

Colorado since long before the pioneers arrived. Today 8,000 to 12,000 black bears are trying to share space with an ever-growing human population. With many more people living and playing in bear country, human/bear encounters are on the rise.

### Colorado Bears Have People Problems

Every year, bears attracted to human food sources damage property, vehicles and even homes. Bears don't know they're doing anything wrong. They're just following their super-sensitive noses to the most calories they can find.

Bears that find food around homes, campgrounds and communities often lose their natural wariness of people. Even though black bears are not naturally aggressive and seldom attack or injure people, they are still strong, powerful animals. A bear intent on getting a meal could injure someone who gets in its way. Every year bears that have become too comfortable around people have to be destroyed.

### Bears Need Your Help

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is charged with protecting and preserving the state's wildlife. Every time we must destroy a bear, it's not just the bear that loses. We all lose a little piece of the wildness that makes Colorado so special.

- Black is a species, not a color. In Colorado many black bears are blonde, cinnamon or brown.
- Over 90 percent of a bear's natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants. The rest is primarily insects and scavenged carcasses.
- Black bears are naturally shy, and very wary of people and other unfamiliar things. Their normal response to any perceived danger is to run away.
- In Colorado most bears are active from mid-March through early November. When food sources dwindle they head for winter dens.
- With a nose that's 100 times more sensitive than ours, a bear can literally smell food five miles away.
- Bears are very smart, and have great memories — once they find food, they come back for more.
- During late summer and early fall bears need to consume 20,000 calories a day to survive the winter hibernation without eating or drinking.
- Bears are not naturally nocturnal, but sometimes travel at night in hopes of avoiding humans.

Please Do  
Your Part  
to Keep  
Bears  
Wild

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Visit [cpw.state.co.us/bears](http://cpw.state.co.us/bears) for more information. You'll find fact sheets, a homeowner's checklist, information on safe camping and hiking and much more.

### Through Bear Aware

Bear Aware volunteers can answer questions, offer practical advice and even make house calls. They also do educational programs and staff informational booths at events. To find a Bear Aware volunteer in your area or join or form a Bear Aware team, call your local office.

### Colorado Parks & Wildlife Offices

Our offices are open Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Colorado State Patrol or your local Sheriff's Department.

### CPW Headquarters - Administrative Offices

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|-------------------------------|----------------|
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Living with Bears



### HOW TO AVOID WILDLIFE CONFLICTS



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COLORADO  
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