

Camping in Bear Country

Avoid Attracting Bears To Your Camp



Colorado Is Black Bear Country

Black bears typically avoid people but they can learn to find food in campsites. They are not after you, *they are after your trash and food!*



PHOTO BY ONCEANDEFUTURELAURA

Seeing a bear in its natural habitat is a wonderful experience, but it's better to watch them from a distance. *You can prevent the needless death of a bear!*

Help Keep Colorado's Wildlife, Wild
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CPW.STATE.CO.US/BEARS

Secure Your Trash and Food

- **NEVER INTENTIONALLY FEED A BEAR!!**
- **Stash Your Trash.** Use bear-proof trash containers when available. If they're full, double bag trash and lock it in your trunk or RV. *Never leave trash outside.*
- **Store Attractants Safely.** Store food, beverages and toiletries in bear proof food lockers. Many bears have discovered that coolers, bags and boxes are full of food; never leave them in your tent or anywhere a bear could see, smell or reach. If no other options, lock food and trash in your vehicle's trunk or in your RV.
- **Keep A Clean Tent.** Don't bring anything with an odor into your tent, including all foods, beverages, scented toiletries, gum, toothpaste, sunscreen, candles, and insect repellent. Don't sleep in the clothes you cooked in; store them with your food.
- **Lock RVs and Vehicles.** Close windows and lock your vehicle and RV when you leave your campsite and at night before you go to sleep.

If A Bear Enters Your Campsite

- **Do Not Turn And Run.** Yell, wave your arms and try to appear larger.
- **Make It Feel Unwelcome.** If the bear continues to approach, throw rocks or sticks toward it and continue yelling.
- **If It Attacks.** Black bear attacks on humans are very rare but if this happens to you, fight back as aggressively as possible!
- **Be Aware Of Your Surroundings.** When hiking in the woods, be on the lookout and avoid surprising a bear or other wild animal.
- **Notify Authorities If You Encounter An Aggressive Wild Animal.** Immediately report any conflicts to the nearest CPW office.

Steamboat Springs
(970) 870-2197

Hot Sulphur Springs
(970) 725-6200

Glenwood Springs
(970) 947-2920

Grand Junction
(970) 255-6100

Meeker
(970) 878-6090