

## LIVING WITH BEARS IN HAINES

Bears spend much of their time foraging. Not all things that a bear smells will be food, but all things that smell may attract a foraging bear.

**Never Feed Bears** Once bears have learned to associate people with food, they become problem bears. Remember: Feeding bears and other types of wildlife is illegal and could be detrimental to the animal's health and well-being.

Our goal is to help people and bears safely and peacefully co-exist. The following information has been compiled as general guidelines to help prevent negative interactions between humans and bears. It is important to understand your role in protecting bears and safeguarding your home if bears come into your neighborhood. We are fortunate to live in a state with abundant wildlife. To preserve and protect bears for future generations, we need to be responsible and pro-active... TODAY!



Alaska Chilkoot Bear Foundation

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## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

A bear passing through is generally not a threat. If a bear is eating natural foods, such as berries or grass, leave it alone. Give it space and time to leave. **Do not approach the bear or run** but return to your vehicle or home immediately. Close all doors and windows. Be sure to take your pets with you.

If a bear is climbing on to your porch or deck, encourage it to leave by banging pots/pans or other loud noises.

## HAINES BEAR ORDINANCE

In October 2010 the Haines Borough Assembly passed an ordinance related to the attraction of bears to human trash within the Haines townsite. The ordinance requires that no owner or person in control of property or adjacent right of way can allow or cause the creation or maintenance of a bear attraction or nuisance on that property. This involves not only the creation of the bear nuisance attraction but allowing it to continue.

A bear nuisance attraction means more than ½ gallon of organic material prone to degrade rapidly, giving rise to obnoxious odors. This includes foods or animal parts.

Bear nuisance attraction does not include:

- Manure or sewage.
- Materials in a garbage can temporarily placed outside for purposes of collection after 4:00 am on the day scheduled for collection.
- Materials completely enclosed in a structure or container that requires hands or tools to open.

**HELP US KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE AND KEEP BEARS IN THE FORESTS AND OPEN SPACE WHERE THEY BELONG**

## SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS

### For the safety and well-being of RESIDENTS AND BEARS

#### Garbage

- Keep all trash, including aluminum can recycling, in a secure building, garage or shed that bears cannot get access to.
- Garbage cans should be water tight, odor free and corrosion resistant. They should be equipped with a tight fitting lid that will remain on the can if it should tip over.
- **Do not put garbage out before 4 a.m. the morning of scheduled pick-up.**
- Clean trash cans often with either bleach or ammonia.
- Fish parts, meat bones or other meat byproducts for the garbage should be kept in a freezer, inside a secure building, until they can be disposed of properly.
- Any livestock or wild game carcasses should be removed from your property.

#### People and Food

- Do not leave food or cooking utensils outside unattended, particularly at night.
- BBQ grills should be cleaned immediately after use and stored in a secure building, garage or shed when not in use.
- Hunters dressing game or fishermen cleaning fish at home should scrub down the area, tables, boards or pickup truck beds with a bleach solution so as not to attract bears. Any cleaning utensils and boards/tables should be kept inside a secure building.
- Do not keep refrigerators or freezers outside as bears can tip them over.

#### Fruit Trees

Pick fruit as it becomes ripe and remove any fruit on the ground. Store all picked fruit inside a secure building, garage or shed.

#### Gardening

- Be aware that vegetable gardens may attract bears.
- Do not use fish mulch in your garden.

#### Compost Piles

Keep the pile aerated and properly turned. Add lime or sawdust to promote decomposition and reduce odor. If you have a compost pile, enclose it with electric fencing. Avoid meat, fish and other pungent scraps in the pile.

#### Bird Feeders

We recommend you take down all bird feeders from April 1 until November 1 each year. Bears are attracted by the smell of birdseed. There are plenty of natural food sources for birds at that time.

#### Pet Food

- If your pets are allowed in the house, feed them in the house.
- If they are outside pets, feed only during the day, and feed only the amount the animal eats in a single feeding.
- Do not leave pet food or empty pet food dishes outside.

#### Livestock and Poultry Feeds

- Make sure small livestock are kept in a bear-proof barn or shed at night.
- Especially attractive are horse pellets, 3-way mixes (corn, oats and barley mixed with molasses), cracked corn and oats, and chicken scratch. Store all feeds in metal containers with lock down lids (55 gallon drums work well) inside a secure building, garage or shed. Feed in a bucket or tub so that you can remove and secure any uneaten food.

#### Vehicles

- Don't leave trash, groceries or animal feed in your vehicle. Bears can and do pry open car and truck doors and break windows to get at food or coolers and other items they associate with food.
- Do not use food-scented air fresheners in your vehicle.

#### Bear Deterrents

- Electric fencing is very effective if properly constructed. There are electric fences available for loan from ADF&G.
- Critter gitters are also available for loan from ADF&G.
- The ADF&G phone number is: 766-2830