

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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# MEET THE TEAM

## Board of Directors



Sue Wrigley

Director

Hazel Massier

Director

Lydia Koot

Director

Amanda Robinson

Director

Emily Sawyer

President

Stanley Flint

Vice President

Kim Balcom

Director (not pictured)

## Staff and Support



Angelika Langen

Founder/Executive  
Director

Peter Langen

Founder/Advisor

Jesse Towns

Animal Care

Kim Gruijis

Animal Care

Kennedy Harvey

Animal Care

Tanja Landry

Assistant Executive  
Director

Shawn Landry

Safety Consultant

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For 34 years, NLWS has been dedicated to supporting wildlife in need. Each year, the demand for our services grows, and thanks to our incredible volunteers, supporters, and staff, our capacity to assist continues to expand. Whether responding to natural disasters like wildfires and droughts or addressing human-caused challenges such as vehicle and train collisions, habitat displacement due to construction, and other environmental impacts, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting those who cannot speak for themselves.

I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support we received in 2024, which enabled us to provide care for wildlife in a particularly challenging year. With 124 black bears released back into the wild and rising operational costs, your generosity and dedication were invaluable. You are our heroes—ensuring that no animal was left behind.

While intake numbers were lower in 2024, we faced new challenges as neighboring developments threatened our long-standing moose, deer, and elk rehabilitation program, raising concerns about our ability to accept ungulates in 2025. However, in true NLWS spirit, our team came together once again. It is with immense gratitude that I share the exciting news: a new facility will be built in 2025, securing the future of these vulnerable calves and fawns.

Thank you for being an integral part of this extraordinary community. Together, we are making a tangible difference—one successful release at a time. Our post-release monitoring confirms that the animals we rehabilitate are not only given a second chance but are thriving in their natural habitats.

Your continued support is the foundation of our mission, and we look forward to another year of protecting and advocating for wildlife in need.

Angelika Langen  
Founder and Executive Director



# SHELTER OVERVIEW



River Otter

# OUR MISSION

Provide a safe haven for injured and orphaned wildlife, promote education and conservation, and foster coexistence between humans and wildlife.

# OUR MANDATE

1. To provide young injured and/or orphaned wildlife with a safe and healthy environment.
2. To mature our wards into adulthood, upon which they are released back to the wild.
3. To educate the public about wildlife needs and what threatens them and how we can take steps to avoid conflict and assist in peaceful coexistence.
4. Provide on-going research to be compiled and shared with the public, educational facilities/students, government policy makers and other professionals.

Rescue

Rewild

Reference

Research

# 2024 AT A GLANCE



Moose calves

123 Black Bears Released

49 Small Mammals Rescued

7 Canids Rescued

44 Black Bears Rescued

10 Ungulates Rescued

12 Species Treated

4 Grizzly Bears Rescued

50,000+ Kilometers Travelled

80% Survival Rate

40 Black Bears Collared

2635 Open House Visitors

51% Increase in educational program reach



Year-long volunteer James and former volunteer turned staff, Kim!



Moose rescue team, Houston BC

The Northern Lights Wildlife Society (NLWS) depends on dedicated volunteers to rescue, rehabilitate, and release injured and orphaned wildlife. Their efforts are essential to the shelter's success.

Volunteers help in many ways. They assist with animal rescues, transport animals safely, and support food drives to ensure a steady supply of nourishment. They also organize and participate in fundraising events, raising both money and awareness for the shelter's mission.

This year alone, our volunteers have contributed over **6,000** hours of their time, demonstrating their incredible commitment to wildlife conservation. Their dedication and compassion make a huge impact, allowing the shelter to continue saving animals and giving them a second chance at life. New volunteers are always welcome to join this important cause.

# VOLUNTEERS



# MEASURING PROGRESS

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Black Bears	76	38	140	27
Grizzly Bears	0	2	-	4
Moose	4	4	4	3
Deer	6	4	3	7
Canids	8	4	3	6
Small Mammals	10	11	15	41

Each year, we face a variety of new situations and challenges in wildlife rewilding. There are so many highs and lows, but in the overall our successes are what keep our staff and volunteers going on the hard days. The chart below shows total intakes by species and year.

## HELP FOR HADES

In early June of 2024, the wildlife shelter received a report of an orphaned cub in Nelson, B.C. Images quickly identified a grizzly cub of the year, and a conservation officer sprang into action. Usually, we wait for reuniting opportunities, but this cub's location and body condition strongly indicated that this cub truly was alone.



After a quick and efficient capture, the cub was entrusted to a NLWS volunteer, and his journey to the shelter began.



Today, Hades is all set for his release in June 2025. He has grown into a beautiful, strong bear with a quirky attitude that is sure to help him adapt to his new, wild home. Once he is released, he will be tracked for the first year of freedom. This information will contribute to the ongoing research program exploring grizzly rewilding sustainability. Hades will join the ranks of 34 other grizzlies that NLWS has released and contribute to the development of future grizzly programs.

# BLACK BEAR COLLARING PROGRAM

Last summer, amidst a flurry of 124 releases of black bear yearling releases across the province, 41 bears in Northern BC were fitted with GPS collars as a collaborative project between the Government of BC, University of Victoria (UVic) and NLWS. These collars connect to satellites and transmit location coordinates to us every five hours until Fall 2025, when they are programmed to drop off the bears. This ensures collars won't get too small for a growing bear's neck. With this information, we learn where these animals go, what landscape features they encounter, and how long they survive once they are back in their wild home ranges. A UVic master's student, Emma Bialobzyski, will present the results of this research in her MSc thesis. This information will help us to understand what factors enhance survival of rehabilitated black bear yearlings and improve our rewilding program.

Some bears have suffered natural and human-caused mortality, but the vast majority remain alive. Many bears established home ranges in the vicinity of their release sites, while others have dispersed away to establish home ranges elsewhere. One curious bear, Dot, decided she wanted to move – and established herself in a remote mountain range 200km+ from her release site! From what we know, the remaining bears with collars have denned for the winter. Some of our team were able to locate the den site of Kronk, who found a cozy cottonwood hollow to hibernate over the cold months.

This spring and summer, we will continue to monitor the movements of the collared bears to learn more about their use of habitat and survival. The 23 bears set for release this year will also be fitted with collars upon release, so we can learn even more.

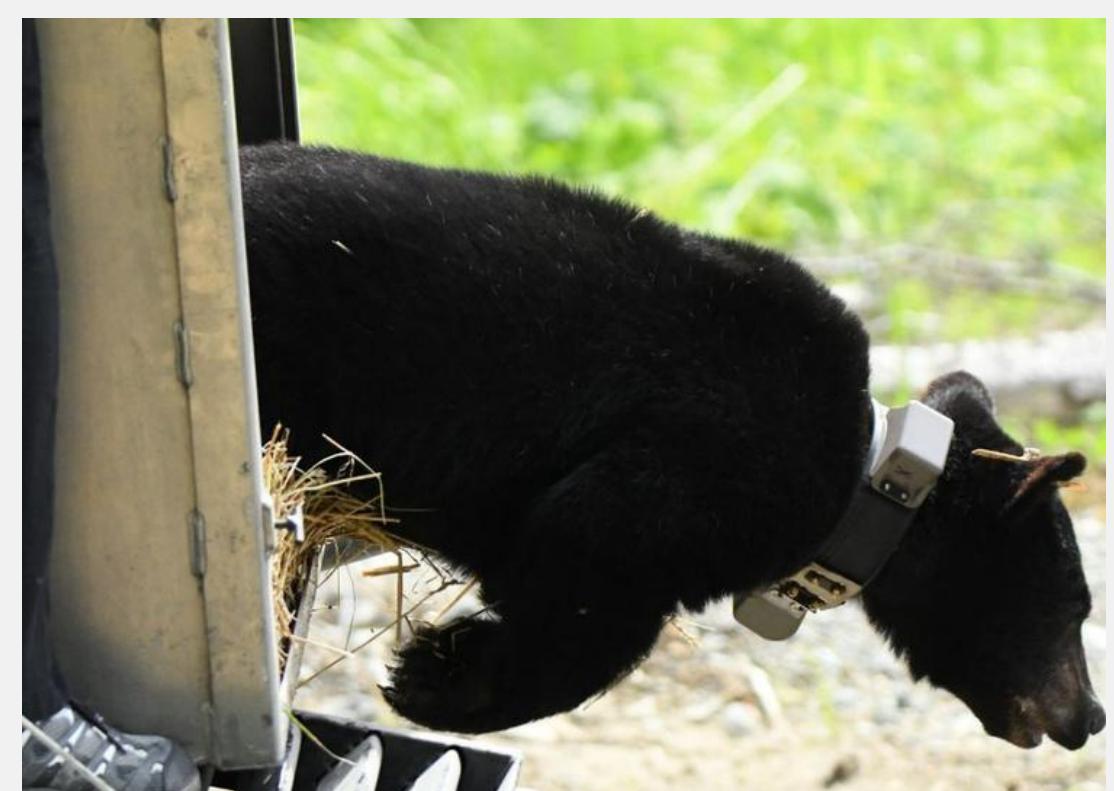
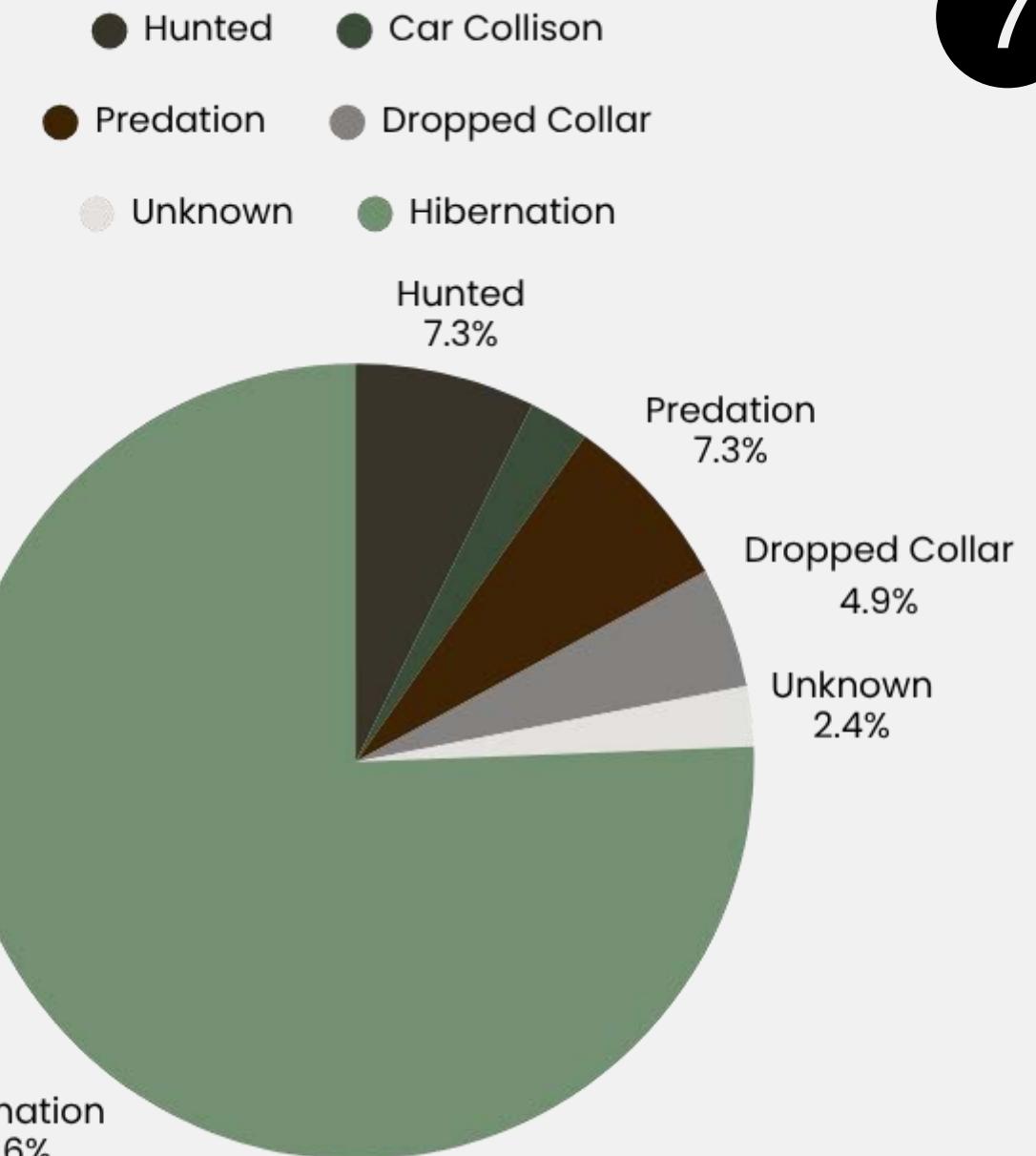


Black bear with GPS collar

Kim tracking a lost collar

Black Bear after release

Emma releasing collared cubs



Collared Black Bear at Release

## Inspiration to Go On

It has been a hard year for the moose program at NLWS. Illness, accidents and other human factors brought a lot of heartache and frustration to the team. Like many other shelters, we needed to take a moment to re-evaluate this program. Was it truly worth the fight? In those bleak days, full of hard questions, mother nature made sure to give us our answer.



Left, is a picture of Claudette (2023) After her return visit to the shelter in late fall of 2024. Right, see Bijoux (2018) and

wild born calf who  
were spotted in  
the neighborhood.  
Its all the hope we  
need to face  
these new .



Moose calves at NLWS 2024

## Project Overview

Northern Lights Wildlife Society has spent 38 years rehabilitating moose, inspired by two orphaned calves. Moose are fragile, requiring specialized care, including a tailored milk replacer and protection from bacterial infections. Despite challenges, NLWS has successfully raised and released many moose, with evidence of their survival and reproduction.

However, changing local dynamics have led to threats, with some released moose being targeted by hunters. To adapt, NLWS plans to fence 10 acres for secure browsing and acquire a livestock trailer to transport moose to safer locations. This strategy is vital as BC's moose populations decline by 50-70% in some areas.

*Revitalized*  
**MOOSE PROJECT**

# SMALLER MAMMALS



Woodchuck at release

Although NLWS is known for bears and moose, there are many more critters that find refuge at our facilities. From the weasels, woodchucks and squirrels to foxes, beavers and otters, the shelter supports injured and orphaned wildlife in all mammal varieties. Unlike other shelters, these smaller guests are a smaller percentage of our overall intake. Nevertheless, we strive to provide each species with the safe haven to grow and return to the wild. Each species has unique housing, foraging and enrichment needs, but staff and volunteers are always up for a new challenge and each species gets the best possible care.

## *Showcase Species of 2024*

Did you know that BC is home to two species of flying squirrel? The Northern flying squirrel and the Humboldt's flying squirrel were once considered the same species but were officially separated in 2017. Naturally found in coniferous forests, these shy mammals are rarely seen as they are primarily nocturnal.

Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter has been home to several beautiful animals over the past 30 years. Usually nesting in trees or other high-up spaces, flying squirrels can be knocked out of nests when there are high winds or when trees are cut down. At the shelter, there are some key elements that we need to consider in their care that few other guests ever require. They need nesting spots away from the hustle and bustle during the day, and their health or behavior can only properly be assessed at night. Ensuring that these reclusive individuals feel safe and can practice their natural habits means employing some night vision surveillance and a great deal of patience. When release rolls around, they benefit from a soft release program where they can access the safety of their enclosure at will and get supplemental feeding until they are ready to strike out on their own fully.



# EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Several great events took place over the year that enabled us to fundraise for our programs and educate new people on wildlife co-existence and rewilding.



## Merchandise Sales

NLWS sells a variety of goods throughout the year, including calendars, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and stuffies.



## Open House 2024

Our yearly open house on July 1st was another great success. A whopping 2635 visitors made the trek to the shelter in variable weather. It was a wonderful day of wildlife education and support!



## Dawson's Lights

The annual Dawson's Lights Fundraiser ran from November 24th to December 22nd, with each \$25 donation adding a Christmas light to our tree of hope. This mostly virtual event saw support pour in from around the world and allowed us to put \_\_\_\_\_ lightbulbs on our Christmas tree.



## Giving Tuesday

The annual Giving Tuesday appeal centered around the need for the new Moose facility. NLWS staff was blown away by the response and is preparing to break ground on the new facility in the summer!

# BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY

In early 2024, NLWS launched its new "Bear the Responsibility" program. After a dismal year for bears, we created a response to the increasing number of bears entering towns and cities in British Columbia. Due to human-related conflicts, many bears were euthanized in the fall of 2023, leaving over 123 orphaned cubs in care. NLWS proposes the following actions to prevent future conflicts:

- Private Citizens: Manage or remove attractants like fruit trees, garbage, and bird seed, which are the main reasons bears venture into towns.
- Corporate Buy-In: Collaborate with corporations at various levels to raise awareness and offer incentives to reduce bear attractants.
- Government Partners: Gain municipal support to enhance enforcement and develop incentive programs.

NLWS is still actively developing this program to reach more communities and create the recommended incentive programs to make helping bears easy and affordable.



Booth at the Prince George and Smithers Trade Shows



**Bear the Responsibility**  
Northern Lights Wildlife Society



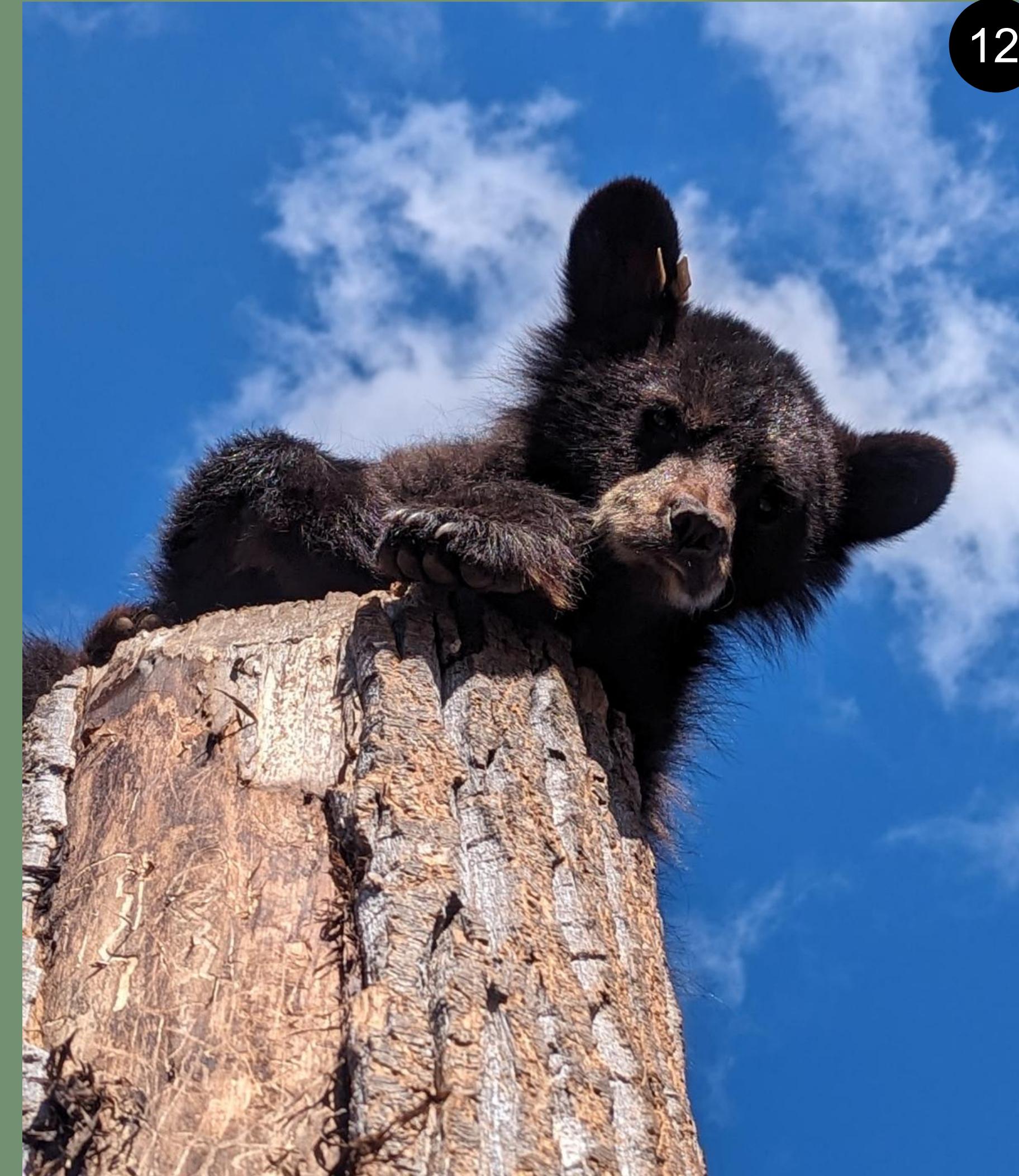
**1098457 B.C. Ltd, dba**  
*Accounting on Broadway*  
P.O. Box 5011, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0  
Phone: 250-847-0744 Barbara

# Northern Lights Wildlife Society

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited – see notice to reader)

DECEMBER 31, 2024





## NOTICE TO READER

I have compiled the balance sheet of Northern Lights Wildlife Society as at December 31, 2024 and the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended from information provided by management. I have not audited, reviewed, or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

June 25th, 2025

**Northern Lights Wildlife Society**  
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS  
 (unaudited – see notice to reader)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

<b>REVENUE</b>	
<b>Sales Revenue</b>	
Legacy Gifts	352,972.93
Restricted / Donation	1,194,211.38
In Kind Donations	85,122.43
Fundraising	64,053.24
Membership Dues	2,050.00
Grants	<u>145,049.15</u>
<b>Net Sales</b>	<u>1,843,459.13</u>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	
Interest Revenue	<u>21,234.68</u>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<u>21,234.68</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>1,864,693.81</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Feed	111,665.66
Bedding	2,314.32
Other	1,057.12
Grizzly Project	5,762.64
Wildlife Monitoring	148,630.40
Wildlife Research	1,688.42
Release Expenses	21,917.61
Rescue Expenses	2,729.77
Veterinary	45.13
Volunteer Expenses	3,228.67
Freight Expense	<u>46,683.71</u>
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<u>345,723.45</u>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
Wages & Salaries	378,874.04
EI Expense	8,213.66
CPP Expense	20,873.18
WCB Expense	7,502.89
Employee Benefits	<u>6,137.33</u>

3704 Alfred Ave

P.O. Box 5011  
 Tel (250) 847-0744

Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>421,601.10</u>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	
Accounting & Legal	18,259.17
Advertising & Promotions	12,345.10
Dues and Subscriptions	209.00
Business Fees & Licenses	2,829.20
Education	4,206.44
Conference	8,240.90
Courier & Postage	1,586.30
Fundraising Cost	63,469.65
Interest	1,385.33
Amortization Expense	137,939.55
Insurance	25,177.00
Bank Charges	584.45
Office Supplies	5,294.21
Property Taxes	4,202.14
Motor Vehicle Expenses	52,553.62
Maintenance Equipment	36,720.58
Rent	12,000.00
Landscape and Fencing	283,624.39
Repair & Maintenance	32,418.59
Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings	48,057.24
Telephone	5,692.45
Travel & Entertainment	6,521.51
Utilities	23,397.13
Public Relation	1,031.32
Purchases	<u>5,014.25</u>
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Expenses</b>	<u>792,759.52</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>1,560,084.07</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u>304,609.74</u>

Unaudited, see Notice to Reader

3704 Alfred Ave

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 Tel (250) 847-0744

Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

## Northern Lights Wildlife Society

### BALANCE SHEET (unaudited – see notice to reader)

DECEMBER 31, 2024

<b>ASSET</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>PayPal Account</b>	
PayPal Account	15,848.89
BVCU 221689	166,899.31
Plan 24	360,779.27
BVCU Equity Share	44.42
Term Deposit GIC	<u>520,853.96</u>
Total Cash	1,064,425.85
Payroll Clearing	-23,558.12
Interest Revenue not received	<u>12,872.49</u>
Total Receivable	-10,685.63
Prepaid Expenses	1,061.62
MVA Loan for 2023 Exiss 6820	<u>20,097.50</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>1,074,899.34</u>
<b>Capital Assets</b>	
Leasehold Improvements	92,952.29
Accum Leasehold Improvement	-43,711.17
NLWS Equipment	271,814.53
Accum. Amort. -NLWS Equip.	181,505.03
2023 Ranger Crew 1000	29,493.78
Accum Amort 2023 Ranger	<u>-10,617.76</u>
Net - NLWS Equipment	158,426.64
Tractor	24,283.71
Accum.Amort.-NWLS Tractor	-20,449.46
NLWS Vehicle	347,400.88
Accum. Amort. -NLWS Vehicle	290,802.88
Skidsteer	26,334.65
AccumAmort Skidsteer	-17,848.35
2023 Exiss 6820 Express Trailer	20,597.50
Accum Amort 2023 Exiss 6820	-11,514.01
14' Dump Trailer Reimer Ranching	19,286.75
AccumAmort 14' Dump Trailer	<u>-9,836.25</u>
Net - Vehicle	87,452.54
Manure Buildings	137,532.87

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Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

AccumAmort Manure Building	-10,283.37
Building	984,863.13
Accum. Amort. -Building	-222,081.27
Applebarn	19,740.28
Accum. Amort Applebarn	-789.61
Grizzly Enclosure	744,370.49
Accum.Amort Grizzly Enclosure	<u>-60,805.53</u>
Net - Building	<u>1,592,546.99</u>
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<u>1,838,426.17</u>

<b>Other Non-Current Assets</b>	
Computer Software	23,418.14
Accum.Ammort Computer and Software	-21,497.23
Website	16,450.00
Accum. Ammort Website	<u>-12,218.24</u>
<b>Total Other Non-Current Assets</b>	<u>6,152.67</u>

<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<u>2,919,478.18</u>
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<b>LIABILITY</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	78,833.40
BMO MC 8054	<u>5,963.14</u>
Total Credit Card Payables	5,963.14
Deduction 1 Payable	4,216.00
GST Paid on Purchases	-57,985.74
GST Adjustments	<u>0.01</u>
GST Owing (Refund)	<u>-57,985.73</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>31,026.81</u>

<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
Loan Truck Dodge	21,543.54
Loan Langen	<u>7,230.48</u>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	
<u>28,774.02</u>	

<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>59,800.83</u>
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<b>EQUITY</b>	
<b>Owners Equity</b>	
Opening Balance Equity	683.86
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	2,553,236.12

3704 Alfred Ave	P.O. Box 5011
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Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Accum Other Comprehensive Income	1,147.63
Current Earnings	<u>304,609.74</u>
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>	<u>2,859,677.35</u>
 <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	 <u>2,859,677.35</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	 <u>2,919,478.18</u>



# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

Contact Us:

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[info@wildlifeshelter.com](mailto:info@wildlifeshelter.com)



Charitable Registration #879681518RR0001

