



## HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS

- Bears account for approximately 20,000 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Garbage is the number one bear attractant cited when reporting a call.
- Relocation seldom works with bears. Individuals often return to their original home territory or become "problem" animals in other communities. In addition, translocated wildlife often fail to adapt to their new habitat and, as a result, may starve to death or be killed by those animals that already occupy the area.
- Bears that become highly food-conditioned and habituated to humans are often destroyed because of concerns for human safety.
- Early reporting of a bear in a neighbourhood helps us address the underlying issues before it becomes a problem.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at

[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC. Core funding is made possible through the BC Ministry of Environment. To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

**1.877.952.7277**

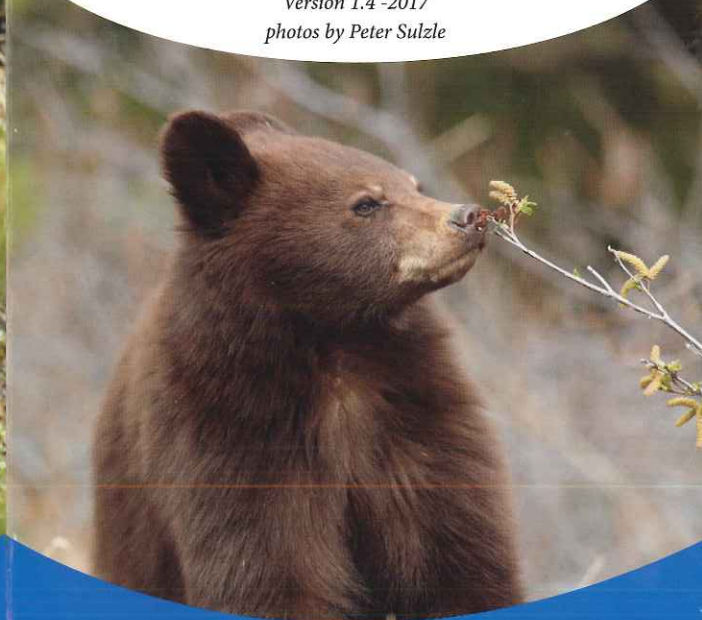


BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

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photos by Peter Sulzle



## BLACK BEAR



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## **MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS**

If you manage the bear attractants around your house, worksite or campsite you can keep your family safe and keep bears from being destroyed. There are a number of things you can do:

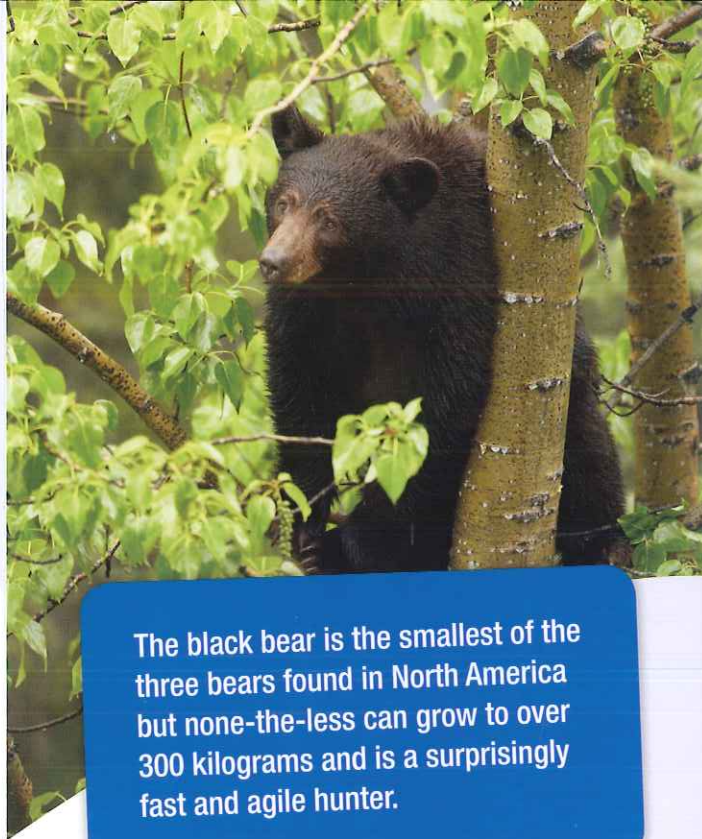
1. **Keep all garbage securely stored** until collection day. Placing garbage at the curb before collection day is poor behaviour and often illegal if your community has garbage bylaws in place.
2. **Manage your fruit trees and berry bushes** responsibly. Pick all fruit as it ripens and ensure that windfalls do not accumulate.
3. **Bird feeders often become bear-feeders**, so please - only feed birds during the winter months.
4. **Feed pets indoors**, or if fed out of doors, take in any feed that is not immediately eaten.
5. **Keep your barbecue clean** and free from odours. Burn off the grill everytime after use and clean out the grease traps.
6. **Manage your compost properly**. Composts should have equal amounts of brown and green materials added to reduce odours.
7. **If you keep chickens, bees, or small livestock, use a properly installed and maintained electric fence**. Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants.

## **BEAR SAFETY TIPS**

When hiking, travel in groups of two or more and keep talking (talk out loud to yourself if you are on your own). Bears recognize the human voice and will avoid you in most instances.

Carry bear spray with you when hiking in bear country. If you encounter a bear, do not yell, scream, or run as this may trigger an attack. If the bear sees you, speak in a low voice to let the bear know that you are a human and move away slowly.

If you have a bear in your yard, slowly retreat into the house and ensure that the home is secure. Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report the bear. After the bear has left ensure that whatever attracted the bear is removed.



The black bear is the smallest of the three bears found in North America but none-the-less can grow to over 300 kilograms and is a surprisingly fast and agile hunter.

While called a black bear these animals come in a variety of colours – everything from the white Kermode bear through to their namesake black and most shades of brown in between.

Bears are omnivorous animals with vegetation making up about 80% of their diet and the remainder coming from things like small rodents, fish, insects, carrion (dead animals) and sometimes young deer, elk or moose. Bears have a sense of smell far greater than that of dogs and it is this sense of smell that helps them locate food at great distances. Bears are solitary animals that only congregate when there is an abundance of food. Female bears tend to their young for almost two years and can give birth to as many as five young although twins are more the norm.

Bears inhabit most ecosystems throughout BC and you should consider the entire province to be “bear country.” While bear attacks are rare - they can be fatal. Carry bear spray with you, especially if hiking alone, and take a course on bear safety.

## **WHERE'S THE BEAR?**

Visit our website at [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com) to find a map that shows where bears have been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted them into the area. By knowing where the bears are and what is bringing them in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

## **BLACK BEAR FACTS:**

- Adult males measure between 60-90 cm at shoulder height and weigh anywhere from 80-300 kilograms.
- Bears go into a deep sleep or denning period, usually from November through to April.
- Bears lose approximately 30% of their weight over the winter.
- Because bears need such great stores of fat to make it through the winter, they become voracious eaters and can consume over 20,000 calories a day.
- Bears have an extremely good sense of smell and can smell food from over a kilometer away.
- Bears have eyesight and hearing as good as, or better than, that of humans.
- Bears are extremely fast and can run equally as well uphill or down.
- Bears mate in late June and embryos do not implant until the fall and only do so if the female has sufficient stores of fat to support the young through the nursing period in the den.



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