

BEARWISE WYOMING

Know your bears — Wyoming is home to both black and grizzly bears

It is important to know the difference between the two. Although grizzly bears are often more aggressive, black bears can still be dangerous. When identifying a bear, make sure to use all four characteristics to determine species. Never use just 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

Front track



Black Bear

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

Front track



Camping in bear country/food storage

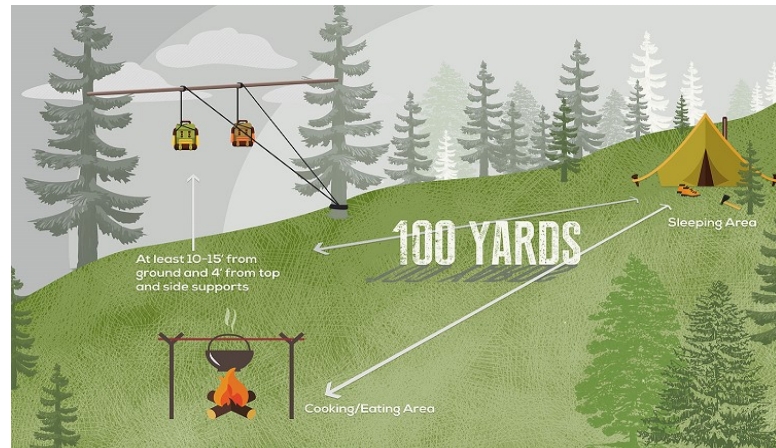
When you are camping, keeping a clean camp is key to human safety and is the law on most U.S Forest Service lands in northwest Wyoming.

Campsite Safety

- * Never store attractants in your tent.
- * Store all food and garbage and any other odorous items inaccessible to bears
- * If available store attractants inside a vehicle, hard sided camper, horse trailer, bear canister or bear box.
- * In the backcountry store food and coolers suspended from a tree at least 10' to 15' high and 4' from the tree trunk. Also, sleeping area should be at least 100 yards away from food storage and eating/cooking area.
- * All pet food and livestock feed should be properly stored.
- * Keep clothes worn while cooking stored with food and attractants. *
- Burn all grease off camp stoves.
- * Wipe down eating and cooking area after each use.
- * Do not bury garbage, bears will dig it up.
- * Dispose of all garbage properly and pack it out when you leave.

Hunting in bear country

- * Minimize conflicts over a carcass by packing and removing game meat from the field as quickly as possible. The longer game is in the field, at camp or in a vehicle, the more likely it will be discovered by a bear.
- * Separate the carcass from the gut pile with as much distance as possible.
- * Quarter and hang the carcass in a tree at least 10' to 15' from the ground and 4' from the tree trunk.
- * If you must leave the carcass on the ground, place it in plain view so when you return, you can see if a bear is present or if it has been disturbed.
- * When returning to a carcass, use caution. Stop and view the carcass from a distance with binoculars. Approach the carcass upwind and make sufficient noise to alert a bear of your presence.
- * If you detect disturbance from a distance or if carcass has been buried, a bear has probably been to the carcass and may be bedded nearby.
- * Never attempt to scare a bear off a carcass it has claimed.
- * In camp, store meat, capes and dirty tools/clothes at least 100 yards from your sleeping area and preferably downwind.



Bear Spray

The main active ingredient is capsaicin (capsaicinoids) which is derived from chili peppers. Bear spray, when properly used, gets into mucus membranes and causes a burning sensation that deters bears. Make sure that you are carrying an EPA registered Bear Spray and not another form of self protection pepper spray, which does not shoot out as far or have a high enough concentration of capsaicinoids.

- * Bear spray is to be used on a charging bear or in an aggressive encounter.
- * It sprays out 25-30 feet and creates a 4 foot cloud.
- * Each member of the party should carry bear spray.
- * Bear Spray must be carried where it is readily accessible.
- * Make sure spray is in working order and that it has not expired (labels are dated)
- * It should NOT be used as a repellent, or put on tents, gear, etc