

UPDATE | The Conservation Officer Service has concluded its investigation into the disposal of wildlife parts, including numerous skinned bear paws, which were found near Anglemont last year.

In May 2021, a passerby reported the discovery along Forest Road 695, in the Anglemont Mountain area.

The investigation has determined the person responsible was in lawful possession of the wildlife parts as a result of their taxidermy business. The waste was unlawfully dumped after it inadvertently fell out of the back of the individual's truck while travelling.

The person responsible has been cooperative in the investigation and the resolution by making a substantial voluntary donation to the Little Shuswap Lake Band's Watershed Stewardship Guardian Program; the territory where the incident occurred.

The donation will help train the Guardian Program to keep their community safe, and wildlife wild, by reducing bear conflicts in their community through training in bear awareness, public safety and attractant management.

The donation was in lieu of a \$115 littering charge under the Environmental Management Act, and far exceeds the fine amount. The COS and the LSLB are pleased this donation will have a more meaningful impact to the community and wildlife.

The COS would like to emphasize that this incident is not linked to an illegal black market operation in the trafficking of bear or other wildlife parts.

"We understand the public is passionate about wildlife and recognize this scene was alarming and concerning to many Indigenous communities, British Columbians and others," said Acting Chief Conservation Officer Cam Schley. "We hope the conclusion of this investigation, which confirms this was not related to poaching, helps alleviate distress and bring closure to the public."

The COS appreciates the opportunity to work with the Little Shuswap Lake Band in their territory to resolve this matter in a meaningful way for their community. The COS would also like to thank the public, whose support was instrumental in providing information that assisted with the investigation.

Hunters, as well as those in the taxidermy and related industries, are required to dispose of wildlife remains in a lawful and ethical manner. This is to avoid alarming passersby, as well

as attracting dangerous wildlife to an area frequented by people, which can create a public safety risk.

Unfortunately, every year the COS receives reports of wildlife parts being disposed of in undesirable locations. Violations can be reported to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline at 1-877-952-7277.