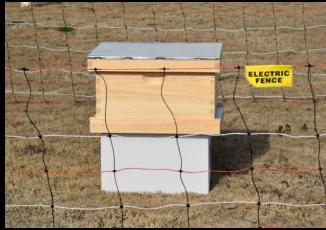


## ELECTRIC FENCES

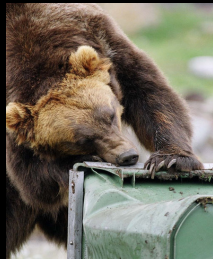
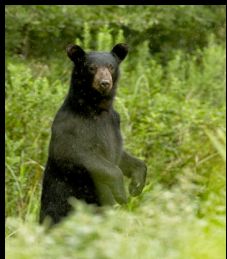
A properly constructed electric fence is safe for people and pets and has proven to be effective at deterring bears from attractants. There is an abundant variety of applications and effective fencing designs for deterring bears. Design, construction and proper maintenance will determine the effectiveness of your electric fence. Call Idaho Fish and Game or the Kootenai Tribe for more information or technical assistance.

Learn more\*:



## Fencible Bear Attractants

- Fruit trees
- Gardens
- Livestock
- Beehives
- Hanging game
- Chicken Coops
- Backcountry hunting camps
- Garbage
- Carcass pits / Boneyards
- Livestock/pet feed
- Restaurant grease containers
- Food waste compost



## STAYING INFORMED

### Everbridge Alerts

From weather to bears, Everbridge is a Community Information Service application that can be downloaded to your phone:

Step 1: Download the Everbridge App

Step 2: Click the 3 lines in upper left corner & Click Enroll

Step 3: Enter zip code in the "search" field

(EX: 83805 & 83864)

Step 4: Click subscribe on both Bonner and Boundary County Sheriff's office buttons

### Resources and Additional Information

#### When reporting a bear sighting and/or depredation contact:

Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game: (208) 769-1414

Bonner County Dispatch: (208) 265-5525

Boundary County Dispatch: (208) 267-3151

#### Bear Spray Recycling Drop off Locations (Bonners Ferry, ID):

Sturgeon Station Parking Lot

#### Visit the links below for additional bear information:

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc/>

Living with Wildlife Foundation:

<http://www.lwwf.org/>

Center for Wildlife Information:

<http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org/index.html>

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI):

<http://www.kvricollaborative.com>

KVRI Grizzly Bear Subcommittee:

<https://www.kvricollaborative.com/grizzly>

#### \*Links to QR codes in the brochure:

[https://ce80c3bb-ef95-4104-a7b6-c14e4894f6aa.filesusr.com/ugd/f73fd8\\_49fe9e84301d42b1922aef8e25b0cf12.pdf](https://ce80c3bb-ef95-4104-a7b6-c14e4894f6aa.filesusr.com/ugd/f73fd8_49fe9e84301d42b1922aef8e25b0cf12.pdf)

[https://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/221214\\_Certified\\_Products\\_List.pdf](https://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/221214_Certified_Products_List.pdf)

[https://ce80c3bb-ef95-4104-a7b6-c14e4894f6aa.filesusr.com/ugd/f73fd8\\_48d242ada0f14c219c853832423e96b2.pdf](https://ce80c3bb-ef95-4104-a7b6-c14e4894f6aa.filesusr.com/ugd/f73fd8_48d242ada0f14c219c853832423e96b2.pdf)

# NORTH IDAHO LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY



## BEAR DAILY CYCLES

- **Peak activity** - usually most active at dawn, dusk, and night.
- **Sow & cubs** - can be more active during the day
- **Bear beds** - When bears are not active, they sleep in “bear beds,” which are comfortable places in grasses or soft dirt where they nap. If you are hiking or working, you might think about where bears might be napping in dense cover.
- **Bear senses** - bears have exceptional senses. Their sense of smell is estimated to be more than 7 times stronger than dogs (Source: Western Wildlife Outreach). They will check out anything that smells like food. They also have a great memory. Bears have good eyesight and great sense of hearing.



## BEAR YEARLY CYCLES

- **Early summer/late spring** - The mating season for bears is generally late May through June. Males can be seen following females in estrus and guarding females from other males. Females resist the attentions of males until they ovulate.
- **Summer** - Bears adjust their feeding to where food is most abundant. Bear distribution varies from year to year. As a general rule, bears feed at lower elevations in the spring, and move higher as the season progresses.
- **Fall** - bears go through a period of hyperphagia or “excessive eating”. Bears undergo a physiological change to prepare for hibernation. To prepare for winter, they eat as much as possible and feed about 20 hours each day.  
\*\* Be especially alert between late August and November as bears tend to be so focused on food, they may be less observant of their surroundings.
- **Winter** - Bears usually den around mid-November through March. Their body functions slow dramatically and during winter they consume their fat stores without eating, drinking, urinating or defecating. Many scientists believe that bears are NOT true hibernators. Bears’ metabolic rate is significantly less depressed and a bear’s body temperature is reduced only a little. True hibernators like ground squirrels awaken slowly. However, bears can awaken very easily during their denning period.

## BE BEAR AWARE

### When outside in Bear Country

- CARRY BEAR SPRAY
- EXPECT BEARS TO BE PRESENT
- BE ALERT – LOOK FOR BEAR SIGN
- MAKE NOISE - AVOID GOING ALONE
- SLOW DOWN – GOING FAST INCREASES RISK
- AVOID TRAVELING AT NIGHT, DAWN, OR DUSK
- KNOW BEAR BEHAVIOR
- DURING A BEAR ENCOUNTER: Stop. Do not run. If biking, get off your bike, keep your bike between you and the bear. If the bear charges - stand your ground and use your bear spray. If the bear makes physical contact-protect your head & neck while lying on your stomach.



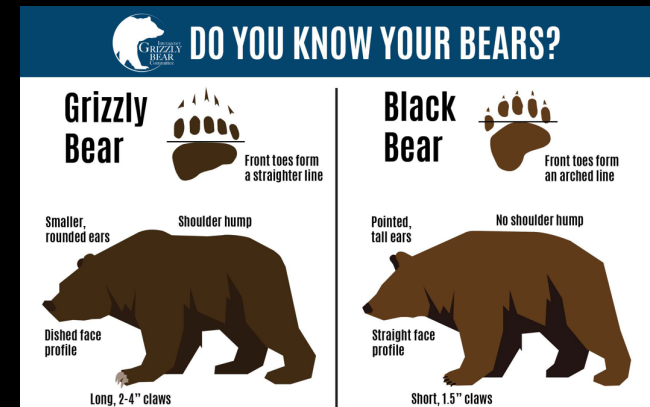
## BEAR SPRAY

The correct tool to use against aggressive bears is not always obvious. Experienced hunters have found that despite using firearms to defend themselves against a charging bear, they were nonetheless attacked and badly hurt. Bear spray is recognized as an effective tool that can prevent injury in a wild animal attack when used as part of a system including firearms or used alone for those who choose not to carry a firearm (see QR code below for full article). When purchasing bear spray, make sure it is an EPA-registered product.

MORE HERE\*:



## KNOW YOUR BEARS



**Do not rely on size or color to make an identification. Size can vary and colors can range from black to blonde for both species.**

## FOOD STORAGE AND ATTRACTANTS

- Know the rules before you go
- Use bear-resistant containers or bear boxes
- Hang your food, garbage, and gear, or store it inside hard-sided vehicles
- Examples of attractants:
  - Food, drink, pet food
  - All toiletries, even “unscented”
  - Dirty dishwater & clothes that you cooked/dined in
  - Garbage, recyclables, Empty food or water containers
  - Candles, anything scented
  - Fishing/hunting gear & animal entrails
- If they found food somewhere once, chances are they will return in search of more. What can you do?
  - Store garbage in tightly tied, heavy-duty bags
  - Use bear-resistant dumpsters or garbage cans
  - Use garbage service or take your trash to the dump on a regular basis
  - Take extra care with smelly items like fish and meat
- For a list of certified bear-resistant containers that meet IGBC bear-resistant design and structural standards, look here\*:

