

## Enjoying Oregon's natural beauty brings with it some responsibilities.

Co-existing with the state's bear population is one of them. By following the guidelines in this brochure, you can help keep Oregon's bears safe and where they belong—in the wild.

Most importantly, black bears should never be allowed access to human food or garbage; it habituates them to people and increases the chance of conflict. Once habituated to finding food near homes or campgrounds, bears can become a threat to human safety and often must be destroyed.

### If you encounter a bear:

- Black bear attacks are rare. In most cases, a bear will avoid human contact.
- It is never safe to approach a bear.
- Give any bear you encounter a way to escape.
- Step off the trail and slowly walk away.
- If you see bear cubs, steer clear and leave the area.
- If a bear stands on its hind legs, it may be trying to detect scents; the bear is not necessarily behaving aggressively.

**If you are involved in a face-to-face encounter with a bear, call the nearest ODFW office, Oregon State Police or the land manager if on public land.**



**STAY ALERT**  
Be aware of your surroundings.



**STORE FOOD IN CONTAINERS**  
Make sure they are animal proof.



**HIKE IN GROUPS**  
and make noise so you don't surprise a bear.



**KEEP DOGS ON LEASH**  
A loose dog is more at risk to have an encounter.



**DON'T FEED WILDLIFE**  
Prey attracts predators.



**DON'T RUN**  
If you encounter a bear, stay calm. Avoid eye contact. Do not run or make sudden movements. Back away slowly as you face the bear.



**MAKE NOISE**  
Raise your voice and speak firmly, Yell and clap your hands.



**FIGHT BACK**  
in the rare event of an attack. Keep bear spray handy for quick access and practice using it. Be aggressive, shout, throw tools, sticks and rocks.



Oregon is home to about 25,000 to 30,000 black bears. Generally black in color, they also can be brown, cinnamon or blond. Fast and agile, they are good swimmers and climbers that prefer forests, trails and stream beds. At home throughout Oregon, black bears are voracious consumers of berries, fruit, grasses, plants and, sometimes, animals. An integral part of Oregon's ecosystem, the continued viability of the black bear depends on the knowledge and support of all our citizens.

**For more information about living with black bears, visit [MyODFW.com//living-black-bears](http://MyODFW.com//living-black-bears).**

# Oregon is **BLACK BEAR COUNTRY**



## Guidelines for living with black bears



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## Homeowners Checklist

Bear-proofing your yard and neighborhood can help to avoid potentially dangerous encounters.

- Keep pet food indoors. Feed pets in the house, garage or enclosed kennel.
- Hang bird feeders from a wire at least 10 feet off the ground and 6 to 10 feet from the trunk of a tree.
- Keep the area under bird feeders clean.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Add lime to compost piles to reduce odors. Do not compost meat, bones, fruit, dairy products or grease.
- Secure garbage cans in a garage, shed or behind a chain link or electric fence.
- Put garbage cans out just before pick-up time, not the night before.
- Purchase bear-proof garbage cans if necessary.
- Take garbage with you when leaving your vacation home.
- Clean garbage containers regularly with bleach or moth balls to reduce odors.
- Use electric fencing to keep bears from orchards, gardens, compost, beehives and berries.
- Store livestock food in a secure place.
- Don't leave scented candles, soap or suntan lotions outdoors or near open windows.
- Talk to neighbors to encourage everyone in the neighborhood to remove attractants.
- Stay indoors and allow a visiting bear to move on.
- Keep barbecues clean. Store them in a shed or garage.

**Teach children about bear safety**

## Campers and Hikers Checklist

Before enjoying Oregon's natural beauty, learn about its resident bears and how to avoid conflicts by hiking and camping safely.

- Contain all food and garbage. Store food in airtight containers in the trunk of your car, in bear boxes or on platforms.
- Hang bagged food at least 10 feet high and 6 to 10 feet from a tree trunk or side support.
- Do not leave food items or pet food outdoors or in tents.
- Clean all food preparation and eating utensils immediately after using them, and place them in vehicles or sealed, bear-proof containers.
- Dispose of garbage in bear-proof cans or pack it out. Do not bury garbage—bears will dig it up.
- Keep campsites and campfire areas clean.
- Sleep at least 100 yards from cooking and eating areas.
- Never pick up a bear cub—its mother has left it there and will return.
- Stay clear of berry patches.
- Don't leave soap, suntan lotion, candles or scented items outdoors or in a tent.
- Pitch your tent away from dense brush or trees—avoid what might be an animal trail to a river or stream.
- Don't camp or hike alone.

### Hike safely

- Avoid trails with bear tracks or bear sign.
- If you see a bear, leave the area.
- Use a flashlight at night. Don't hike after dark.
- Stay far away from cubs—the mother is nearby.
- Consider carrying bear pepper spray in areas known to have bears.

## Anglers and Hunters Checklist

Fishing or hunting in bear country brings some additional challenges, so take extra caution.

- Keep campsites and campfire areas clean and manage all food and garbage.
- Place all garbage, fish and other food in sealed, bear-proof containers.
- Do not bury garbage or fish refuse; bears will dig it up.

### Be safe while fishing

- Fish with at least one other person.
- Make noise when in bear country. Talk loudly or use a whistle to alert bears of your presence.
- Avoid berry patches.
- Give way to any bear you encounter.
- Clean fish at designated cleaning stations.

### Guidelines for hunters

- Be aware of your surroundings; be cautious.
- Watch for fresh bear sign.
- Don't hunt alone.
- Be aware that by calling in an animal, you may attract a bear.
- Follow all safe camping rules.
- If you do shoot a bear and are retrieving it, remember to approach the bear with caution. Oregon black bear hunters have been injured by wounded bears.



**Never, ever feed a bear.**