HUMAN-GRIZZLY CONFLICTS

- Grizzlies account for approximately 500 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Livestock, garbage, and fruit trees are the primary attractants when Grizzlies are reported.
- Relocation seldom works with bears. Individuals often return to their original home territory or become "problem" animals in other communities. In addition, translocated wildlife often fail to adapt to their new habitat and, as a result, may starve to death or be killed by those animals that already occupy the area.
- Bears that become highly food-conditioned and habituated to humans are often destroyed because of concerns for human safety.
- Early reporting of a bear in a neighbourhood helps us address the underlying issues before it becomes a conflict.

WILD SAFE BC

British Columbia Conservation Foundation

The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at **www.bccf.com**

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC. Core funding is made possible through the BC Ministry of Environment. To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

1.877.952.7277

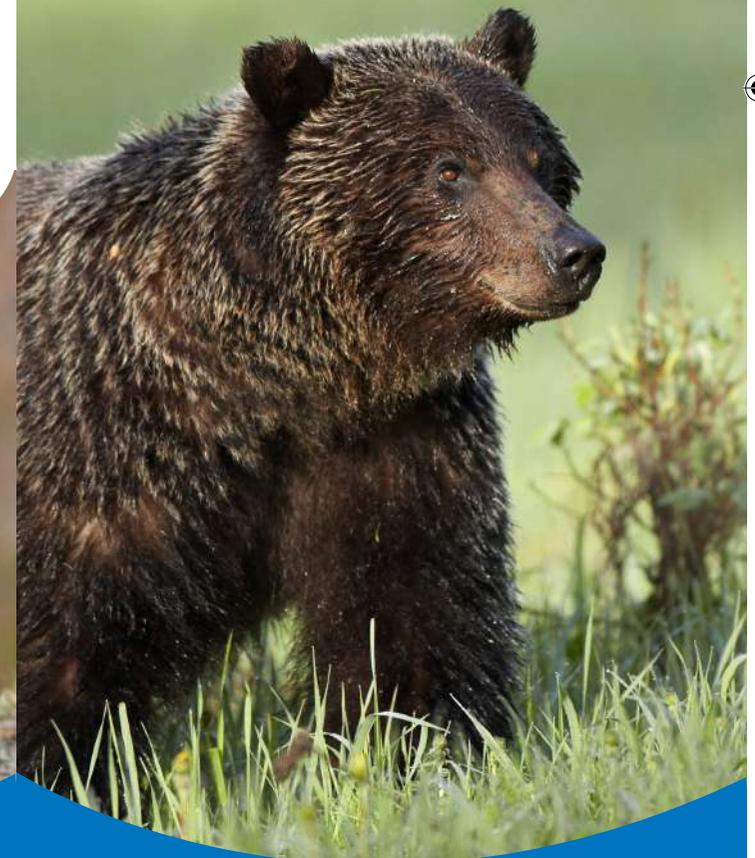BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Environment

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GRIZZLY BEAR

WILD SAFE BC

British Columbia Conservation Foundation

MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

If you manage the bear attractants around your house, worksite or campsite you can keep your family safe and keep bears from being destroyed. There are a number of things you can do:

1. Keep all garbage securely stored until collection day. Placing garbage at the curb before collection day is poor behaviour and often illegal if your community has garbage bylaws in place.

2. If you keep chickens, bees, or small livestock, use a properly installed and maintained electric fence. Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants.

3. Manage your fruit trees and berry bushes responsibly. Pick all fruit as it ripens and ensure that windfalls do not accumulate.

4. Bird feeders often become bear-feeders, so please - only feed birds during the winter months.

5. Feed pets indoors, or if fed out of doors, take in any feed that is not immediately eaten.

6. Keep your barbecue clean and free from odours. Burn off the grill every time after use and clean out the grease traps.

7. Manage your compost properly. Composts should be turned regulary and have equal amounts of brown and green materials added to reduce odours.

! BEAR SAFETY TIPS

When hiking, travel in groups of two or more and keep talking (talk out loud to yourself if you are on your own). Bears recognize the human voice and will avoid you in most instances.

Carry bear spray with you when hiking in bear country. If you encounter a bear, do not yell, scream, or run as this may trigger an attack. If the bear sees you, speak in a low voice to let the bear know that you are a human and move away slowly.

If you have a bear in your yard, slowly retreat into the house and ensure that the home is secure. Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report the bear. After the bear has left ensure that whatever attracted the bear is removed.

The grizzly bear is more closely related to the polar bear than to the black bear. It has evolved in treeless habitats and consequently has developed traits different to those of the forest dwelling black bear.

Grizzly bears get their name from the silver tipped hairs that some exhibit -this gives them a grizzled appearance and hence the name. But remember, grizzlies, like the smaller black bear, can have a variety of coat colours, ranging from black to almost blonde.

Grizzlies are omnivorous animals with vegetation making up about 70% of their diet and the remainder coming from things like small rodents, fish, insects, carrion (dead animals) and sometimes young deer, elk or moose. Female grizzlies keep their young with them for at least two summers and are fiercely protective of their young. During their time together the mother teaches the young where, when, and how to hunt for food.

Grizzlies and humans have not adapted as well to living together as have humans and black bears, and consequently we need to be extra vigilant while in the company of grizzlies.

Attacks by grizzlies, while rare, can be serious and all bears should be given respect and distance. Carry bear spray with you, especially if hiking alone, and take a course on bear safety.

! WHERE'S THE GRIZZLY?

Visit our website at www.wildsafebc.com to find a map that shows where grizzlies have been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted them into the area. By knowing where the bears are and what is bringing them in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

www.wildsafebc.com

GRIZZLY BEAR FACTS:

• Adult males on average measure between 90-110 cm at shoulder height and can weigh upwards of 500 kilograms.

• Grizzlies have large front claws that are especially good at digging. They dig for both rodents and for the roots of certain alpine plants..

• Grizzlies can climb trees even though their long claws are not well adapted for it.

• Because grizzlies need such great stores of fat to make it through the winter denning period they become voracious eaters and can consume over 20,000 calories a day.

• In some areas grizzlies target the nuts of the White-bark pine as a major food source. They get these nuts by raiding squirrel caches..

• Attacks by Grizzly bears are usually the result of a defensive encounter so avoiding an accidental encounter is your best tactic in terms of bear safety..

• Although usually solitary, grizzlies will congregate and tolerate other gizzlies when there is sufficient food.

• Grizzly bears occupy much of the BC landscape but have never established populations on either Vancouver Island or on Haida Gwaii.

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