

HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATION ON THE FIR

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) require hunting, fishing and recreation permits for all Non-Tribal Members on any Tribal lands. Call 406-883-2888 with any questions and be sure to pick up a copy of the Member and Non-Member regulations for all activities within the FIR from the Division of Fish Wildlife Recreation and Conservation offices in Polson at 406 6th Ave East or the main Natural Resources Building on Main Street, Polson. Licenses can be purchased locally at Westland Seed, Mountain View Cenex, Zimmer Tackle, Wal-Mart and the DFWRC and main NRD buildings in Polson.

LOOK OUT FOR BACK-COUNTRY BEAR POLES FOR PROPER STORAGE

When recreating in the Mission Mountain Wilderness, be on the lookout for existing bear poles! Feel free to use them to safely store your food and attractants while in the back country. We currently have these stations constructed at various campsites including Mission Dam, McDonald Lake, Twin Lakes and Lozeau Campgrounds.

BOATING ON RESERVOIRS OR FLATHEAD LAKE?

Don't Move a Mussel! Help keep our waters pristine and free of invasive aquatics. Get ALL WATERCRAFTS inspected before first launch. Inspection sites are located in Ravalli, Elmo and the DFWRC offices in Polson. For more information call Katie Finley-Squeque at 883-2888.



PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES
Solutions that work for people and wildlife

An easy guide and handbook for living with

Carnivores in the Flathead and Mission Valleys



GRIZZLY BEAR—Listed and protected as a threatened species. Found in meadows and riparian habitat types.

Salish *sm̓xe* Kootenai *ktaw̓ta*



MOUNTAIN LION— A large cat species that is mainly solitary. They can be found in forested habitat types.

Salish *skʷtismye* Kootenai *swa'*



BLACK BEAR—Medium-sized bear native to North America. Omnivorous, with their diets changing seasonally.

Salish *ntamqe?* Kootenai *'nupqu*



WOLF—Largest of the dog family, lives in packs. Found in any habitat type with low density of human activity.

Salish *n̓ci?cn* Kootenai *ka-kin*



RED FOX—Color can range from red to black, with a white-tipped tail. Lives in agricultural habitat types.

Salish *xʷaxaa* Kootenai *na-kyu*



COYOTE—Medium sized canid with a pointed ear and tail. Prefers prairies and open habitat types.

Salish *sn̓cie* Kootenai *skinkuz*



About the Flathead Indian Reservation

The **FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION** is a landscape rich with natural resources, making it an excellent place to view wildlife. This requires a mutual understanding of how to live with wildlife safely and handle potential conflicts. Mission Valley is home to the Confederated Salish, Pend O'Reille and Kootenai Tribes, covering 1.3 Million acres of habitat. A large diversity of wildlife is found within the FIR due to its wide range of habitat types, including high elevation alpine meadows, mixed forests, prairie potholes, wetlands and sagebrush communities.

WHY DO I NEED THIS BOOKLET

The purpose of this pamphlet is to educate homeowners and the public about best measures and practices for protecting their property and instruct how to deal with encounters by grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions and wolves safely and appropriately.



FRUIT TREES



LIVESTOCK

WHAT ARE ATTRACTANTS?

Why are carnivores drawn to your yard? Grizzly and black bears, which have excellent senses of smell, are common across the reservation and particularly good at seeking out domestic food sources. Commonly overlooked attractants include:

- Household garbage and barbecue grills
- Domestic livestock (chickens, goats, pigs, llamas, sheep)
- Carcasses and hides
- Fruit trees
- Grain and calf creep
- Cat and dog food
- Beehives
- Bird feeders

All of these can attract large carnivores. Once they find an easy meal, bears tend to return again and again.

Because this pattern is hard to break, even with hazing and relocation, food-conditioned to domestic foods often leads to property damage and a carnivore's death. The PREVENTION of a bear becoming used to domestic foods is the only solution to their survival, and that requires all of our cooperation and diligence.

Kill the Conflict, Not the Carnivore

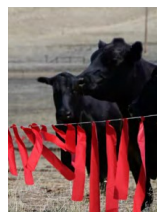
To protect the reservation's carnivores, as well as your own safety and property, it is important to recognize and secure common attractants around the home or ranch, as well as in the backcountry.



Use a bear resistant bin (available from Republic Services) or keep trash in a secure area.



Harvest fruit as it ripens, and remove fallen fruit from areas near homes. Use electric fence and scare devices.



Use fladry —flagging suspended from a line of electrified cordage—to keep wolves out of calving yards, night pens, and other high risk areas.



Secure corn fields and gardens with electric fence around entire perimeter.



Always protect poultry, goats, pigs, llamas and other small livestock with an electric fence designed to exclude predators.



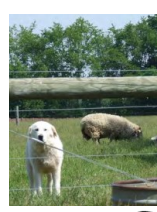
Secure grain storage areas with electric fence. Calf creep, chicken food, oats and others included.



Remove carcass to a safe distance from home or take carcass to a secure composting facility.



Keep all human and pet foods in a secure location. Hang food when camping or hunting in the backcountry.



Use livestock guardian dogs—breeds raised and trained to live with herds and flocks—to reduce the risk of depredation on livestock.



To learn more about these conflict prevention tools, watch the short films at peopleandcarnivores.org

WHEN AN ANIMAL IS IN MY YARD ...WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you have taken all of the necessary preventative actions, and you are still visited by the occasional bear, mountain lion or wolf, there are many actions you can take to deter the animal. If the animal is not necessarily causing harm or threatening safety, the aim is to make the animal's experience on your property as uninviting as possible.

You may use air horns, firecrackers or other loud noises to alarm the animal and chase it away. Heavy streams of water from a hose or uncomfortable shots from a paintball gun can also ward off carnivores. Be very cautious using these measures and maintain a **SAFE** distance from the animal.

REMEMBER, if a grizzly is causing harm to property or posing a threat to safety, call the bear specialist at 406-250-1265 **RIGHT AWAY** to report the incident and alert managers to the situation. Non-grizzly carnivore issues call 406-250-0062.



AUDIAL DETERRENTS– Sudden, loud sounds or alarms, such as an air horn, will startle and drive off an animal from your property.



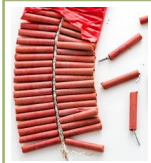
'Scare Devices'– A combination of aural and visual stimulants that are triggered when motion is detected in front of the device.



PAINTBALL GUNS– Effective with adult bears and cubs that persist in an area when used properly and targeted **AWAY** from the face! **DO NOT** use BB or airsoft pellet guns.



RADIO USE– leave a talk-show radio station on in a shed or garage to deter wildlife from lingering near your structures or chicken coops.



FIRECRACKERS – When placed inside a tin coffee can to enhance volume, firecrackers will create a loud noise that will scare off carnivores. **NEVER** throw or aim towards animal.

WHAT ABOUT MY BIRD FEEDER

Bird feeding should only occur during the winter months when bears are in their dens. Birds do not require supplemental feeding, especially during the warmer months of the year.

Some bear-safe ways to attract birds to your yard during summer months are bird baths and colorful native plant gardens.

WHO DO I CALL, AND WHEN?

To report grizzly bear conflicts in greater Flathead Valley, Call FWP bear specialist at:

406-250-1265

To report black bear and mountain lion conflicts call

406-250-0062

WHY SHOULD I CALL

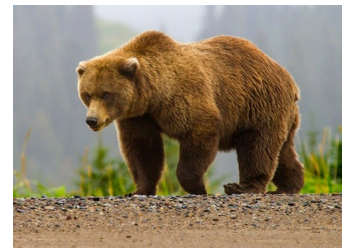
Once you report your activity or conflict, Fish, Wildlife and Parks specialists managers will follow designated protocol in order to resolve the issue in a timely manner. Call immediately upon depredation of livestock or pet animal, as evidence must be taken on a fresh carcass to determine predatory species. If there is no depredation, but an animal persists in an area 2-3 days or longer, call FWP to make a site visit to determine cause or to remove the animal.



If a **MOUNTAIN LION** is caught in the act of pursuing or harassing livestock, pets or humans, they may be shot (by both Tribal members and Non-Tribal members) in protection and defense. Authorities must be called **IMMEDIATELY** to report the incident and take.



If a **WOLF** is caught in the act of pursuing or harassing livestock, pets or humans, they may be shot (by both Tribal members and Non-Tribal members) in protection and defense. Authorities must be called **IMMEDIATELY** to report the incident and take.

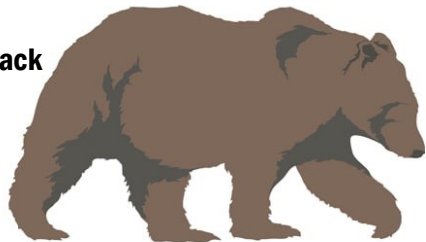


There is **NO LEGAL** take or killing of a **GRIZZLY BEAR** by Tribal member or Non-Tribal member. If caught in the act of pursuing or harassing livestock or pets, call authorities **IMMEDIATELY** and managers will respond to safely and legally remove the animal.

BODY SIZE AND COLOR






Some large black bears and grizzly bears are difficult to tell apart. Hair color can often be misleading, and black bears can be light or blonde in color. Body size and color are not the best characteristics to identify bears. Look instead for some of the following traits of a grizzly bear.

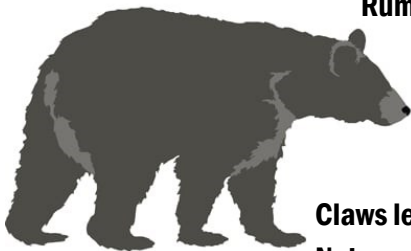
-  Color varies from blond to black
-  Distinctive shoulder hump
-  Rump lower than shoulder
-  Ears short and round
-  Face profile dished-in between eyes and snout
-  Claws 2-4 inches, slightly curved. Usually visible in tracks



GRIZZLY BEAR

BLACK BEAR

- Color varies from blond to black 
- No shoulder hump 
- Rump higher than front shoulder 
- Ears tall and pointed 
- Face profile straight 



Claws less than 2 inches long, curved. Not usually visible in tracks 

Black bear front track



Don't rely on size and color to make an identification. Size is relative, and both species range in color from black to blond.



Grizzly bear front track



CARRY BEAR SPRAY

Minimize the chances of an encounter with bears while recreating or working in the field by staying on the trail, watching for bear sign like diggings, scat, and overturned rocks and logs. Be sure to make your presence known by traveling in groups, talking, and being extra cautious near streams and waterfalls.



Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Bear spray is effective at close range (25 feet or less) and should only be used on aggressive or attacking bears. Spray in bursts of several seconds, using a 'zig-zag' or 'Z' pattern for optimal dispersal. Practice removing your can from its holster and removing the safety clip.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Some additional sites and pamphlets geared to helping homeowners live peacefully with wildlife can be found at the following sources:

- Learn more about deterrents and portable electric fencing: www.bearsmart.com
- Tribal member and non-member regulations and other informational brochures about wildlife on the FIR that can be downloaded from the website : csktnrd.org/wildlife
- information on the Livestock Loss Board and Loss Prevention Kit: www.liv.mt.gov
- Learn about a cost sharing program for electric fencing: www.defenders.org