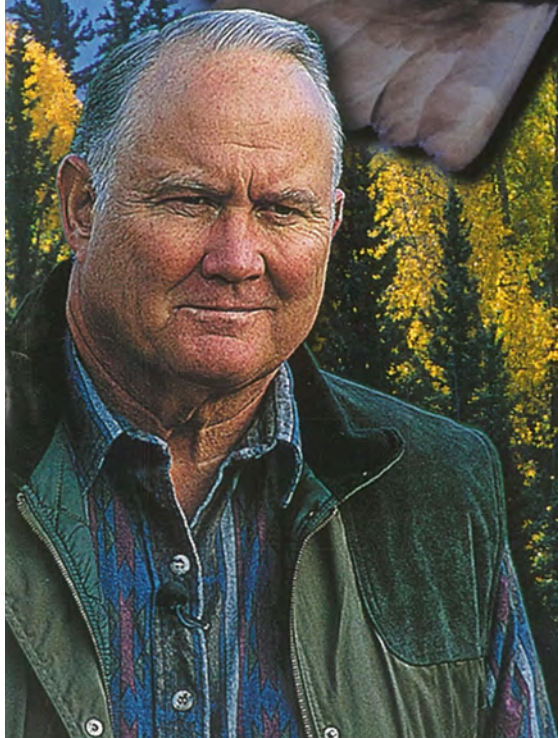
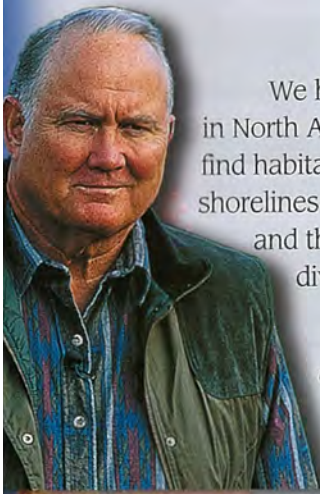


North American Wildlife Stewardship Guide





We have something special in North America. Here you will find habitats that range from ocean shorelines to mountain ranges and the wildlife is just as diverse.

Wild animals, especially bears and alligators, need space just like you and me. They should never be approached or fed.

Please take the time to learn how to enjoy wildlife safely and responsibly so that you will not endanger them, yourself or others.

We can all help preserve wildlife by following the easy safety techniques in this Guide. By teaching a new enthusiast or youngster how to respect the wild in wildlife, you will create a wildlife legacy that lasts long into the future.

Enjoy your travels throughout North America and thank you for helping to keep wildlife wild.

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf
Spokesman for the National Be Bear Aware & Wildlife Stewardship Campaign
www.BeBearAware.org



How Close is Too Close?



Dangerously Close!

Animals that live in forests, parks and refuges are wild. Even though they may look or act tame — they are not. **Many wildlife professionals recommend remaining a minimum of 100 yards away from bears and 25 yards from other large animals.** A safe distance should also be maintained from small animals, such as squirrels, mice and raccoons. Always follow local wildlife management guidelines.

The consequences of approaching or feeding wildlife can be serious. You are responsible for your own safety as well as the safety of wildlife. Wild animals should be allowed to forage for food, care for their young, sleep and play without human disturbance.

Wildlife + Distance = Safety For Both People and Wildlife

Animals that are approached too closely may:

- ▼ Run into traffic and get hit by vehicles.
- ▼ Lose footing on cliffs and fall.
- ▼ Become separated from their young or forced to abandon their nests or dens.
- ▼ Become more vulnerable to predators because they are distracted by people or acquire a human scent.
- ▼ Abandon an important food source, reducing their chances for survival.

Your safety and the safety of your personal property cannot be guaranteed.



Don't Feed Wild Animals

Feeding animals can put you and the animals in danger.

- ▼ Wild animals, especially **alligators, crocodiles** and **bears**, should never be fed or allowed to obtain unattended food or garbage. Wild animals that receive these “food rewards” just once may become aggressive toward humans. To protect people and their property, these animals are often destroyed. Feeding wild animals may increase the spread of rabies and other diseases, and can attract predators.
- ▼ Animals fed along roads tend to stay near the road, increasing the chances of vehicle-animal accidents.
- ▼ Animals will eat anything with an odor including aluminum foil, plastic and other food wrappings. These can severely damage an animal's digestive system and may even cause death. Properly dispose of boxes, wrappers, plastics, cans, etc. in animal-resistant garbage containers.
- ▼ Human food and garbage may facilitate tooth decay, ulcers, malformation of horns, arthritis, or cause the spread of distemper in wild animals, and undulant fever in people.
- ▼ Many television shows, books, magazines and advertisements feature people getting close to or feeding wildlife as if this is appropriate behavior. *Don't be misled*—approaching or feeding wild animals is never appropriate. Giving food to or approaching wild animals interferes with their natural activities and is the leading cause of conflicts which result in **serious injury or death to both people and animals**.



A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear!



All Wild Animals Can Be

Dangerous

- ▼ Human conflicts with bears, cougars and alligators usually receive widespread media attention. However, most conflicts that result in human injury involve other species of wild animals. **Conflicts with wildlife are primarily caused by inappropriate human behavior.**
- ▼ Many wildland visitors mistakenly believe that there are specific gestures and warning signals wild animals make that will give people time to retreat to safety. Wild animals (including bears, deer, elk, alligators, wild hogs, squirrels and racoons) are individualistic and unpredictable. Animals that ignore you, look calm, or appear friendly may suddenly and without warning charge or strike out.
- ▼ Human injury often occurs when an animal responds to a perceived threat with instinctive **“fight or flight” behavior**—people get injured simply because they are too close and in the animal's way. A car horn, barking dog or excited child can trigger an animal into fight or flight behavior.
- ▼ Both the females and males of most species are equally dangerous.
- ▼ Although animals may look or act tame, they are wild and may change quickly and unpredictably from passive or “friendly” to aggressive.
- ▼ If an animal approaches you, it is your responsibility to move away to maintain a safe distance.



Wildlife Field Notes

Deer, Elk and Moose

- ▼ May charge and attack humans who approach them.
- ▼ Are often mistakenly believed to be tame.
- ▼ Can kill people by rearing up and striking with their front hooves, or goring with their antlers.

Chipmunks, Squirrels, Rabbits and Marmots

- ▼ Have plenty to eat and should not be fed peanuts or other food.
- ▼ Have bitten and scratched people who have tried to feed them.
- ▼ May have rabies or hantavirus.
- ▼ Carry ticks that cause Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Coyotes, Raccoons and Foxes

- ▼ Are not tame, even though they may approach people.
- ▼ May carry rabies.
- ▼ Are active mainly at night.

Mountain Goats and Bighorn Sheep

- ▼ Have butted, kicked and gored people who approached them.
- ▼ May become aggressive towards people after being fed.

Spiders, Scorpions and Ticks

- ▼ Can crawl into your shoes, bedding or clothing. Shake out and inspect clothes and bedding before you get into them.
- ▼ Will hide in or under rocks, bushy areas and firewood. Watch where you put your hands and feet.
- ▼ May not be felt at first. Check yourself and children frequently and closely each night for ticks and bites.

Children and Wildlife

Wildlife—unlike zoo, farm and captive animals—pose special dangers to children. Explain to children the differences between wild and domestic animals and why it is important not to approach, touch or feed wildlife.



Very Dangerous!



For their own safety, children should:

- ▼ Always be within close reach and sight of guardians.
- ▼ Avoid playing in or near dense cover.
- ▼ Refrain from squealing or making other animal-like noises while hiking or playing.
- ▼ Be warned not to approach animals, especially baby animals.
- ▼ Never pet, feed or pose for a photo with a wild animal—even if the animal appears tame.

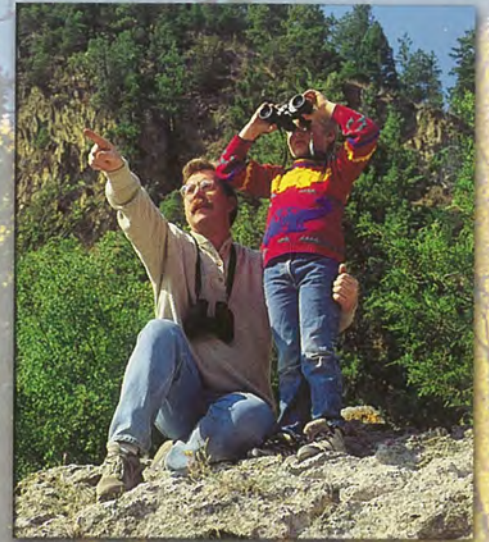


Along the Road...

- ▼ Give animals plenty of space when they are near or crossing a road.
- ▼ Watch for others to follow if a deer or other animal runs in front of your vehicle.
- ▼ Do not entice animals to your car with food or throw food at them—this encourages them to frequent the road area, resulting in potentially fatal vehicle-animal accidents.
- ▼ Observe or photograph animals, especially bears, from inside your car—do not drive close to animals. All large animals can cause serious damage to your vehicle.
- ▼ Park in established turnouts, not on the road.

Etiquette for Viewing and Photographing Wildlife

- ▼ View and photograph from established observation areas or the trail when hiking. If an animal approaches, back away in order to maintain a safe distance.
- ▼ Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses to view and photograph wild animals. This reduces stress on wildlife.
- ▼ Remain alert to potential danger while viewing or taking pictures.
- ▼ Avoid direct eye contact with bears, even through a lens, because it may be interpreted as a challenge or threat.
- ▼ Stay away from newborn or young animals, nests and dens.
- ▼ Never sneak up on or surprise an animal, especially a bear.
- ▼ Never try to get an animal to move to a different location.
- ▼ Allow other visitors to enjoy wildlife—avoid blocking others' views.
- ▼ Watch other people in the area—are they putting you in danger?
- ▼ Never surround, crowd, chase or follow an animal—it may respond by charging.
- ▼ Don't make sudden loud noises around wild animals.



Professional photographers get great photos by:

- ▼ Using appropriate telephoto lenses, and by cropping their photographs.
- ▼ Photographing in controlled wildlife management areas with special access permits.
- ▼ Being patient, practicing low-impact photography and devoting many years to getting desired photos.
- ▼ Using captive and conditioned animals at zoos and game farms.



Bears and Cougars

Black bears are found throughout most of North America, while grizzly/brown bears are only found in the northwestern states, Alaska and western Canada. Cougars, also called mountain lions, panthers and pumas, have been expanding their territory in North America. Every year millions of recreationists have the opportunity to safely observe bears and catch rare glimpses of cougars from observation areas and hiking trails without any confrontation.

Confrontations with bears and cougars are very rare. In recent years, attacks are most commonly the direct result of people approaching the animals for photographs, hiking off trails in dense brush, or feeding

the animals, particularly bears. You can minimize the possibility of a confrontation by following one basic rule:

Never Approach, Feed or Follow Wild Animals – Especially Bears.

Special Things To Know

- ▼ Startled bears will often confront intruders by turning sideways to appear larger, make woofing and teeth clacking sounds, salivate, lay their ears back and slap the ground with their paws. These are warnings for you to leave the area.
- ▼ Mother bears are very protective of their cubs. A startled black bear will often send her cubs up a tree while she stands guard at the bottom. This gives you an opportunity to leave without a confrontation. Mother grizzly bears try to avoid people, but if you surprise one, she might bluff charge to remove the threat.
- ▼ Cougars are secretive and illusive. They can jump 30 feet from a standstill and 20 feet up a cliffside. They mark their territory by urinating on scratch piles usually made of grass, dirt, pine needles and leaves. They often hide behind bushes, logs or rock outcroppings, and usually leave an area when they hear people approaching.
- ▼ If a bear stands on its hind legs, it is not being aggressive. It is trying to see, hear and smell you better in order to identify what you are. Talk firmly and in a low-pitched voice while cautiously backing away.
- ▼ During extreme conditions such as droughts, thunderstorms and forest fires, all wildlife, especially bears and cougars, may become more visible, aggressive or confrontational.

Bears and Cougars at a Distance:

- ▼ **Bears** - Detour as far away as possible while monitoring the bear's behavior. If the bear is close to the trail and you cannot bypass it or return the way you came, wait for the bear to leave the trail area. If the bear is approaching you, identify yourself as human by allowing the bear to see and hear you. The bear should divert its direction and avoid you.
- ▼ **Cougars** - Even at a distance a brief glimpse should be cause for alarm. Though the cougar is most likely to leave the area, you should group together and travel with great caution. Do not run! If there are repeated sightings, be prepared to aggressively defend yourself and others. Be alert and on guard for the remainder of your hike.



Sudden Close Encounter with a Bear or Cougar:

- ▼ All cougar close encounters should be considered confrontational and predatory. Be prepared to aggressively fight back with a stick, rock or other available weapon.
- ▼ Do not panic! Group together, pick up small children and assess the situation. Prepare to use your bear pepper spray.
- ▼ Do not run or make sudden movements, it may instinctively cause the bear or cougar to charge you.
- ▼ Give bears a chance to identify you as human, and not a threat. If the bear stands up, it is trying to see, hear and smell you better. Talk firmly in a low-pitched voice while backing away. Avoid direct eye contact as bears may perceive this as a challenge or threat.
- ▼ Continue to back away slowly and cautiously, retreating to a place of safety. Monitor the animal's response, and adjust your actions accordingly.

Predatory Confrontations: (usually with Black Bears)

Any bear or cougar that continues to approach, follow, disappear and reappear, or display other stalking behaviors is acting in a predatory manner. Bears that attack you in your tent or confront you aggressively in your campsite or cooking area should also be considered a predatory threat.

If the bear or cougar does not respond to aggressive actions such as yelling, throwing rocks and sticks, etc., you should be prepared to physically fight back if it attempts to make contact. If you have bear pepper spray, emit a deterring blast, preferably when the bear or cougar is about twenty-five feet away. This gives the animal time to divert its advance. Save enough spray for a full blast in the face, close up.



Defensive Confrontations: (usually with Grizzly Bears)

Are usually the result of a sudden encounter with a grizzly bear protecting its space, cubs or food caches. On rare occasions a black bear may charge that way. In defensive confrontations, the bear is attacking you because it feels threatened.

If contact is made, or about to be made, drop to the ground and play dead. Lay on your stomach, clasp your hands behind your neck and use your elbows and toes to avoid being rolled over. If the bear does roll you over, keep rolling until you land back on your stomach. Remain still and try not to struggle or scream. A defensive bear will stop attacking once it feels the threat has been removed. Do not move until you are absolutely sure the bear has left the area.

Always review the latest information on what to do in an encounter or attack by contacting the wildlife and land management agency where you are recreating. Bear behavior varies from species to species and as a result of their individual experiences. There is no single assured protective action to take during an encounter or attack. Polar Bear avoidance requires special training and equipment. Always travel with an experienced guide.



Only in defensive confrontations.

Traveling in Bear Country

Whether you hike, mountain bike, float rivers or ride horses, there are precautions you should take. Following the suggestions below will help make the journey safer for you, your companions, and wildlife. Remember, all wildlife can be dangerous. Please do not approach or feed wild animals, especially bears.



Common causes of attacks while hiking:

- ▼ Not making sufficient noise.
- ▼ Approaching or surprising an animal at close range, especially a bear.
- ▼ Getting close to a carcass or other food source.
- ▼ Startling a female bear with cubs.
- ▼ Hiking off trail or at night.

Bear country can also be home to cougars, snakes and other wildlife, such as bison, moose, deer and elk. All wild animals can be dangerous. Always maintain a safe and respectful distance from wildlife.

Reduce the risk of close encounters:

Let Someone Know where you are going and when you plan to return.

Keep Children Close to you and within your immediate sight at all times.

Make Noise: Talk, sing or clap your hands to let a bear know your presence. Don't rely on bells; usually they are too quiet. Shout often, especially when traveling upwind, near streams and waterfalls, or when you cannot see the path ahead. (Avoid thick brush.)

Be Alert: Watch for bear sign such as tracks, droppings, diggings, rocks rolled over, scratch marks on trees and logs torn apart. Carry binoculars and scan ahead periodically. Keep bear pepper spray readily available.

Don't Hike Alone or at Night: Bears and cougars are most active at dawn, dusk and night, but can be encountered any time. Groups make more noise and appear more formidable than a solo hiker.

Stay on Trails for your safety and to protect the habitat.



Tracks



Diggings



Claw Marks



Avoid Carcasses: Report dead animals to the nearest ranger station. It is very risky to approach a carcass; a bear may be just out of sight, guarding its food.

Avoid Odorous Items: Leave foods and beverages with strong odors, scented deodorants and lotions and other odorous items at home. A bear's acute sense of smell can detect odors from great distances. Dry foods are both lighter and less smelly.



Stay with Your Gear: Don't leave your packs, food or beverages unattended; even food or beverages stored under water may attract bears.

Taking Pets on Hiking Trails is Not Advised. Pets may attract bears and cougars and are not allowed on trails in our National Parks and Refuges. If dogs are permitted, keep them on a short leash to avoid conflicts with wildlife.

View and Photograph from Established Observation Areas or the trail. If an animal approaches, back away to maintain a safe distance.

All wildlife can be dangerous.

Use Binoculars, Spotting Scopes or a Telephoto Lens to view and photograph an animal to avoid stressing the animal.

Bicyclists and runners should carefully select the areas they are recreating in and be extra alert in cougar, bear and rattlesnake country. Speed and quietness increases risks of a sudden encounter.

Hike at a pace everyone can maintain and stay together. Cougars and some bears behave in a predatory manner and will seek the easiest target. Don't hike ahead or allow someone to fall behind, especially children and pets.

Running to a tree may provoke a bear or cougar to chase you. You cannot outrun them. Bears can run up to 30 mph, up and downhill, while cougars are known for their powerful sprints and jumps. Climb a tree only if it is near and the animal is far away. Keep in mind that all black bears and some grizzlies climb trees.



Rattlesnakes are very seldom seen. They can sense our vibrations from walking and look for a place to hide, which is often behind rocks, logs or in thick brush. They are not usually aggressive unless they feel threatened, either deliberately or by accident. To prevent being bitten, avoid stepping directly in front of or behind logs and rocks (step on top and away.) Before sitting down or picking up supplies from the ground, look around the area carefully. Watch where you put your hands and feet. Most importantly, enjoy snakes at a distance without disturbing them.

Alligators are found throughout the Southeast. Crocodiles are found in parts of Florida. Both prefer to avoid people and will often retreat to water when disturbed. However, mother alligators will aggressively defend their nests and may chase intruders away. Be extra careful around shorelines as alligators often lay in wait for prey. Be aware of trails or drag marks indicating a regularly traveled route.

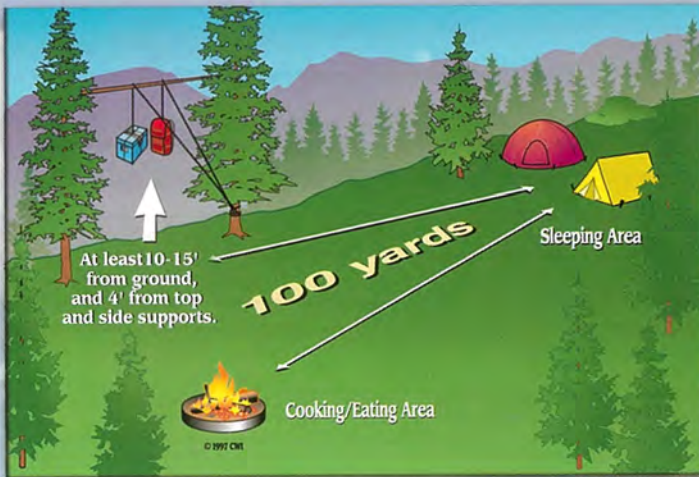
**Always Follow Local Regulations
and review trailhead signs
before hiking.**



Backcountry Camping

(Follow local regulations)

- ▼ Set up cooking, eating and supply areas **at least 100 yards** from your sleeping area. Hang food and odorous items **at least 10 to 15 feet above ground and 4 feet from top and side supports**, or store in approved, bear-resistant containers.
- ▼ Select food in **individually sealed packages**. Plan meals carefully to prevent leftovers.
- ▼ Store pet food, livestock feed and garbage the same as food. Never bury it; pack it out.



- ▼ Strain food particles from dishwater using a fine mesh screen and store with garbage. Dump dishwater at least 100 yards from your sleeping area. **Food odors may attract bears and other animals.**
- ▼ Keep sleeping bags and tents **completely free** of food, food odors and beverages.
- ▼ Store personal items (such as deodorants, toothpaste, soap and lotions) with food and garbage when not in use. **Any odorous product may attract bears.**
- ▼ **Camp in open areas** away from trails, thick brush, berry patches, spawning streams or carcasses. Sleep in a tent for increased safety.
- ▼ Keep a flashlight and **bear pepper spray** readily available.
- ▼ **Wash your hands** after cooking, eating or handling fish or game. Minimize odors.
- ▼ Do not sleep in the clothes you cook or handle game or fish in.
- ▼ Rehearse what you and others in your group will do—*day or night*—if a bear appears in your camp or while you're hiking. Review local regulations.
- ▼ When gathering firewood and picking up belongings off the ground, be cautious of snakes, scorpions and other insects that are often hard to detect.
- ▼ Check for insects in your bedding, clothing and footwear carefully before using.



If a bear enters your campsite or your sleeping and cooking areas seeking food, it is acting in a predatory manner. Group together and retreat to a place of safety. If your attempts from a distance of yelling and

throwing things do not cause the bear to retreat, leave the area immediately. Report the incident to the local wildlife management agency and retrieve your personal belongings with their assistance.

If a bear attacks you or a companion in your campsite or eating area, consider it a predatory confrontation and aggressively fight back with everything possible.



Campgrounds

(Follow local regulations)

Don't be careless with food or garbage when camping—wild animals, especially bears, **may wander through at any time** of day or night. Wild animals near a campground are more likely to be habituated or food-conditioned (used to people and their food). Having lost their natural fear of humans, these animals often become increasingly aggressive in their attempts to obtain human, pet and livestock food.



- ▼ **Protect yourself** and others and prevent wild animals from obtaining human food and garbage by **keeping a clean camp**. Deposit all garbage in wildlife-resistant trash containers.
- ▼ Store all food and food-related items inside a closed, hard-sided vehicle or special bear-resistant container except when preparing or eating food. **Ice chests, coolers, boxes, cans, tents and soft-sided campers are not bear-resistant!**
- ▼ Store pet food and livestock feed in the same manner as human food, out of reach from bears and other animals.
- ▼ **Keep pets on a leash** while with you or inside a cool, well-ventilated vehicle. Pets may threaten and harass wildlife and can entice predators to your camp. Pets are not allowed on hiking trails in most parks and refuges. **Do not leave pets unattended** in bear country!
- ▼ When walking in a campground at night, always carry bear pepper spray, use a flashlight and stay alert.
- ▼ Ask campers who are not observing precautions to clean up their camp for the safety of visitors and wildlife.
- ▼ **Remove all food and garbage** from campground storage boxes before you leave.
- ▼ Watch for snakes when picking up firewood or gear from the ground.
- ▼ Use a designated camping area and set up tents with space between them.



- ▼ Always keep a clean camp.
- ▼ Keep a flashlight and bear pepper spray readily available.
- ▼ Animals traveling through campgrounds should never be assumed to be tame and should not be approached or fed.
- ▼ Immediately notify the campground host if you encounter a bear, cougar or rattlesnake in or near your campground area.



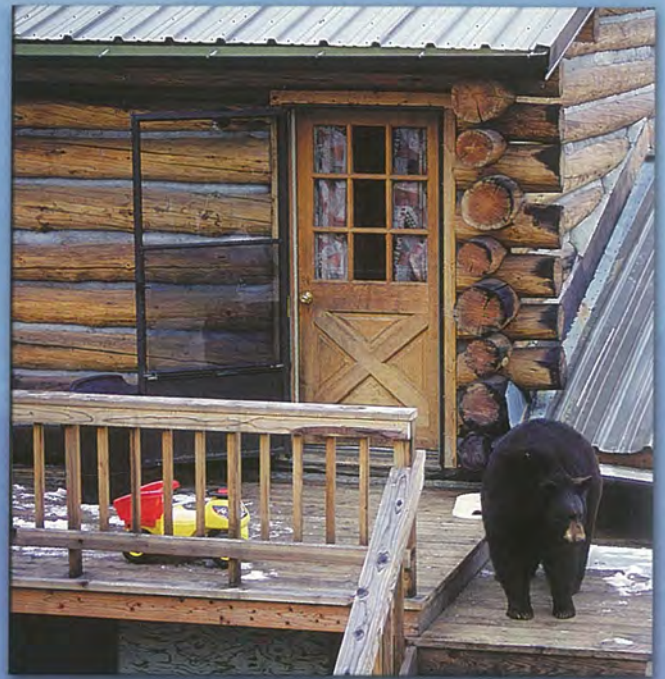
Residential Areas

Minimize odors and the availability of food rewards throughout your yard and neighborhood. Report all residential wildlife encounters to your local wildlife management agency and police department, and notify your neighbors of the situation.

- ▼ Remove any dense brush that could provide cover for a bear or cougar and make a surprise encounter likely. Also remove brush piles that snakes may hide in.
- ▼ If a bear or other wild animal repeatedly enters your yard, determine what attractants are drawing it there and remove them.
- ▼ Put out garbage on the day of pick-up, not the night before. Store in a sturdy building or place in an approved bear-resistant trash receptacle.
- ▼ Do not leave pet food out. Hang bird feeders out of a bear's reach and take down during periods of high bear activity.

Minimize odors and food rewards

- ▼ Keep barbecues clean and grease free. Store with livestock/pet feed and other attractants inside a sturdy building.
- ▼ Pick all ripe fruit from fruit trees and the surrounding ground.
- ▼ Compost piles may attract wildlife, especially bears. Do not put meat, fish and other pungent scraps in compost piles. Add lime to reduce odors and accelerate decomposition.
- ▼ Electric fences are an effective way to keep bears and other animals out of orchards, gardens, compost piles and beehives. Follow appropriate safety precautions.
- ▼ Never feed wildlife. Feeding marmots and deer can attract cougars. Feeding chipmunks and ground squirrels can increase the possibility of hantavirus and rabies. Feeding ducks and fish can attract alligators.



- ▼ All wildlife can be dangerous. Do not attempt to chase or harass an animal out of your yard, especially if it is a bear or alligator. Contact the appropriate authority for assistance.
- ▼ Be sure to seal holes and spaces around your home to prevent insects, snakes and rodents from entering.

Bear activity may intensify in spring when bears are hungry and emerging from their dens, in the fall when bears are bulking up for hibernation, and during drought periods when natural foods are often scarce.



Wildlife Smart Communities

Throughout North America, wildlife management specialists and conservation/police officers respond to thousands of calls and complaints about wildlife. Most of these problems are a direct result of wild animals obtaining food rewards throughout a community. Unfortunately these animals are often destroyed in order to protect people and property.

By establishing a wildlife stewardship campaign the whole community can cooperatively help reduce human/wildlife conflicts. Student youth groups, along with city and county agencies and neighborhood groups, can partner efforts to distribute educational and public awareness materials to visitors and new residents.



Tips for a Wildlife Smart Community

- ▼ Assemble a group of volunteers and prepare an assessment of wildlife hazards in your community and surrounding area. Work closely with your local wildlife management agency.
- ▼ Prepare a wildlife/human conflict management plan that addresses the wildlife hazards and land-use conflicts identified in the previous step.
- ▼ Establish local bylaws prohibiting the provision of food to wildlife, whether as a result of intent, neglect, or irresponsible management of attractants. Assist in planning new housing developments so that greenbelts don't channel wildlife through populated areas.
- ▼ Conduct a continuing wildlife education program directed at all sectors of the community, especially youth groups and students who can help conduct workshops and training programs among their peers.
- ▼ Clear brush away from playgrounds, schools and other areas where children actively play.
- ▼ Establish a community response system for notifying neighbors and authorities of wildlife in the community that may be dangerous.
- ▼ Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste management system. Design trash transfer centers so they are out in the open and visible by passing traffic. Remove all grass or brush from the area. Provide strong fencing that extends below the ground surface. Keep it free of trash blowing around. Restaurants, packing houses and other sources of highly attractive garbage should also use bear-resistant dumpsters.

***Community Involvement:
Residents working together to help each other.***





Hunting In Bear Country

Proper Preparation

Hunting in bear country requires special equipment, skills and precautions. Properly prepare for your hunt.

Special Equipment Checklist:

- ▼ EPA registered bear pepper spray (at least 1 canister per person).
- ▼ Pulley systems and ropes (for hanging game meat and for food storage).
- ▼ Drop cloth for relocating game.
- ▼ Gloves and apron for handling game.
- ▼ Cell phone or hand-held 2-way radio.
- ▼ First Aid Kit.
- ▼ Most recent food storage and game handling regulations.



On the Hunt:

Hunters should always be aware of their surroundings. Scan ahead, beside you and behind you. Bears, cougars and rattlesnakes can be very hard to see. Remember, you may not be the only hunter out there. Reduce risk of sudden encounters by being alert.

- ▼ Let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return.
- ▼ Avoid hunting alone.
- ▼ Learn to recognize bear sign, and avoid areas with fresh scat, diggings, tracks or carcasses.
- ▼ Be cautious in dense timber or brush and along creeks and waterfalls.
- ▼ Always remain alert for sudden encounters.
- ▼ Carry EPA registered bear pepper spray. The recommended spray distance is 25 feet with a spray duration of at least 6 seconds.



Bear you can't see

Bear you can see

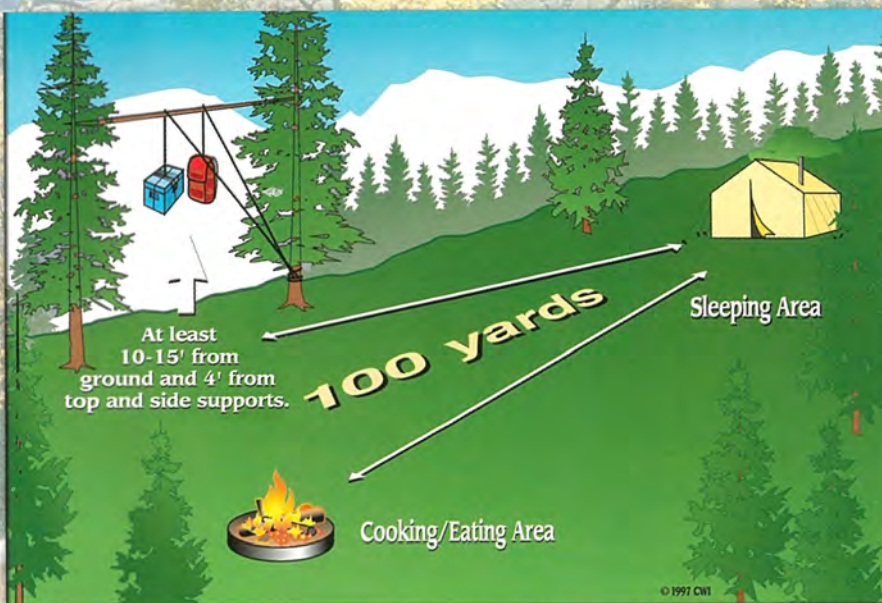
Handling Your Game

- ▼ Have bear pepper spray readily available.
- ▼ Wear gloves and an apron to minimize odors on clothing.
- ▼ Separate carcass from entrails, and remove carcass from area as soon as possible.
- ▼ Never leave entrails within 1 mile of a trail, campsite, picnic area or parking lot.
- ▼ Carcasses should be kept unavailable to bears by hanging them at least 10 to 15 feet from the ground and 4 feet out from the supporting structure; and 100 yards from any recreation site or sleeping areas.
- ▼ Hang carcass where you can see it from a distance. That way you can observe it as you return.
- ▼ Items are considered unavailable to bears if they are:
 1. Stored in a closed, bear-resistant container.
 2. Enclosed within a vehicle constructed of solid, non-pliable material.
 3. Suspended at least 10 to 15 feet from the ground and 4 feet horizontally and vertically from any supporting tree or pole.



Food Regulations:

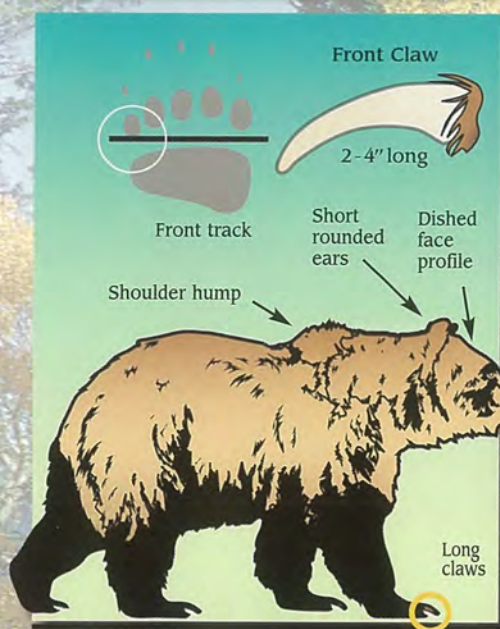
- ▼ Human food and beverages, horse feeds, dog food, etc. either in possession or left unattended must be kept unavailable to bears unless it's being consumed, prepared for consumption or transported.
- ▼ When departing an area, remove all food and refuse from any bear-resistant containers left in the area.
- ▼ Do not sleep in the same clothes that you handled game or cooked in.
- ▼ Keep sleeping bags, tents and sleeping area free of food and beverage odors.
- ▼ Keep bear pepper spray readily available.





Black Bear *Ursus americanus*

- ▼ **Habitat** is most of North America.
- ▼ **Colors** include black, brown, blond, cinnamon, and rust. The most common color is black or brown with a light brown snout.
- ▼ Average **weight** is 100-350 pounds. In some places up to 700 pounds.
- ▼ **Height** is 3 feet at shoulders, 6 feet standing upright.
- ▼ Rump is higher than front shoulders.
- ▼ Face **profile** is straight; muzzle is relatively long.
- ▼ **Ears** are long and prominent.
- ▼ **Front claws** are less than 2 inches long, curved, and good for climbing. Claw marks do not always show in tracks.



Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* (includes grizzly and kodiak bears)

- ▼ **Habitat** is of northwestern states, Alaska and western Canada.
- ▼ **Color** varies from blond to black. Often medium- to dark-brown legs, hump, and under parts with light-tipped (grizzled) fur on head and upper body.
- ▼ Average **weight** varies: Interior bears 300-500 pounds. Coastal bears 800-1200 pounds.
- ▼ **Height:** Interior bears 4 feet at shoulder, 7 feet standing. Coastal bears 5.5 feet at shoulder, 8-11 feet standing.
- ▼ **Ears** are round and proportionately small.
- ▼ Distinctive **shoulder hump** is mostly muscle mass that enables powerful digging.
- ▼ A dished-in **profile** between eyes and end of snout helps distinguish grizzlies from black bears.
- ▼ **Front claws** are 2-4 inches long, slightly curved, and good for digging. Claw marks are usually visible in tracks.



Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus*

- ▼ **Habitat** is Arctic and Sub-Arctic.
- ▼ **Color** varies from bright white to a yellowish or gray tint.
- ▼ Average **weight** is 775-1,500 pounds.
- ▼ **Height** is 5.5 feet at shoulder, 8-11 feet when standing.
- ▼ **Ears** are round and proportionately small.
- ▼ Distinctive **shoulder hump** is mostly muscle mass that enables powerful swimming.
- ▼ **Face profile** is straight: muzzle and neck are relatively long.
- ▼ **Front claws** are 2-3 inches long, curved, and good for hunting seals and climbing on ice.

Bear Pepper Spray

Bear pepper spray plays an important part in stopping bear attacks. It is an effective deterrent, but it can be adversely affected by wind, rain and temperature. When purchasing **bear pepper spray**, remember that personal defense sprays are not the same. Although both types of sprays are made from Oleoresin Capsicum, it is the **Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids** that are the active ingredients in **bear pepper spray**.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates bear pepper sprays. Look for the EPA registration and establishment numbers, usually found at the bottom of the front label. Also, bear pepper spray labels will clearly refer to bears, and state it is a bear deterrent, bear repellent, or for stopping attacking bears. Only bear pepper sprays will have this information.

Currently the EPA requires that the concentration of **Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids** range between **1.3 and 2.0%**. All will affect the eyes, nose, throat and lungs of a bear. The variance in potency within this range is negligible.



Bear and wildlife management specialists, outfitters, guides, and many individuals that have been involved in bear attacks recommend the following guidelines:

- ▼ A minimum of **6 seconds** of spray duration and containing at least 7.9 ounces or 225 grams in case you are charged by more than one bear, charged more than one time, or have more than one encounter.
- ▼ A spray distance of **25 feet** in order to give the bear a chance to experience the effect of the bear spray and for it to become distracted and disabled from its charge.
- ▼ Always carry bear pepper spray readily accessible. Remove the safety clip if you encounter fresh bear sign, if a bear is in the immediate area, and when you clean game or fish.

Bear pepper spray is a good last line of defense, but it is not a substitute for vigilance and it does not replace appropriate safety techniques. Always give the bear a chance to leave, or for you to attempt to leave the area. Bear pepper spray should only be used if you are charged by a bear.

Point the canister toward the charging bear, slightly downward. If possible, spray before the bear is within 25-30 feet. Do not use bear spray to harass or chase animals out of your yard. Call your local wildlife management agency to assist you.



The National Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, National Spokesman

This national Campaign is dedicated to promoting safe and responsible stewardship of our wildlife treasures, especially bears, in order to reduce the growing number of human/wildlife confrontations.

This Campaign provides teachers, college students, youth groups and hunting/guiding organizations with educational materials and training programs needed to teach residents and outdoor enthusiasts within their local community. The Campaign materials emphasize the latest safety skills and techniques for hiking, camping, hunting, viewing, photographing and living with wildlife safely and responsibly.

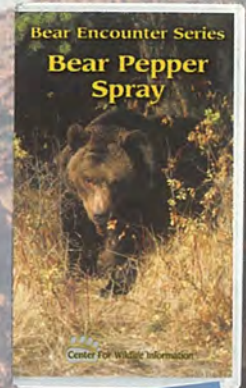
Since 1980 the Center For Wildlife Information has worked in partnership with state and federal wildlife and land management agencies. The educational concepts and materials have been tested in places such as Yellowstone National Park and Shoshone National Forest, and through hunter education programs.

Through a mentoring program, fourth graders and young Scouts studied the safety techniques to be included and prepared rough prototypes. Eagle Scouts, high school and college students reviewed these prototypes and improved upon them until they were ready for final product review by state and federal wildlife and land management agencies.

Graphic arts and printing students across the United States were responsible for the design and layout of the materials and for preparing the files for production.

Safety for
People,
Safety for
Wildlife is
what it is
all about.

We can all make a difference. Join with this national Campaign to preserve wildlife long into the future so that generations to come will have the opportunity to enjoy wild animals as we have. All educational support materials and instructors' guides are provided at no cost to individuals or groups willing to serve as training facilitators.





May National Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Month

May is the time to remind Americans how to enjoy our wildlife treasures, especially bears, safely and responsibly. Bears have emerged from their dens, wildflowers are blooming, songbirds are building their nests, and children are exploring the great outdoors from their backyard to adjoining forests, parks and refuges. By now families and school teachers are planning outdoor activities. This is also the time when human conflicts with wildlife start to increase.

Join with us and other organizations each May to inform new outdoor enthusiasts, students and youth group members of the latest wildlife avoidance safety techniques to use when enjoying our wildlife treasures.

You Can Make A Difference! To learn more about the educational wildlife stewardship materials available, or how to host your own Bear Avoidance Train-The-Trainer Workshop, featuring safety techniques for living, hiking and camping in bear country and for viewing and photographing wildlife safely and responsibly, contact:



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www.BeBearAware.org

www.BearPepperSpray.org

www.HuntingInBearCountry.org

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