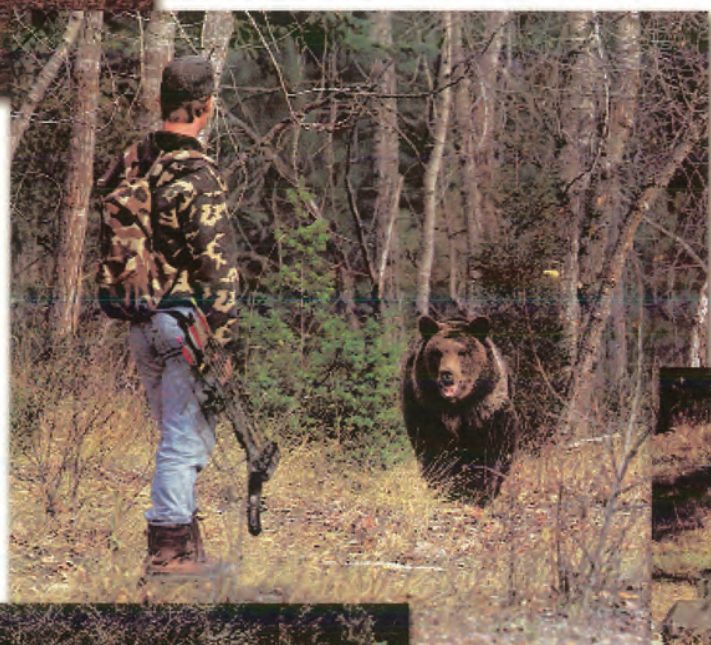


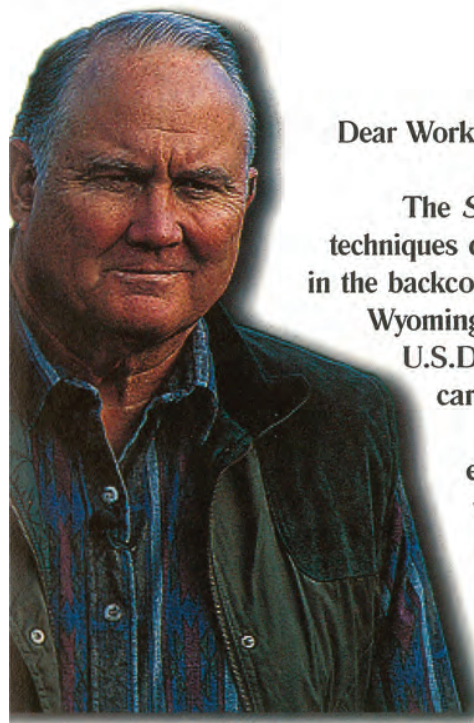
# Safety for People; Safety for Bears

## Bear Encounters in Grizzly Country, Avoiding—Mitigating



### An Outfitters Operations Workshop Course





Dear Workshop Participants,

The *Safety for People; Safety for Bears* workshop will provide the latest safety techniques developed by the men and women who have dedicated their lives to working in the backcountry of Wyoming. By participating in this workshop you are joining with the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association, Wyoming Game and Fish and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in a long history of sharing their knowledge on how to care for our wildlands and wildlife.

What you learn while you take this workshop will enhance your ability to enjoy Wyoming's great outdoors. You then can share your new outdoor skills with others. This is also an opportunity for you to share your experiences and skills you have experienced in the wilds of Wyoming.

Outfitting and guiding has been a part of Wyoming for 100 years and from generation to generation they have advanced their stewardship techniques. The *Safety for People; Safety for Bears* workshop is another example of that continued effort.

Sincerely,

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf  
National Spokesman for the Be Bear Aware  
and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign.  
[www.BeBearAware.org](http://www.BeBearAware.org)

Photographers:  
Tim Rubbert, Tim Doud,  
and Chuck Bartlebaugh  
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March 2003  
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Center For Wildlife Information

## TO THE STUDENT

The content and presentation of this course reflects the most current knowledge and judgment of professional outfitters and guides, wildlife agency personnel and educators. Course revisions are made through a steering committee comprised of individuals personally familiar with bear safety, backcountry recreation, professional educators and land managers. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented in this course is accurate and up to date.

But, as is the case with all educational courses, the “best” information, technique and ethic is yet to happen. Learning is a forever process. This course will always be in "draft" stage.

The Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association was formed in 1958. Its mission is to promote the conservation and restoration of wildlands; i.e. to maintain the conditions that will insure continued hunting and fishing for both residents of Wyoming and nonresidents who come to Wyoming.

The format for *Safety for People; Safety for Bears* is competency-based and written with “outcomes.” Each outcome has an evaluation plan that involves an activity. Course activities are designed to allow the student to achieve desired course outcomes. It is important for backcountry guides to be competent in bear safety and to be able to demonstrate those competencies. An evaluation process will demonstrate the knowledge gained by each course participant.

Address suggestions, questions, and/or comments regarding this course to:



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### Special appreciation:

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Mr. Scott Fitzwilliams, USDA Forest Service

Mr. Chuck Bartlebaugh, Center for Wildlife Information

# Safety for People; Safety for Bears

## Bear Encounters in Grizzly Country

### Outfitters Operations Workshop #2

**Statement of Purpose:** To develop in professional guides an understanding of safety skills related to bears, especially grizzly bears, to promote the use and development of:

1. A safety plan for clients and/or employees on trips in grizzly bear country;
2. A positive conservation ethic toward grizzly bears.

**Outcome #1: Grizzlies: Who They Are and How They Behave.** The professional guide will be able to recognize and distinguish the anatomical differences between black and grizzly bears, gain understanding of the natural history of grizzly bears, articulate expected grizzly bear behavior, and teach the same to clients and fellow workers.

Evaluation Plan #1: A series of bear photographs will be presented to the student for identification purposes, followed by a ten-question quiz to test the student's knowledge of physical bear characteristics, life history and behavior.

**Outcome #2: Avoiding Grizzly Bear Encounters.** The professional guide will be able to recount processes and procedures for avoiding encounters with bears in grizzly country, produce risk assessment plans, and teach clients and fellow workers the same.

Evaluation Plan #2: The student will be presented with two scenarios regarding grizzly bear encounters. He/she is to suggest a way or several ways that the encounter could have been avoided.

**Outcome #3: Mitigating Human-Grizzly Encounters.** The professional guide will be able to determine the options available in an encounter in order to maximize human safety and bear conservation and to be able to teach/share the same with clients and fellow workers.

Evaluation Plan #3: The student will be given two "real-life" scenarios of human-bear encounters. For each scenario, the student will develop a plan that would minimize injury to either human or bear and to maximize the security for both human and bear into the projected future.

**Outcome #4: Ecological Stewardship.** The professional guide will be able to demonstrate elements of an ethic positive to the ecology of bears and their natural environments.

Evaluation Plan #4: The student will list important elements that are essential to consider in formulating an ethic regarding bears in ecosystems.

## A Very Early Bear Encounter

The first fall on the Yellowstone, Hawkins and myself were coming up the river in search of camp, when we discovered a very large bear on the opposite bank. We shot across, and thought we had killed him, for he laid quite still . . . we tied our mules and left our guns, clothes, and everything except our knives and belts and swam over to where the bear was. But instead of being dead, as we expected, he sprung up as we came near him, and took after us. Then you ought to have seen two naked men run! It was a race for life, and a close one, too. But we made the river first. The bank was about fifteen feet high above the water, and the river ten or twelve feet deep; but we didn't halt. Overboard we went, the bear after us . . . . You can reckon that I swam! Every moment I felt myself being washed into the yawning jaws of the mighty beast, whose head was up the stream, and his eyes on me. But the current was too strong for him, and swept him along as fast as it did me . . . . Hawkins was the first to make the shore, unknown to the bear, whose head was still up stream; and he set up such a whooping and yelling that the bear landed too, but on the opposite side. I made haste to follow Hawkins, who had landed on the side of the river we started from, either by design or good luck; and then we traveled back a mile and more to where our mules were left . . .

**Joe Meek**

. . . as told to Francis Victor in the  
"River of the West" published 1870

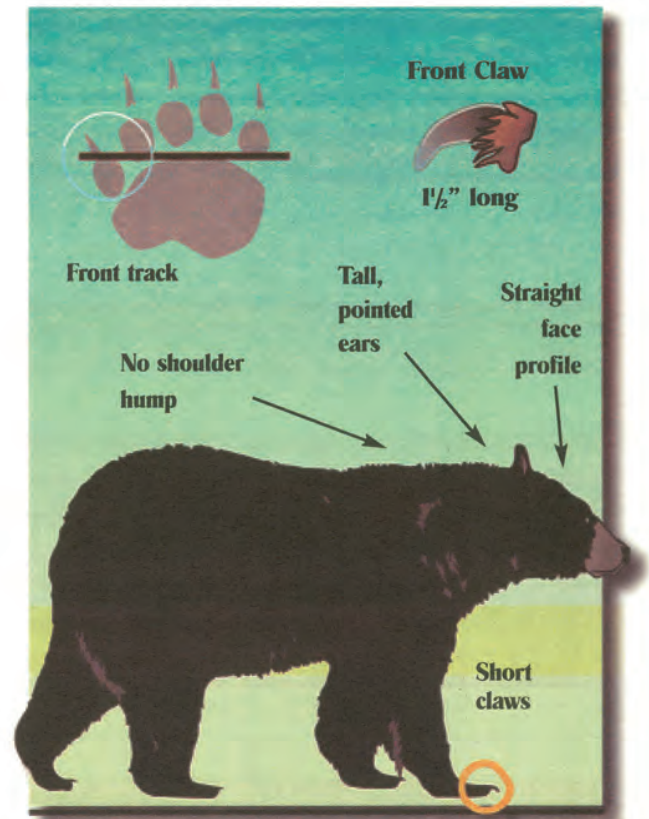


## Outcome #1: Grizzlies: Who They Are and How They Behave

### Grizzly Bear



### Black Bear



### Physical Characteristics of Grizzly Bears

The grizzly bear of the northern Rocky Mountains is *Ursus arctos var. horribilis*, one of two recognized subspecies or varieties of the bear. The other subspecies, *var. middendorffi*, is found on Alaska's three Kodiak Islands and is commonly known as the "Kodiak" or "Alaskan Brown" bear. Two other species of bear are found in North America, the black bear *Ursus americana* and the polar bear, *Ursus maritimus*.

The common name grizzly is derived from the term "grizzled," which refers to hair that is either flecked with gray at the ends or is a mixture of gray and darker colors. Many grizzly bears show this grizzled color as a flecking of white on the ends of dark hairs on their coats. Black bears never have this flecking or grizzling of their hair. It is from this "grizzled" nature of the coat of hair that the title "silvertip" comes and is applied to the grizzly bear.

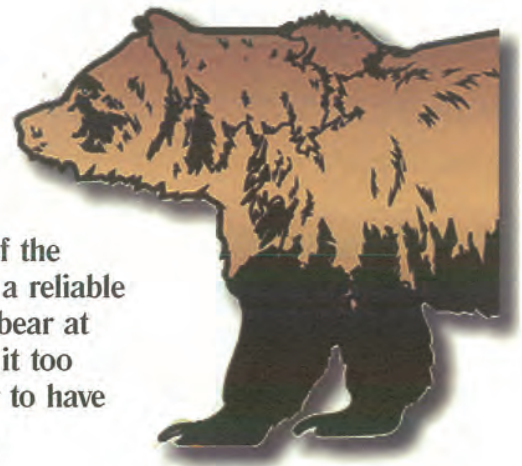
The "grizzling" of the grizzly bear's coat leads to many color patterns among these bears. Grizzlies may be pale—almost luminous blond to reddish blond to light brown to darker brown to even black. The "grizzling" of the hairs on the coat occurs mainly on the back and about the shoulders, less often down into the flank. Because of this, from a distance the grizzly bear often appears to have darker legs and lighter upper parts.

**External characteristics of the grizzly bear useful for field identification include:**

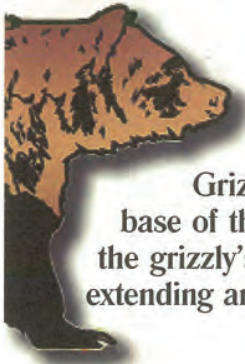
**1. The distinctive hump between the shoulders**  
(See illustration to the right.)



The hump is a muscle mass covered with long guard hairs and is tangible evidence of the grizzly's ability to dig. While this hump is a reliable field characteristic even while "glassing" a bear at several hundred yards, there are times that it too can be confusing. Black bears may appear to have a hump if they happen to drop their heads below the level of the rest of their body.



**Shoulder Profile – Grizzly**

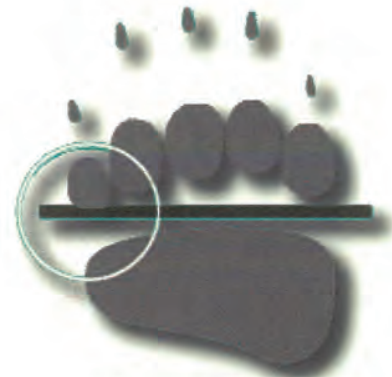


**2. The face is "dished" – concave**  
(See illustrations to the left.)

Grizzly bears typically have a somewhat concave profile from between their eyes to the base of their nose whereas black bears normally have a "Roman" profile, more convex than the grizzly's. Most black bears have a light-colored area just behind their noses and extending around the snout. Grizzly bears often have this as well, but it is not as distinct.

**3. Grizzly tracks are unique**

- a. Adult grizzly tracks are usually larger than black bear tracks.
- b. Claw imprints are more separated from the toes in grizzly bear tracks.
- c. The toe imprints of grizzly tracks are joined, not separated, in both front and hind feet.
- d. Grizzly toes are less arched than black bear toes. Using a straight edge, determine which of the two outer toes is the largest and then make a line under the base of the larger toe, across the top of the pad, and out to the edge of the track. If the opposite outer toe lies above or mostly above the line, the track is that of a grizzly.
- e. The back foot track of the "griz" is more triangular with the point of the triangle to the rear.



**Grizzly Front Footprint**



**Black Bear Front Footprint**

4. **Grizzlies are reluctant tree climbers** - their claws are better for digging than climbing. That is not to say they cannot climb a tree. Younger bears are better at climbing trees than older bears, and large trees are easier to climb than small ones.



**Grizzly Claw**



**Black Bear Claw**

5. **The rump of the grizzly is lower than the shoulders** when the animal is on all fours. In the same position the rump of the black bear is equal to or higher than the top of the shoulder.

## **Natural History of the Griz**

**Food and Diet:** The grizzly bear, like its cousin the black bear, is omnivorous; that is, it will eat both plant and animal source foods. About 80% of their diet is plant material. By nature, they are scavengers; it is not necessary that they make the kill themselves. Bears will often take carcasses away from other predators. They will take over any carcass.

When they are not “denning” (winter sleeping in a den) or resting, they are searching for food. The search is continuous. A bear’s food source changes from season to season, and bears will move from place to place throughout the seasons to meet their food requirements.

Backcountry travelers should consider this and realize that an area that did not have bears last week may have bears today. This continuous ingestion of food is critical to the survival of the grizzly. There must be large fat reserves in preparation for the 4 to 6 months of denning during which no food is consumed.







### **In the Spring. . .**

Grizzlies emerge from their dens from April to May depending on the year. They are quite lethargic for the first few days of their emergence. They appear to be anorexic for about two weeks after awakening. Roots and young vegetation are readily available. They will take carrion if it is available during these early spring months. For that matter, they will take about anything that is available.

### **During the Early Summer. . .**

The bear continues its “grazing” habits of ingesting young grasses and forbs. Grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem spend 3-4 weeks during early summer keying in on elk calves, and other young and weak ungulates such as moose, bison, deer, etc.

### **Summertime. . .**

Fish, especially spawning fish, have traditionally provided the grizzly with meals throughout the summer and into the fall. One can expect high densities of grizzly along streams, especially during the spawning run. In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the native cutthroat spawning run starts in late June and continues into July, generally completed by the first of August. Throughout the summer months succulent plants, insects and rodents make up a majority of the diet. Interestingly, in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the army cutworm moth has been found to be a particularly important food source. This moth is found on talus slopes of the high country.



### **As the Leaves Turn. . .**

In the fall of the year, bears exhibit a feeding behavior known as hyperphagia—“eat, eat, eat.” Berries, succulent vegetation and whitebark pine nuts are important. Whitebark pine nuts (pine seeds) are critical to the fattening of bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Whitebark pine trees are found at high elevations, near timberline and in areas that have shallow tundra-like soils.

Grizzlies will also kill adult moose, buffalo, deer, and elk at any time there is opportunity. Partially consumed carcasses may be cached by covering with brush or by burying in a hole dug by the bear. These caches are jealously guarded. Grizzly bears will aggressively defend their caches and may “daybed” near or on the cache to do so.





### **Annual Life Cycle:**

The grizzly bear often selects north-facing slopes in which to den. Denning begins in late October and into November. Sows (females) with that year's cubs typically enter their dens the earliest. Large adult boars (males) are typically the last to den up. Unlike that of their cousin, the black bear, the grizzly den is quite elaborate. The den has a short passageway of one to five feet in length that opens up into a larger chamber. The chamber is lined with bedding of a variety of plant materials. All of this is done by the bear, including the digging and the gathering. Black bears might den under a fallen log or in a hollow tree.

In the den, the bear undergoes a dormancy, a winter sleep, not true hibernation, for a period of four to six months. During this time they rarely eat, drink, urinate, or defecate. Occasionally they will awaken either from external noise or disturbance, or on their own. On these occasions they might emerge from the den briefly, returning to complete their extended nap.

Cubs are born in the den usually in January. Sows with newborn cubs are usually the last to leave the den. Boars are usually the first to leave their dens in the spring. Mating usually occurs from late May to late June. Sows usually breed every two to four years and their first litter may be born when the sow is at least four years old and may be as old as nine.

The litter size is usually two to three young but it is not uncommon for four cubs to be born in a year to a given sow. The cubs usually stay with their mother until the second or even third spring after birth (two and one-half years to three and one-half years old). Sometimes the cubs will appear to be as large as their mother.

Grizzly bears are polygamous, having several mates. Mating behaviors can be intense and onlookers may not be welcome. Bears may be particularly cantankerous during the mating season.

A grizzly can live to be thirty years of age, but usually in the wild the average lifespan is less than twenty years.



# Bear Practice Quiz #1 - Physical Characteristics

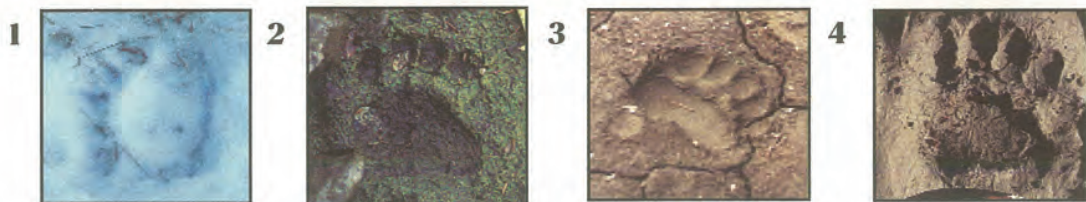
**TRUE-FALSE:** Circle the "T" if you believe the statement to be true; circle the "F" if you believe the statement to be false.

- T F 1).** The toe imprints of grizzly track are joined, not separated, in both front and hind feet.
- T F 2).** The rump of the black bear is equal to or higher than the top of the shoulder when the animal is on all fours.
- T F 3).** The grizzly bear and the black bear are both omnivorous; that is, they will eat both plant and animal source foods.
- T F 4).** Upon leaving the den in the spring, the grizzly will take about any food source that is available, plant or animal.
- T F 5).** Grizzly bears are monogamous, mating for life, while black bears have several mates even during a single season.

Identify each of the following bears. Is it *Ursus americana* or is it *Ursus arctos var. horribilis*?



Identify each of these tracks.



5. Facilitator will show you plaster cast of a track

Answers to Quiz #1: True-False 1) T 2) T 3) T 4) T 5) F

Bear ID 1. Grizzly bear: Rounded ears; grizzled coat. 2. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed. 3. Grizzly bear. Face broad, ears smaller, more rounded; coat grizzled. 4. Grizzly bear. Noticeable shoulder hump. 5. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; no shoulder hump. 6. Grizzly bear. Face broad; ears smaller, more rounded. 7. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; no shoulder hump. 8. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; no shoulder hump. 9. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; claws not evident; no shoulder hump, just body position.

Track Identification 1) grizzly front paw 2) black bear track 3) grizzly tracks 4) black bear

## Pertinent Grizzly Behaviors and Activities

1. The grizzly bear demands and defends its “personal space.” Like humans, bears have an area about them in which they are not comfortable when other bears, people, or any other critter, encroach. A bear’s personal space is unpredictable and varies with each individual bear and the circumstances. Bears are normally shy and most often flee when aware of people. However, moving silently through bear country without letting one’s presence be known, and failing to be alert to the immediate surroundings, could produce confrontation.
2. A bear protecting a food source, especially a large cache such as a deer or elk carcass, will defend its prize when it feels threatened.
3. A mother bear will protect her cubs. A sow with cubs is a very dangerous bear. She considers the education and protection of her young as paramount. The mother bear is affectionate, devoted, and protective of her cubs. She will be aggressive to any threat, real or perceived, to those cubs. Her defense of her young will be to the degree she believes necessary. She will bluff charge and attack until she is assured that the threat to her young is over. Nothing prompts a full-blown charge by a female bear more quickly than the bawl of her cub.
4. Grizzlies are loners and congregate infrequently, especially in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The two times that bears might congregate in groups are during mating season and when there is an abundant food supply available, such as spawning fish, insect feed sites, or a berry patch.



5. There are areas where a food supply is available only at particular seasons of the year: berry patches, insect larvae in caves or mounds, insect feed sites (army cutworm moth sites), pine seeds in squirrel middens. Bear activity in these areas will increase seasonally. Whitebark pine areas offer bear food during the fall months and during the time that the bear is fattening for the winter sleep.
6. Bears are attracted to the smell of blood and meat. Some bears have learned to search for and feed on gut piles and the remains of hunter killed deer and elk during the fall and early winter hunting season. Some bears move from within the borders of Yellowstone National Park to the surrounding forests during hunting season. Some bears are thought to be attracted to the report of a rifle. When field dressing an animal in grizzly bear country, expect a bear to move in on the kill site and be prepared to deal with this situation. Be ready with bear pepper spray any time you are around the carcass.

7. Generally speaking, the grizzly bear does not stalk humans as prey. There seems to be some genetic barrier that has been built up over time and genetic selection perhaps that has discouraged bears from looking at humans as food. However, people have been killed and eaten by grizzly bears. When this happens, the bear is not exhibiting defense behavior, but rather predacious behavior. Human predation by bears is not normal bear behavior.



## Bear Practice Quiz #2 - Pertinent Behaviors of Bears

**TRUE-FALSE:** Circle the “T” if you believe the statement to be true; circle the “F” if you believe the statement to be false.

- T F** 1. If you see a two-year-old “griz” cub alone in a meadow there is likely no danger; that cub couldn't hurt anyone anyway.
- T F** 2. If you are close enough to identify a bear as a male grizzly, you are already in trouble; an encounter is likely.
- T F** 3. If you approach an elk kill while hunting in bear country and no bear is on the carcass, relax—there are no bears in the vicinity.
- T F** 4. Should you chance upon a group of grizzlies on a carcass, stop and watch; they will be so intent on the meat and each other there is little danger to you.
- T F** 5. Beware of berry patches especially in the late summer and early fall when the berries are ripe; a bear could appear at any time.

Answers to Quiz #2: 1) F Mother Bear could be nearby and the cub can cause trouble. 2) T If you are close enough to distinguish characteristics you are likely in the bear's “critical space.” 3) F No one can tell when a bear might appear on that site; be ready with bear pepper spray. 4) F You could be in the middle of the conflict going on with those bears. 5) T All bears love berries. A berry patch in fruit will attract bears at any time.

## Avoiding High Bear-Use Areas—Recognizing Sign



- 1. Tracks** are evidence that bears are in the vicinity. Seldom will they be perfect. Partial tracks are common; on rock and hard surfaces there will be limited visibility of the track at all. A bear's track is five-toed and as long as a man's foot, but twice as wide. The claw marks are extended beyond the toes.
- 2. Bear scat** is found often along the trail, in open meadows, and in a lot of different places. It is a mass of partially digested grasses, berries, insects, seeds, hair, pieces of bone, roots, wood pulp, fruits, etc. It is often quite dark in color. The average size of grizzly scat is about two and one-quarter inches in diameter, a little larger than that of black bear.
- 3. Rotten logs** and stumps are torn apart or rolled over in search of ants or other insects by bears.
- 4. Rocks** are overturned for the insects beneath them; most obvious are those rocks lying on green vegetation adjacent to a bare area.
- 5. Claw marks and teeth marks** - trees, buildings, signs, and trail tags are often climbed, scratched, or bitten by bears as a means of marking (a highly ritualized function of communication); on "bear trees" there are vertical scratch marks (claws), and bite marks, sometimes as high as twelve feet up; bears may destroy signs and break into buildings.



- 6. Diggings** - bears consume considerable quantities of foods (roots, worms, insects, small vertebrates) found below the surface of the ground. Meadows and other open areas often have excavations - turned over sod, or large areas excavated to a considerable depth. Anthills are often torn apart or dug out. Scooped-out depressions (claw marks often visible) in dry stream banks may be the sign of a bear digging out the nests of swallows. Any evidence of digging in grizzly bear country is probably grizzly bear sign.
- 7. Grazing** - areas where there are missing flower heads may be signs of bear grazing.

Hunting  
protocol  
runs  
counter  
to bear  
safety  
precautions

- 8. Caches** - bears may cover the carcasses of animals (carrion) and carefully guard them; these caches normally appear as humps on the ground with tree branches, dirt, and grasses covering the prize, and may strongly smell of a dead animal. A secondary sign associated with the cache might be a gathering of scavenging birds such as ravens, magpies, jays, and eagles.
- 9. Stripped Bark** - bears will strip down and tear off the bark of a tree to eat the inner cambial layer. You may find hair in the flowing pitch. Stripped bark may also be a sign of antlered and horned wildlife, which often rub their heads against trees.
- 10. Fish Parts** - the remnants of fish-heads, tails, and eggs are commonly seen along streams where bears have been feeding on a spawn. The odor of dead and rotting fish may also be evident.
- 11. Bear Hair** - bears rub against trees, leaving hair embedded in the bark or stuck in the flowing pitch. Hair may also be found on brush, fences, buildings, or most anywhere a bear has rubbed or closely passed by.
- 12. Bear Trails** - bears often follow the same route so often that a definite trail develops; if they repeatedly step in their own tracks, depressions often develop where each paw has been placed.
- 13. Day Beds** - you may locate a day bed, a depression in the ground (lots of scat nearby), where a bear or bears rest when not feeding or traveling; day beds are often near a food source.



Hunting techniques run counter to back-country safety precautions. That is, the hunter cannot make noise in order to stalk game but should in order to alert bears. The hunter should walk into the wind in order to stalk game but ought to be downwind from bears. This situation increases the chances for a surprise encounter with bears.

## Outcome #2: Avoiding Grizzly Bear Encounters

### Instructing Clients and Staff

- 1. Planning and Preparation:** ALL party participants should be provided with advance information regarding the potential of entering bear country on the hunt or trip.
- 2. Pre-trip/hunt Orientation:** Members of the party should be oriented regarding bear recognition and behavior prior to leaving the trailhead.
- 3. Evaluate:** The guide should monitor and evaluate the “awareness” of members of the party regarding bear recognition and knowledge of potential bear behaviors that could affect the experience of the hunt or trip. Leadership here is important; remember that example is a great teacher.

### Planning and Preparation for Entering Bear Country: A Checklist

Advance information, to be mailed or delivered to all clients and staff before the hunt or trip into bear country, should include:

- 1. **Land agency management regulations.**
- 2. **List of personal equipment required to exist in bear country** including: bear pepper spray, unscented toiletries and clothing.
- 3. **Information on the use of bear pepper spray, the transport of bear pepper spray, and holster mechanism.** Every person should have triggered a can of inert and/or active bear pepper spray prior to the trip.
- 4. **Topographic maps of the area.** These maps are to be used in communication between members of the party regarding information about where bears and bear sign have been seen. Guides may need to give map reading instruction. Outfitters may elect to send clients and staff such maps or give them instruction as to where they might be purchased.
- 5. **Notice that no one should hunt or travel in bear country alone.** All operations will be done in teams of two people or more.
- 6. **Notice that tents, kitchen areas, latrines, personal gear, etc. must be kept clean**—clean of smells and of food or other bear attractants.
- 7. **A WARNING that bear pepper spray is a bear deterrent, not a repellent.** Bear pepper spray does not work like mosquito repellent.
- 8. **Notice that personal garbage should be removed** from saddle bags, pockets, backpacks, and other carriers and placed in areas where staff will remove it from the area.





**9. Notice that while hunting each person should:**

- A. Hunt always with a partner.
- B. Carry and know how to use bear pepper spray.
- C. Know bear sign and tracks.
- D. Communicate with others when bear sign and track are noted.
- E. Note when entering a bear food area—berry patch, whitebark pine area, squirrel middens, gut pile, etc.
- F. Cautiously hunt dark timber at any time, but especially during midday when bears may be day bedded.
- G. Avoid areas where game has recently been killed.
- H. Avoid areas where bears have been sighted and/or fresh sign has been noted.
- I. Some outfitters provide bear pepper spray for each client and/or employee and then collect it at the end of each trip.

**10. Notice and assurance of the availability of instruction.** Specifically which content areas will be available prior to and during the hunt.

## **Additional Preparations Staff Should Make for Bear Country Hunts and Trips:**

### **A Checklist**

- 1. Develop a plan for packing all meat to camp. Consider using saddle panniers, using riding stock to pack meat into camp. Part of that plan should include instructions to clients.
- 2. Develop a plan for moving the meat from camp to the trailhead.
  - A. Plan for adequate pack stock to carry all meat out in a single trip. No meat, cape, antlers or horns are to be left in camp.
  - B. All pack stock used in bear country hunts should be accustomed to packing meat and horns.
- 3. A written and laminated emergency evacuation plan should be prepared for each member of the party. The plan should include: (1) possible use of radio or cell phones, and local emergency telephone numbers; (2) information on reading topo maps in order to locate sites of accidents; and (3) who is responsible.
- 4. Bear pepper spray posted at known places around camp.

- 5. Bear-proof food storage, either in boxes or hung on poles between trees, should be in place prior to entering camp.
- 6. Poles between trees for meat storage and out of camp should be in place. Meat poles should be at least 100 yards out of camp. The meat should be suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and no less than 4 feet horizontally from the uprights, trees and/or poles.
- 7. Plan for the bearproof storage of garbage in camp and the subsequent timely removal of the same from camp.

**Some Instructions/Suggestions from Members of the Grizzly Encounter Education  
Steering Committee - Regarding Hunting and Camping in Bear Country**  
Add to your plans and preparations

1. Every person in the party should carry bear pepper spray on his/her person at all times when in bear country. (Some outfitters provide bear pepper spray for clients and/or employees and then collect it at the end of each hunt or trip.)
2. A suggestion: Outfitters and guides might consider using an electric fence around the core camp area when in bear country. Appropriate safety measures should accompany use of such fences with regard to clients and employees.
3. Lanterns should be available in numbers to adequately illuminate the entire core camp area at night.
4. Consider using dogs trained for bear deterrent in connection with your operation. (See appendix for information on such dogs. Any dog will not do. In fact, a barking dog can bring a bear in on you.)
5. Having a night campjack may make sense in order to detect the presence of bears in camp.
6. Garbage should be hauled out of camp often and not left to serve as an attractant for bears.

## **Pre-trip/hunt Orientation**

Your clients and your employees need the same information that you have received in this course—recognizing grizzly bears and black bears, and pertinent grizzly/black bear behavior and activities. Only you, their backcountry guide, can make that information available to them. You have to tell them. Simply handing someone something to read doesn't work. There is no other way they are going to receive it. Before entering bear country, sit everyone down and teach them to recognize bears and to know bear behaviors. Emphasize the team effort that is required to live in bear country. Insist that everyone carry bear pepper spray at all times, that they hunt in pairs, that they keep all food and attractants out of their sleeping areas, etc. This has to be done in a formal teaching session. You cannot chance information being available to them in any other way.

At the end of the orientation session, give each member of the group a card or sheet with the information on it that you have covered.

Evaluate your teaching. Nothing has been learned until it has been tested. Ask your students about what they have learned. Be certain they have learned their lessons well; your life, theirs, and/or other members of the party's lives may depend on how well. This can be done without offending; in fact, evaluation done well can make a person feel better about themselves and about the experience they are about to have.

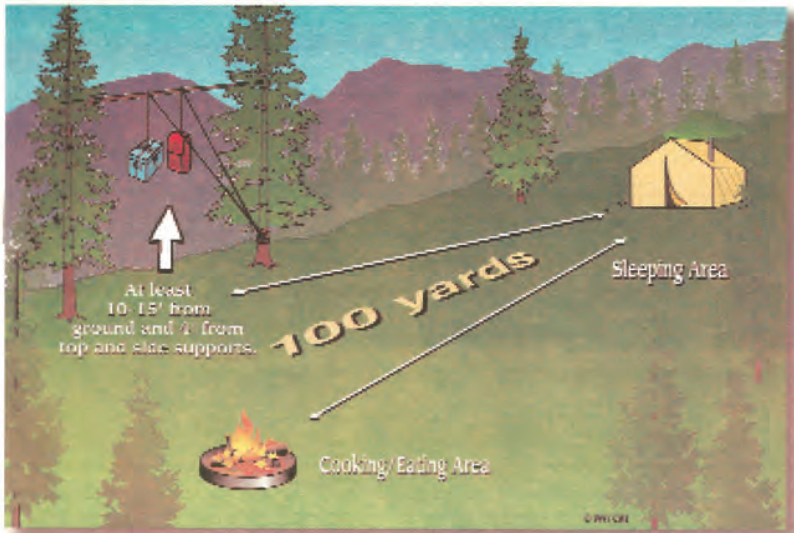
### End of Hunting Day Discussions

Discuss bear sign and observed activity.

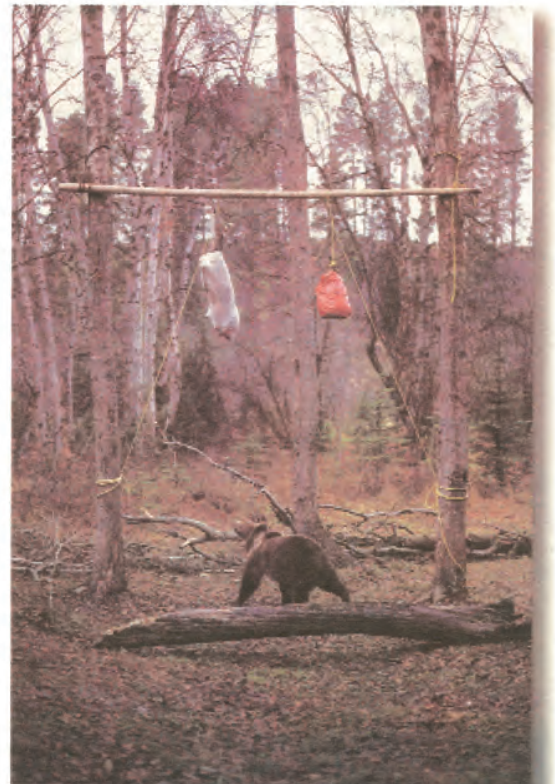
Use maps to mark all locations of bear observations and potential bear feeding sites (gut piles, diggings, heavy track use).

All wildlife carcasses, or parts of carcasses, must be stored like food, but the point of storage must be at least 100 yards from any sleeping area, trail or recreation site and preferably down wind.

## Camping in bear country



- If a bear approaches your campsite or tent form a group, if possible, and retreat to a tree or a place of safety.
- Bears have a phenomenal sense of smell! Keep your sleeping bag and tent completely free of food and food odors and personal products like tooth-paste, lotion, and makeup.
- Rehearse what you and others in your group will do if a bear appears, day or night.
- Keep bear pepper spray ready in camp.



## Make an Assessment of Risk

Only the guide in charge can assume the leadership role. That is what you are being paid for; that is what you are responsible for. You have lives in your charge. It is your responsibility to make decisions, decisions that affect the welfare of every member of the party, decisions that come from very few clearcut guidelines. Your best "judgment" is the best the party can hope for.

That best "judgment" comes from feeding as much information into the decision-making process as possible. That is why you are in this class today, so that you can make the best decisions possible out there in the backcountry, where unpredictable animals and situations are waiting. Here are some pieces of advice from other good guides who have faced this decision-making process in the past:

- 1. Fill your mind with "knowns" about bears.** About bear behavior, about agency regulations, about past human encounters with bears, about the terrain, the bear food available on the terrain, and about bear sign. The more one knows, the more one has to work with in order to make decisions.
- 2. Practice associating these facts in your mind with actual outcomes.** Bears use whitebark pine stands in the fall. Bear scat still steaming means the bear is not far away. A day bed for a bear is used more than once; a bear will return just as a bear who is successful in robbing food from a camp will return.
- 3. When you are in bear country, you must think through every possible scenario.** Where might bears be? How might we best circumvent their positions? Do we need to go there at all? What will I do if a bear does attack? What will I do first? second? third?
- 4. Run a risk assessment through your mind.** With any decision that must be made on the land consider all of the pros and all of the cons. You may, on occasion, have to do so quickly, but consider them nonetheless. And then follow your first inclination, it is likely the correct one. Have confidence in that decision.
- 5. Pay attention to those "hints" of something wrong.** If you make the assessment of risk, take a moment to survey your surroundings and ponder your actions. A "hint" could be something you sense, or maybe a cue from your horse, like snorting, stopping abruptly or pawing the ground. It can also be ravens or crows cawing and waiting for a chance to dine at a fresh kill. An unnatural silence can also be a cue. **Be prepared for the unexpected.**



## Things to Do After an Elk is Harvested.

- Remember the minute you harvest an animal, YOU HAVE JUST SET A BEAR BAIT.
- Slide safety cap 1/2 off on bear spray & make sure nozzle is pointed forward.
- Look for ways bear can approach the carcass.
- Shake your hunter's hand and congratulate him.
- Fill out hunter's elk tag and put it into your pocket.
- Position the elk for pictures.
- Clean elk up. No blood in pictures, tongue hanging out, etc.
- Take plenty of pictures.
- Field dress elk. Remember to leave evidence of sex on both hindquarters.
- Cape elk after separating from gut pile.
- Quarter elk. Remember to always keep the meat clean.
- Place tag on hind quarter and place quarters in game bags.
- If possible, load up your elk and walk back to the campsite. If removal of the elk is not possible, continue with checklist.
- Hang quarters in tree off ground and cover with branches. Leave an article of clothing in tree. Move the meat away from the gut pile.
- Mark trail from elk to main trail. Assure that carcass is not near other camps and is well away from horse trails so as not to cause bear conflicts with other users.
- Clean blood off of knives, saws, etc. Put all bloody clothes including backpacks in plastic bags and hang from bear pole. This includes all bloodstained horse tack.
- After supper inform everyone of the location of the carcass and any bear sign seen in the area.
- Expect a bear to be on the carcass or bedded nearby when approaching the carcass. Make noise when approaching the kill site. Have safety cap off bear spray! Get your animals packed quickly and get out, pronto.
- If you must bone out your animal before packing to the trailhead, make sure all discarded animal parts are disposed of according to FS regulations.

## **Outcome #3: Mitigating Human-Grizzly Encounters**

**An encounter with a grizzly can be prompted by:**

1. Inadvertently coming in between a sow bear and her cub(s), appearing to the sow to be somehow a danger to a cub, or entering into the personal space of mother and young.
2. Coming within 50 yards or within the personal space of any adult or juvenile bear, male or female.
3. Appearing to a bear to be a threat to a food source.
4. Being the prey or the object of the stalk of a “problem” bear.

**It is not possible to predict how a particular bear will react to a human presence.**

**Factors that might influence the situation include:**

1. the bear’s personality;
2. the bear’s mood and attitude at that particular time;
3. the bear’s age and social status among other bears;
4. its physical condition;
5. presence or absence of cubs;
6. proximity of the person with regard to the bear;
7. previous experience of the bear with humans;
8. the bear’s perception of a threat.

Every encounter is unique. When a bear is encountered, the behavior and reaction of the animal must be monitored. Its intentions must be determined.

Most often, if the bear detects human presence early enough at a reasonable distance, it will flee and avoid the encounter. If it is acclimated or habituated to human presence it is likely to ignore the situation. **With this in mind, the key to bear safety is to give them room and early warning—avoid surprising them.**

Bears are curious animals. Should a bear not identify a person as “human” it may approach or circle to catch a scent in order to identify. Consequently a bear approaching a person may not be an aggressive act. Sometimes such behavior can turn into disaster if the bear is allowed to approach too close.

**Threat Displays** - purpose is to communicate dominance with the intent of scaring away the intruder and eliminating a fight. The bear feels threatened or angry and wants his/her personal space. Threat displays to look for include:

- Vocal - huffing, panting, growling, woofing or snorting.
- Excessive salivation.
- Jaws popping or snapping.
- Staring with head lowered and ears laid back.
- Body posturing; stiffening front legs.
- Swaying head back and forth.
- Approaching closely.
- Slapping ground or vegetation.
- Bluff charge—can be difficult to distinguish from a real charge.

**Bluff charge** usually occurs with the head up, the legs stiff, the ears forward, and the bear may hop or jump as it moves. An actual charge by a grizzly occurs with the head down, ears laid back, and a look of determination in the countenance. An attack can still occur following such threat displays. If one is confronted with threat displays one should back out of the situation calmly, slowly, and undefiantly. Do not run, unless there is safety nearby, such as a tree to climb. Running will probably encourage the bear to chase. A bear can run 50 yards in 3 seconds.

### **Mental Rehearsal - Mandatory**

**“If the mind has never been there before, the body doesn’t know how to respond”**

Instinctive reactions such as yelling, running, or shooting may trigger aggressive behavior on the part of the bear. Trust the training that you have had in this course, be reflexive.

The mental rehearsal should include the following elements:

1. Assess the situation and think.
2. Stay calm. Keep in mind that few bear encounters result in attacks.
3. Keep the bear in sight at all times.
4. DO NOT RUN.

### **Consider the following scenarios:**

**A. Bear is Not Aware of You.** Attempt to leave quietly; go back the way you came. Move only when the bear is preoccupied with feeding or looking the other way. Keep your distance and stay downwind if possible. If the bear is approaching give it the right-of-way and try to avoid detection. Give the bear an opportunity to leave. Do not yell or shout.

**B. Bear is Aware of You But at a Distance.** Stay calm. Generally this is a safe situation at a distance of 100 yards or more. Continue walking away from the bear. If the bear follows, leave behind a scarf, hat, or some other non-essential item for a distraction. Do not leave food or any other kind of reward. If it is a grizzly, climb a tree. Make noise, shout or yell.

**C. Bear is Aware of You and Close.** The bear is likely to feel threatened and will want to reduce, remove, or avoid the threat. Make no sudden movements. DO NOT RUN. Help bear identify you as a human, talk quietly and calmly (“Nice bear...”). Do not yell, shout or scream. Monitor the bear's movements and behavior. Keep the bear in sight. Back away slowly. Climb a tree if it is close at hand and if bear pepper spray or weapon is not on your person. Slowly wave your arms. Do not stare at the bear; eye to eye contact is threatening.

**D. Bear is Close and Threatening.** Act non-threatening. Talk in a calm authoritative voice. No fast or sudden movements that may startle or provoke the bear. Back off slowly. DO NOT RUN. Drop hat, scarf, or bandana to distract bear (but not food). If you have a backpack on, leave it on for protection. Make bear pepper spray or weapon ready.

### **E. BEAR CHARGE**

**USE BEAR PEPPER SPRAY WHEN THE BEAR IS WITHIN RANGE–NOT BEFORE**

**Bear Pepper Spray Demonstration.** When the bear is repelled, exit the area quietly and calmly.



Use a weapon only if bear pepper spray is not available. Guides should carry shotgun with slug loads.

**F. As a Last Resort, Play Dead.** Curl into a ball or lie flat, covering your neck and head with your hands and arms. If you have a backpack, leave it on as it will help protect your back. If the bear swats at you, roll with it. Stay face down and do not look at the bear until you are sure it is gone. Stay as motionless as possible. Many people have survived bear attacks using this method.



## **Outcome #4: A Conservation Land Ethic for Grizzlies**

Quoted from Tom Edwards, a former Bob Marshall Wilderness stock outfitter: “What are these people buying?” Hobnail Tom asked, referring in his 1972 testimony before Congress in favor of designation for the Lincoln-Sagegoat, to the folks he guided into the backcountry. “Is it fishing or hunting? I would have gone broke years ago if this had been the case... most come to this country to buy the *hush* of the land.” Tom went on to say, “Into this land of spiritual strength I have been privileged to guide on horseback literally thousands of people. I have harvested a self-sustaining natural resource of the forest of vast importance. No one word will suffice to explain this resource, but let us call it the *hush* of the land. This *hush* is infinitely more valuable to me than money or my business.... The bear is a part of that *hush*, a symbol of the wild.”

### **Workbook exercise: The Role of the Hunt in the Ecology of the Bear**

- a. food-chain relationships
- b. travel patterns for bears
- c. “conditioning” of the bear

### **Workbook exercise: Providing the Hush of the Land in Bear Country**

- a. adventure defined
- b. a land of “spiritual strength”
- c. our tradition and our heritage—Fair chase
- d. our role as leaders in the backcountry hunting community







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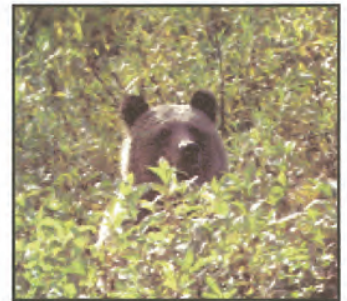
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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## Evaluation of Outcomes: Grizzly Bear Encounter Education

1. Identify each of the bears in the pictures below



A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Identify Tracks



A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_



3. **TRUE-FALSE:** Circle the "T" if you believe the statement to be true; circle the "F" if you believe the statement to be false.

- T F 1)** The toe imprints of grizzly track are joined, not separated, in both front and hind feet.
- T F 2)** The rump of the black bear is equal to or higher than the top of the shoulder when the animal is on all fours.
- T F 3)** The grizzly bear and the black bear are both omnivorous; that is, they will eat both plant and animal source foods.
- T F 4)** Upon leaving the den in the spring, the grizzly will take about any food source that is available, plant or animal.
- T F 5)** Grizzly bears are monogamous, mating for life, while black bears have several mates even during a single season.
- T F 6)** If you see a two-year-old "griz" cub alone in a meadow there is likely no danger; that cub couldn't hurt anyone anyway.
- T F 7)** If you are close enough to identify a bear as a male grizzly, you are already in trouble, an encounter is likely.
- T F 8)** If you approach an elk kill while hunting in bear country and no bear is on the carcass, relax, there are no bears in the vicinity.
- T F 9)** Should you chance upon a group of grizzlies on a carcass, stop and watch; they will be so intent on the meat and each other there is little danger to you.
- T F 10)** Beware of berry patches, especially in the late summer and early fall when the berries are ripe, a bear could appear at any time.

4. Identify three things that were done that prompted the bear encounter from this newspaper story of Wednesday, September 9, 1998. (*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*)

Mauling: . . . Peter Van Der Auwera, 31, left Tuesday for his home country after spending 48 hours in a Billings hospital, park officials said. After the mauling, seriously injured, he had to spend three hours alone in the backcountry waiting for help. When it came, he was flown to safety in a litter slung beneath a helicopter that traveled through heavy rainfall and lightning.

He was mauled about 2:30 Saturday, after he and his wife split up. "He was being very quiet," said Park spokeswoman, Marsha Karle. Park bear management specialist, Kerry Gunther, said that Van Der Auwera may have disturbed the bear from its daybed.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_



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# Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics is hereby made a part of these By-laws and is imposed upon all members of WYOGA and will be subscribed to by all eligible persons prior to being accepted into membership in this Association.

- Members will endeavor to promote and practice responsible wildland ethics and exercise good stewardship of our natural resources.
- There shall be full cooperation between members of the Association. Prior use rights, camp sites, grazing privileges and other existing practices of members will be respected by fellow members and their employees.
- Members of the Association and their employees will be required to fully cooperate with the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides officials, Wyoming Game & Fish Commission officials, United States Forest Service officials, National Park Service officials, the Bureau of Land Management officials, State Land officials, and other government agencies; and fully adhere to their laws, rules and regulations.
- Members will be required to maintain good, adequate and serviceable equipment. Rates and accommodations will be clearly and carefully defined to guests prior to booking.
- Members will not misrepresent their rates, services or accommodations.
- Members will always endeavor to employ an adequate number of well-trained, courteous personnel to care for their guests.
- Members will provide adequate and well-prepared food to guests and personnel at all times.
- Members' camps will be kept in a neat, orderly, good state of repair at all times, and shall be so maintained to be a credit to this Association.
- If livestock is used, members will treat them humanely and maintain their saddle and pack stock in good condition by feeding a balanced ration for the work being done.
- Members will conduct their business in an ethical manner.
- Members of the Association and their employees will be required to cooperate with land owners/stockmen and the public with respect to their rights and privileges.
- Failure of any member to abide this Code of Ethics will subject himself to reprimand, suspension or expulsion from this Association.

