel to as many Yukon communities to discuss the bear learning module as we had hoped, which significantly reduced our travel budget.

WildWise Yukon would like to express appreciation for the support that the YFWETF has given us this year. The projects outlined here were important steps towards reducing human-wildlife conflict and have already lead to our next steps. We feel we are well on our way to working with all Yukon communities and our understanding of the problems that exist with the human-bear system is much improved. From all of us at WildWise, Mahsi, Thank you.