

What To Do When You Meet A Bear

- ◆ Stay Calm
- ◆ Talk aloud to let the bear discover you, but speak softly to reassure the bear that you mean no harm
- ◆ Show No Fear
- ◆ Back away slowly, never turn your back
- ◆ Don't make eye contact or make any sudden movements

If the Bear Threatens you:

If a bear lunges at you, snaps it's jaws, slaps the ground or brush nearby with a paw he feels threatened. You are too close. Simply move backward slowly and allow the bear an escape route.

Many times a bear will stand up when it senses human presence. This is not always a threat. Bears have an acute sense of smell, but their eyesight is not keen. When they stand up they are often trying to detect smells in the air rather than a sign of aggression. Once they identify you as a human smell they will usually leave the area. Black bears try to avoid conflicts with humans whenever possible.

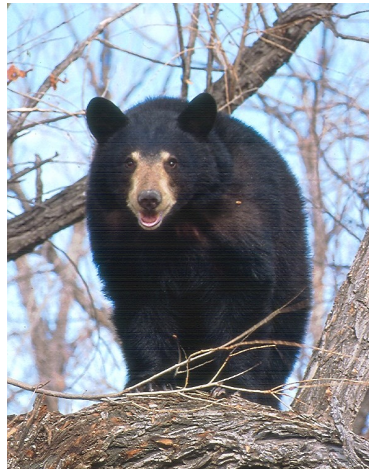


If You Are Attacked

If you have tried everything to avoid a conflict and the bear begins to show aggression towards you by charging at you and makes contact:

- ◆ Do Not climb a tree
- ◆ Do Not run
- ◆ Fight Back

Be aggressive and defend yourself. Attempt to frighten the bear by showing dominance. Throw rocks or sticks at the bear. Punch it with your fists or kick it with you feet if you have to. A bear's nose is extremely tender and a good rap on the top of the muzzle with a long limb will often send the bear running. Shout at it, and call for help. The presence of other humans will often cause a bear to run for cover.



Indigo Mountain

Coexisting With Wildlife The Black Bear



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Understanding the Black Bear

The black bear is an integral part of the Colorado ecosystem. In recent years there has been a significant reduction in the number of bears.



This reduction is in direct correlation to human population and habitat degradation and destruction. Human development has had an overwhelming impact on the bear, but recreational and forestry activities are also taking their toll. With more utility vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and bicycles allowed in wilderness areas more people are frequenting the bear's natural habitat.

The black bear is often misunderstood. It is usually shy, nervous and fearful of humans and tries to avoid human conflicts.

The bear is extremely intelligent, curious and resourceful which often gets him into trouble with humans. Their excellent memory provides them with the ability to learn from a single food source.

Mountain Living: Tips for Coexisting

- ◆ Keep garbage cans properly stored in bear proof buildings
- ◆ Bleach your trash cans regularly
- ◆ Store pet food and bowls indoors
- ◆ Clean BBQ grills frequently and store in a garage when not in use
- ◆ Take down bird feeders at night or take down completely from April—Nov
- ◆ Don't feed the wildlife
- ◆ Don't use fruit or food products in compost piles
- ◆ Some fruit and vegetable gardens attract bears
- ◆ Avoid fish mulch in gardens
- ◆ Don't store food containers in your vehicles
- ◆ Avoid food scented air fresheners in vehicles



Tips for Hiking & Camping in Bear

- ◆ Travel in groups and never allow children to lag behind or run ahead of the group
- ◆ Avoid hiking at dawn and dusk. Bears are often foraging during these periods
- ◆ Keep pets on a leash
- ◆ Use extra caution when entering dense brush, ground cover or nearing streams
- ◆ Make noise. Let the wildlife know you are there
- ◆ Always choose an open campsite away from dense vegetation
- ◆ Avoid areas with noticeable bear sign such as shredded logs, tracks, scat or claw marks in tree trunks
- ◆ Store food in Bear Proof boxes
- ◆ Tents, sleeping bags, and clothes should be free of any lingering food odors
- ◆ Discard all trash in bear proof trash cans
- ◆ Never leave any backpack or food unattended
- ◆ No food or toiletries should be stored in a tent
- ◆ Wash all cooking utensils immediately following usage