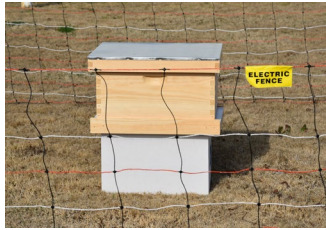


FENCES

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



KVRI Grizzly Bear Subcommittee



Nixle Alerts

From weather to bears, Nixle is a Community Information Service that can be gotten via the website - or through text on your phone by:

- Step 1: Select the Messages icon.
- Step 2: Create a new Text Message.
- Step 3: Enter 888777 in the "To" field.
- Step 4: Enter zip code in the "Message" field.
- Step 5: Press "Send".

Resources and Additional Information

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

Bonner County Dispatch: (208) 265-5525

Boundary County Dispatch: (208) 267-3151

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>

LIVING

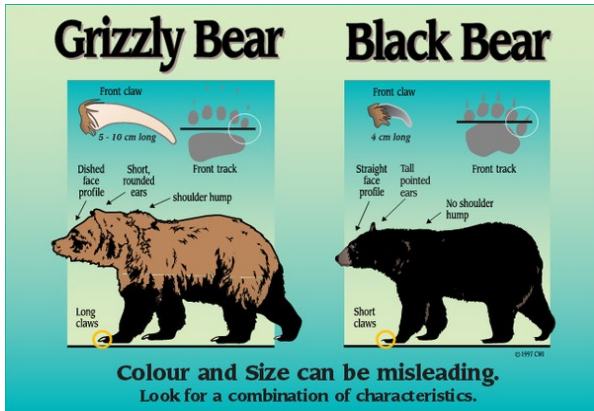
IN BEAR

COUNTRY



Photo: Defenders of Wildlife

KNOW YOUR BEARS



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.). Bears have good eyesight, and they have a 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. Bear’s 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

Hikers and Bikers

- CARRY BEAR SPRAY
- EXPECT BEARS TO BE PRESENT
- BE ALERT – LOOK FOR BEAR SIGN
- MAKE NOISE - AVOID GOING ALONE
- SLOW DOWN
- AVOID TRAVELING AT NIGHT, DAWN, OR DUSK
- KNOW BEAR BEHAVIOR
- Fast-paced trail recreation increases the risk of surprising a bear. During a bear encounter: Stop. Do not run. If biking, get off your bike, keep your bike between you and the bear. Use your bear spray. If the bear charges-stand your ground, use your bear spray. If the bear makes physical contact-protect your head & neck while lying on your stomach - use your bear spray.

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. When purchasing bear spray, make sure it is an EPA-registered product.

MORE HERE:



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, fish entrails, & clothes that you cooked/dined in
 - Garbage, recyclables
 - Candles, anything scented
 - Fishing gear
 - Empty food or water containers
- For a list of certified bear-resistant products that meet IGBC bear-resistant design and structural standards, look here:



Bears have extremely good sense of smell. They will check out anything that smells like food. And have a great memory. If they found food somewhere once, chances are they will return in search for 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

