



HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS

Grizzly bears account for approximately 500 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year. Livestock, garbage and fruit trees are the most reported attractants cited.

Bears that learn that they can forage for foods left accessible by people can become 'food conditioned.' These bears may linger in communities and become human habituated. Bears that spend time in communities foraging on human-provided foods may start breaking into structures and/or vehicles.

Bears that become highly food conditioned, and habituated to humans, are often killed because of concerns for human safety.

Relocating bears is not an effective way of addressing human-bear conflicts. They may struggle to adapt in their new environment or need to compete with other bears already established in the area. As such, they often return to their home ranges.

The most effective way to keep communities safe and reduce the number of bears getting into conflict, and being killed, is to address the root causes.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

www.bccf.com



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

1.877.952.7277

WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

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photos by Peter Sulzle



GRIZZLY BEAR



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

If you manage the bear attractants around your house, worksite or campsite, you play an important part in keeping your community safe and preventing bears from being killed. Here are some things that you can do:

- 1. Keep all solid waste securely stored** until collection day. Placing solid waste at the curb before collection day makes it easily accessible to bears. Many communities have bylaws that have strict set-out times to prevent this.
- 2. Manage your fruit trees and berry bushes** responsibly. Pick all fruit as it ripens and ensure that windfalls do not accumulate. Consider using electric fencing to protect your harvest (always check local bylaws first).
- 3. Bird feeders often become bear feeders.** Only feed birds during the winter months.
- 4. Feed pets indoors.** If fed outdoors, bring in dirty bowls and uneaten food immediately after feeding.
- 5. Keep your barbecue clean** and free from odours. Burn off the grill after use and clean out the grease traps.
- 6. Manage your compost properly** so it doesn't smell. Add fruit slowly and never add meat, grease or other animal products.
- 7. 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.

! BEAR SAFETY

Avoid surprise encounters with bears by being aware of your surroundings and not using headphones. Watch for signs of bear activity and talk or sing to make bears aware of your presence. Avoid hiking alone and use extra caution in bear habitat with ripe berries, spawning salmon, or other areas bears are known to frequent. If you find a carcass, leave the area immediately. Do not allow dogs to chase after bears or other wildlife. This may bring an angry bear back to you or your pet may be injured or killed by wildlife defending themselves. Carry bear spray and learn how to transport it and use it safely. Take training offered by WildSafeBC.



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 hence the name. 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 the majority of their diet and the remainder coming from things like small rodents, fish, insects, carrion 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.

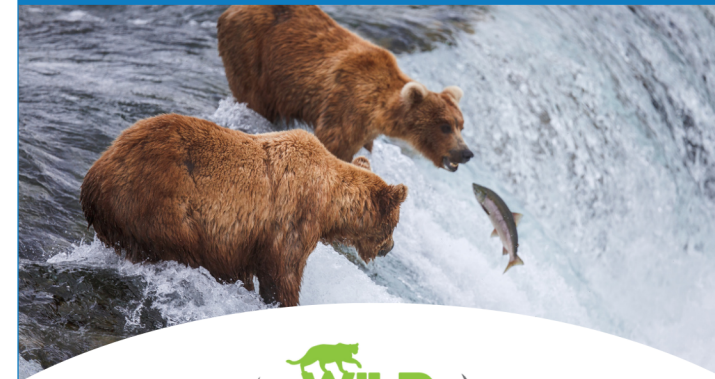
Grizzlies and humans have not adapted as well to living together as have humans and black bears, and consequently we need to be extra vigilant while in the company of grizzlies.

Attacks by grizzlies, while rare, can be serious and all bears should be given respect and distance. Carry bear spray with you, travel in groups, make noise, watch out for signs of recent bear activity and take a course on bear safety.



GRIZZLY BEAR FACTS:

- Adult males on average measure between 90 to 110 cm at shoulder height and can weigh upwards of 500 kg.
- 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 enter a phase known as 'hyperphasia' to 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 bears 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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