# ENIORADO EN TORONO DE LA COLORADO DE

# COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

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# Living with Black Bears in Durango:

A survey of your views



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential. Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

### STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Bob D. Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian, Chair • Jeanne Horne, Vice-Chair
John Howard • Bill Kane • Dale Pizel • James Pribyl, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman • Alex Zipp
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and Don Brown

# Living with Black Bears in Durango

This questionnaire is part of a study, conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado State University, to learn what you think about living with bears in Durango. You may have completed a survey similar to this in 2012 or 2014. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire, even if you completed an earlier survey or do not have strong opinions about bears. It is important we hear from all Durangoans. Please return the completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided **no later than April 1, 2016**. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

Your General Thoughts about Black Bears. The following questions will help us understand how you think about black bears in general.

**1.** How important is it to you to know that bears live in this area and will continue to do so in the future? (*Please circle only one.*)

Very		Somewhat		Not at all	I am not
important		important		important	sure.
1	2	3	4	5	6

**2.** To what extent are you concerned about negative interactions between black bears and people in the area where you live? (*Please circle only one.*)

Very		Somewhat		Not at all	I am not
concerned		concerned		concerned	sure.
1	2	3	4	5	6

3. Overall, how would you rate management	of black bear	s in the area where you live?	(Please circle <u>only</u> one.)
Above	Below	I am not	

	Above		Below		I am not
Excellent	average	Average	average	Poor	sure.
1	2	3	4	5	6

**4.** Overall, how would you rate management of bear-human interactions in the area where you live? (*Please circle only one.*)

	Above		Below		I am not
Excellent	average	Average	average	Poor	sure.
1	2.	3	4	5	6

**5.** Based on your experience, how has the number of black bears in the area where you live changed over the **past 2 years**? (*Please circle only one.*)

Increased		Stayed		Decreased	I am not
greatly		the same		greatly	sure.
1	2.	3	4	5	6

**6.** How would you like to see the number of black bears in the area where you live change in the **next 2 years**? (*Please circle only one.*)

Increase		Stay the		Decrease		I am not
greatly		same		greatly		sure.
1	2	3	4	5	_	6

**7.** How important is it to you that the change in black bear numbers you indicated in Question 6 occur over the **next 2 years**? (*Please circle only one*.)

Very		Somewhat		Not at all	I am not
important		important		important	sure.
1	2	3	4	5	6

**8.** Below are several general statements about the risks and benefits of black bears in this area. Please check the box that best describes your level of agreement with each statement.

	Strongly disagree		Neither		Strongly agree	I am not sure.
<b>a.</b> The presence of black bears improves quality of life for people living in and around Durango.	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>b.</b> Black bears provide recreational opportunities for many Durango-area residents.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>c.</b> Black bears improve the health of the environment in the Durango area.	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>d.</b> Black bears living in this area are an inconvenience.	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[ ]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>e.</b> Black bears will be more of a problem for Durango in the future.	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>f.</b> I am not familiar with the risks posed by black bears.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>g.</b> I am vulnerable to the risks posed by black bears.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>h.</b> I can prevent conflicts with black bears by making changes around my home.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>i.</b> Conflict with black bears will be reduced if people learn to live with bears.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>j.</b> Encounters with black bears are likely to result in serious injuries or human deaths.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
k. I fear having an encounter with black bears.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6

Your Experiences with Black Bears. Durangoans come into contact with black bears in many ways, and these interactions mean different things to each person. Please tell us about your interactions with black bears and what they mean to you.

**9.** How often have you experienced the following interactions with black bears in the **past 2 years** in the area where you live? (*Please check one for each item.*)

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	0 times	1-2 times	3-4 times	5 or more times	I am not sure.
a. Saw black bears in the wild, on open space or public land	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5
<b>b.</b> Saw black bears in urban or suburban areas of town	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
c. Saw black bears near my home	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5
<b>d.</b> Had a black bear break into or attempt to break into my garbage	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
e. Had a black bear get into or damage my fruit trees or garden	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
<b>f.</b> Had a black bear get into or damage my bird feeder, pet feeder, or grill	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
<b>g</b> . Had a black bear damage other property (e.g. fences, car, garage)	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
h. Had a black bear harass or attack my pets	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	$[\ ]_3$	[ ]4	[]5
i. Had a black bear harass or attack my livestock	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
<b>j.</b> Had a black bear enter or attempt to enter my home	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5
k. Knew someone who was harassed by a black bear	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5
1. Knew someone who was attacked by a black bear	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5
<b>m.</b> Was harassed or felt threatened by a black bear myself	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4	[]5
n. Was attacked by a black bear myself	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5

**10.** How acceptable do you find the risk that you will experience the following interactions with bears in the **next 2 years**? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	Very acceptable	Somewhat acceptable	Neither acceptable, nor unacceptable	Somewhat unacceptable	Very unacceptable	I am not sure.
a. See black bears in the wild, on open space or public land	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4	[]5	[]6
<b>b.</b> See black bears in urban or suburban areas of town	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>c.</b> See black bears near my home	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>d.</b> Have a black bear break into or attempt to break into my garbage	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
e. Have a black bear get into or damage my fruit trees or garden	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>f.</b> Have a black bear get into or damage my bird feeder, pet feeder, or grill	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
g. Have a black bear damage other property (e.g. fences, car, garage, etc.)	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>h.</b> Have a black bear harass or attack my pets	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
i. Have a black bear harass or attack my livestock	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>j.</b> Had a black bear enter or attempt to enter my home	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>k.</b> Know someone who was harassed by a black bear	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>l.</b> Know someone who was attacked by a black bear	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>m.</b> Be harassed or felt threatened by a black bear myself	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<ul><li>n. Be attacked by a black bear myself</li></ul>	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6

11. What is the likelihood that you will experience the following interactions with black bears in the next 2 years in the area where you live? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely, nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	I am not sure.
<b>a</b> . See black bears in the wild, on open space or public land	[]1	[ ]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>b.</b> See black bears in urban or suburban areas of town	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>c.</b> See black bears near my home	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>d.</b> Have a black bear break into or attempt to break into my garbage	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[]4	[]5	[]6
e. Have a black bear eat from or damage my fruit trees or garden	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>f.</b> Have a black bear eat from or damage my bird feeder, pet feeder, or grill	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4	[]5	[]6
g. Have a black bear damage other property (e.g. fences, car, garage, etc.)	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4	[]5	[]6
<b>h.</b> Have a black bear harass or attack my pets	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
i. Have a black bear harass or attack my livestock	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>j.</b> Have a black bear enter or attempt to enter my home	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>k.</b> Know someone who was harassed by a black bear	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[]5	[]6
<b>l.</b> Know someone who was attacked by a black bear	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
m. Be harassed or feel threatened by a black bear myself	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>n.</b> Be attacked by a black bear myself	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6

**Addressing Human-Black Bear Interactions.** Please tell us about what you do to address black bear-human interactions in your life and why you choose to take those actions.

**12.** In the **past 2 years,** have you taken any of the following actions to minimize your risk of negative interactions with black bears where you live? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
<b>a</b> . Use a wildlife-resistant garbage container or dumpster	[]1	[]2	<b>d.</b> Remove bird, squirrel and other wildlife feeders	[]1	[]2
<b>b.</b> Keep garbage secured until the morning of pickup day, rather than putting it out the night before	[]1	[]2	e. Keep the doors and windows of my house and car closed	[]1	[]2
<b>c.</b> Feed my pets indoors	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	<b>f.</b> Keep my pets indoors	[]1	$[\ ]_2$
<b>d</b> . Not having composters, gardens or fruit trees	[]1	[]2	<b>g.</b> Other ( <i>Please indicate</i> .	[]1	[]2

**13.** In the **past 2 years**, have you *observed others in your neighborhood* taking these actions to minimize their risk of interactions with bears? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
<b>a</b> . Using a wildlife-resistant garbage container or dumpster	[]1	[]2	<b>d.</b> Removing bird, squirrel and other wildlife feeders	[]1	[]2
<b>b.</b> Keeping garbage secured until the morning of pickup day, rather than putting it out the night before	[]1	[]2	e. Keeping the doors and windows of their houses and cars closed	[]1	[]2
c. Feeding pets indoors	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	f. Keeping pets indoors	[]1	$[\ ]_2$
<b>d</b> . Not having composters, gardens or fruit trees	[]1	[]2	<b>g.</b> Other ( <i>Please indicate</i> .	[]1	[]2

	[] <sub>1</sub> Yes		[]2No <b>P</b>	lease skip to q	uestion 16	<b>.</b>	
	whom did you report your negative i apply.) []1Durango police departme					urango? (	Please che
	<ul> <li>[ ]<sub>2</sub> City of Durango</li> <li>[ ]<sub>3</sub> Colorado Parks and Wild</li> <li>[ ]<sub>4</sub> Bearsmart Durango</li> <li>[ ]<sub>5</sub> USDA Wildlife Services</li> </ul>	life					
	w effective do you believe the follow black bears? ( <i>Please check one for</i>	•		in minimizing  Neither effective,	g the risk of Somewhat	of negativ	e interactio
		effective	effective	nor ineffective	ineffective	ineffective	sure.
	<ul><li>a. Using a wildlife-resistant garbage container or dumpster</li><li>b. Keeping garbage secured until</li></ul>	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[]4	[ ]5	[]6
	morning of pickup day, rather than putting it out the night before	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
	c. Feeding pets indoors	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
	<b>d</b> . Not having composters, gardens or fruit trees	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
	<b>d.</b> Removing bird, squirrel and other wildlife feeders	[]1	$[\ ]_2$	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
	e. Keeping the doors and windows of your house and car closed	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
	<b>f.</b> Keeping your pets inside	[]1	[]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
neg [ ]1 [ ]2 [ ]3 [ ]4 [ ]5 [ ]6	ich of the following is the <b>most</b> imperative interactions with black bears we have a want to protect myself and my familit is easy to prevent or reduce negation with a want to keep black bears acting with a want to prevent bears from being keep My neighbors expect me to avoid attractived informational materials and I received a notice of violation for negative interactions.	there you ily from ve intera ld and ea tilled or a tracting b out the poot	black bear ctions with ting natura re-located black bears role I can p g my garba	ease check onless.  In black bears.  In black bears.  In black bears.  In black bears.  In toods.  In because they continued in the our neighbour neighbour neighbour secured.	<u>y</u> one.) aused con aborhood. g bear con	flicts.	
	nich of the following is the <b>most</b> imp	ortant re			a action to		

**14.** Did you report negative interactions with bears you've experienced in the past 2 years to any authorities? Please leave this question blank if you haven't experienced any negative interactions in the past 2 years. (*Please* 

check one.)

19. Below are several statements that describe how you might feel you are able to control interactions with black bears and other wildlife. Please check the box that best describes your level of agreement with each statement.

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither	Slightly agree	Strongly agree	I am not sure.
<b>a.</b> I can have an influence on wildlife management decisions.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>b.</b> I have the ability to protect my property from wildlife.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>c.</b> I have very little ability to voice my opinions regarding wildlife management.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>d.</b> Whether or not I have a conflict with a black bear is mostly a matter of luck.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>e.</b> Black bear conflicts are not a matter of luck, but rather result from bad personal decisions.	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>f.</b> I have very little ability to protect myself from black bear conflicts.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>g.</b> I believe that my actions can reduce my risk of having a negative interaction with a bear.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6
<b>h.</b> I believe that I am likely to have negative interactions with bears regardless of what I do try to prevent them.	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[ ]6

Your Opinions about Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the primary agency responsible for managing black bears in Colorado. Please answer the following questions to tell us what you think of CPW and the decisions they make.

**20.** Below are several statements that describe how you might feel about CPW's black bear management in the Durango area. Please check the box that best describes your level of agreement with each statement.

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither	Slightly agree	Strongly agree	I am not sure.
<b>a</b> . I am confident that CPW can effectively manage black bears.	[]1	[ ]2	[ ]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>b.</b> I am confident that CPW responds appropriately to black bear conflicts.	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>c.</b> I trust CPW to establish appropriate rules to manage black bear conflicts.	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6
<b>d.</b> When it comes to bear management, I feel that CPW shares values similar to mine.	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4	[ ]5	[]6

**21.** CPW takes actions to attempt to reduce negative interactions between black bears and people. How acceptable is it to you that CPW takes the following actions to manage black bears in the area where you live? (*Please check one for each item.*)

	Neither acceptable,			I am not
	Acceptable	nor unacceptable	Unacceptable	sure.
<b>a.</b> Support city ordinances that require citizens to use bear-resistant garbage containers	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4
<b>b.</b> Provide financial assistance to residents for bear-proofing garbage, gardens and fruit trees	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[ ]4
<b>c.</b> Increase hunting licenses to increase bear harvest in areas with conflicts	[]1	[]2	[]3	[]4
<b>d.</b> Fine individuals who are feeding bears intentionally or unintentionally	[]1	[]2	[]3	[ ]4
e. Trap and relocate bears that cause conflict	[]1	[ ]2	[]3	[]4
<b>f.</b> Kill bears that cause multiple conflicts	[]1	[ ]2	[ ]3	[ ]4

22.	Did you	or someone i	in your hou	sehold comple	ete a questio	onnaire, similar to this one, about l	iving with black
	•	? (Please ch	eck one.)	-	-		
			[] <sub>1</sub> Yes	S	[ ] <sub>2</sub> No	[] <sub>3</sub> I am not sure.	
	•	or someone in ? (Please ch	-	sehold comple	ete a questio	onnaire, similar to this one, about li	iving with black
		(	[] <sub>1</sub> Yes	S	[ ] <sub>2</sub> No	[] <sub>3</sub> I am not sure.	
	dled? (Ple	ease check of []1 Ye	ne.) s	ponsible for ac []2 No th another hous		lecisions about how your household	d's garbage is
] ] [ ]	[ ] <sub>1</sub> Manuf [ ] <sub>2</sub> Reside [ ] <sub>3</sub> Regul [ ] <sub>4</sub> Wildli [ ] <sub>5</sub> Regul	factured wild ential can the ar residential ife-resistant ar commerci	llife-resista It you modi <i>l</i> can <i>commercia</i> al containe	do you currentle nt residential of fied to be wild a container or of the or dumpster	ean llife-resista lumpster		
p.	lums. <b>D</b> o	-	e any decor			nly domestic fruit trees such as apping trees or shrubs like chokecherrie	_
						fruit trees	
<b>27</b> I	Do vou o	amontly oven	or rant tha	homo in whial	h way liva?	(Please check one.)	
<i>41</i> .1	Do you ci	intentry own []₁Ov		lonic in which		(1 lease check one.)	
•0							
28. /	Are you	[] <sub>1</sub> male	or	[] <sub>2</sub> female? (	Please che	ck one.)	
<b>29.</b> 1	In what y	ear were you	ı born? (Ple	ease indicate.)	19		
<b>30.</b> \	What is y	our highest l	evel of edu	acation? (Pleas	e check one	e.)	
		[] <sub>2</sub> High so [] <sub>3</sub> Vocatio [] <sub>4</sub> Some c [] <sub>5</sub> Associa [] <sub>6</sub> Bachelo	chool gradu onal or trade ollege ate's Degree or's Degree	e (2 year)			
		e the space b ent in this ar	-	ovide any addit	tional comr	ments you may have about black be	ears and their
		·					

Background Information. The following questions will help us understand more about the people affected by

black bear management in Durango. All responses are confidential.