

Get to know bears in Wyoming

Wyoming is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. It's important to know the difference between the two whether you are a hunter or an occasional hiker. Although grizzly bears are often more aggressive, black bears can still be dangerous and being able to identify the species can help you stay safe in bear country. When identifying a bear, make sure to use all four reliable characteristics to determine the species. **Never use color or size to identify a bear.**



Grizzly bear

- 1 Prominent shoulder hump
- 2 Dished facial profile
- 3 Short round ears
- 4 Long straight claws 3-4 inches



Black bear

- 1 Lack of shoulder hump
- 2 Straight facial profile
- 3 Tall pointed ears
- 4 Short curved claws 1-2 inches

Grizzly bear front track

Inline toes



Black bear front track

Toes not inline



Slight wedge

