

JACKSON HOLE IS **BEAR COUNTRY**

HELP US KEEP BEARS WILD & PEOPLE SAFE



LOOK INSIDE
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A
FREE CAN OF
BEAR SPRAY

FALL 2025



BEAR
WISE

JACKSON HOLE

Bear Wise Jackson Hole is an interagency group comprised of Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Teton County, Town of Jackson, and Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation. Our mission is to educate Teton County residents and visitors on how they can live and recreate responsibly in bear country, keeping bears wild and people safe.

The biggest threat facing bears in Teton County is the potential for them to gain access to unnatural food sources. When bears become conditioned to human foods or attractants, they can become a threat to human safety, damage private property, and may ultimately be euthanized.

Bear Wise Jackson Hole assists residents and businesses in complying with regulations and best practices by helping them secure bear attractants. We are also available upon request for presentations about bear safety and living responsibly in bear country.

This booklet summarizes the regulations and provides useful tips for your reference.

Working together, we can reduce conflicts between Teton County residents and bears.

The Team at Bear Wise Jackson Hole
bearwisejh.org

TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY & WIN!

We need your help to keep bears wild and people safe.

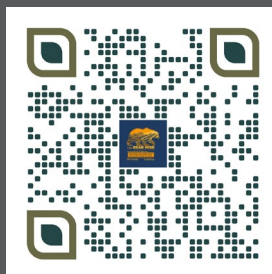
Take our short, 2-minute survey (*scan the QR code below*) by November 30, 2025 and you'll be entered into a raffle to win a free can of bear spray.

Your feedback helps us:

- Understand what works to reduce bear conflicts
- Support residents in meeting local regulations
- Build a safer community for people and wildlife

Survey responses are anonymous.

Contact information is optional and only used for raffle entry.



» BEAR ATTRACTANTS:

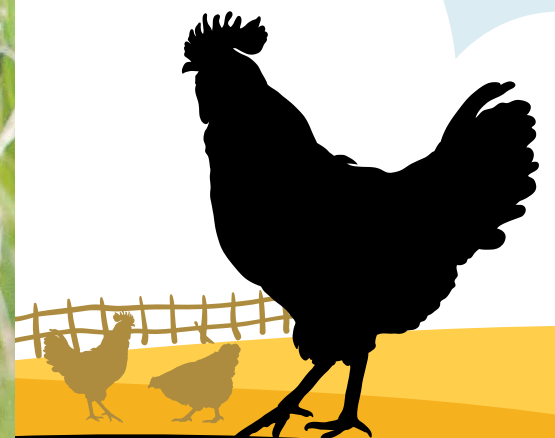
It all smells to a bear, please take care. Lock it up!

Anything scented can attract bears. This includes human food and drinks, fruit from fruit trees, barbecue grills, coolers, harvested wild game, compost, trash, recycling that has food residue, pet food, livestock food, chickens, fertilizers, beehives, and bird feeders of all kinds. A bear in your neighborhood will not linger if there are no attractants present. The best way to keep bears safe is to make sure that anything that could attract a bear to your property is stored indoors, inside a bear-resistant container, or inside bear-resistant fencing when not in use.

USEFUL TIPS:



- If possible, store barbecue grills in a garage or shed after they are no longer hot. If this is not possible, turn the grill on high for long enough to burn off all food residues.
- Feed your pets indoors and store pet food inside.
- Keep pets and livestock in a hard sided building at night and utilize electric fencing to deter bears.



» RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE:

Residential garbage within the Town of Jackson Bear Conflict Zone and all areas outside town limits within Teton County must be stored in an Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee certified self-locking bear-resistant container, enclosure, or bear-resistant building.

- If trash is transferred from the property to a transfer station or landfill directly by the property owner or property lessee, trash may be stored in another container if the container is always stored in a bear-resistant building or enclosure while on the property.
- Putting trash out immediately before pick-up in non bear-resistant containers DOES NOT comply with town and county regulations.

» COMMERCIAL GARBAGE:

Commercial garbage, including grease and food waste, must be secured inside certified bear-resistant containers and dumpsters or within buildings and enclosures in the Town of Jackson Bear Conflict Zone and all areas of Teton County outside town limits.

- A certified bear-resistant container or dumpster is one that meets the minimum structural design standards published by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.
- A list of bear-resistant containers, dumpsters, and other products certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee is available in the Teton County Planning and Development Department or by visiting this web page:



USEFUL TIPS:



- Call your trash hauler to obtain a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.

New Waste Removal:

(307) 413-7299 (dumpsters only)

RAD Curbside: (208) 220-7721

Star Valley Disposal:

(307) 885-9645 (dumpsters only)

Teton Trash Removal:

(307) 733-6840

Westbank Sanitation:

(307) 733-2615

Yellow Iron Waste Removal:

(307) 734-0583

- If your trash hauler does not have one available, you may be able to purchase a bear-resistant can from:

JH Bear Solutions:

(307) 274-8391

- Using a smaller trash can or having less frequent pick-up may offset some of the cost of purchasing or renting a bear-resistant trash can.
- If construction is occurring on your property, you can utilize a standard roll-off container IF you also provide a certified bear-resistant residential container for food waste and attractants. Talk to your hauling company to make these arrangements.



**ALWAYS LATCH & NEVER
OVERFILL YOUR TRASH.**

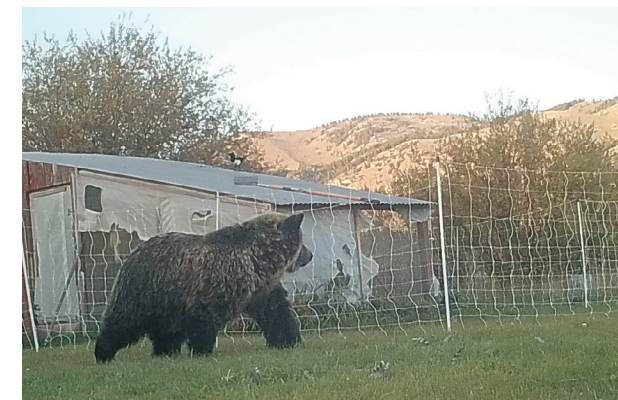
» BEAR-RESISTANT BUILDINGS OR ENCLOSURES:

A bear-resistant building or enclosure is:

1. A framed building or enclosure with hard sides and a roof constructed of hard wood, non-reflective metal, or other like product reasonably designed and manufactured to withstand an intrusion by a bear; or
2. Chain-link fencing that is fully enclosed including the top being fully covered; or
3. Functional and maintained electric fencing designed to exclude bears; or
4. A building or enclosure with functional, maintained self-latching doors/gates, or doors and gates with locks.



Bear-resistant framed enclosure.

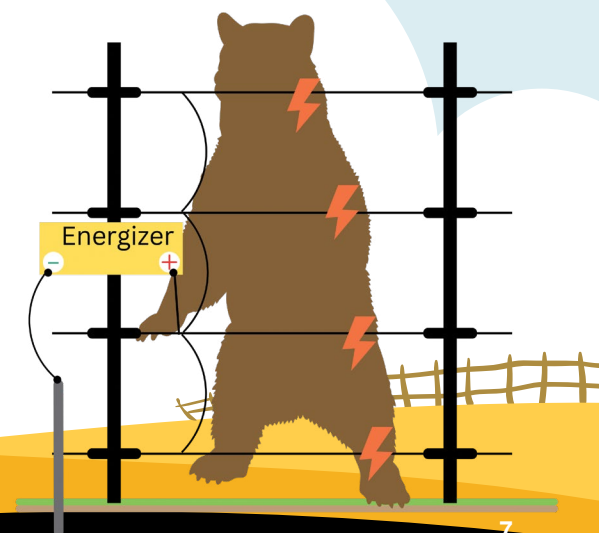


Bear-resistant electric fencing.

USEFUL TIPS:



- Bear-resistant buildings or enclosures can be useful for securing apiaries, grease containers, compost bins or piles, backyard chicken operations, and pet, fish, and livestock feed.
- Be sure that your enclosure is properly locked, latched, or electrified.
- Electric fencing works well for compost, chicken coops, apiaries, and fruit trees.
- Find out how to build an electric fence for bears here:



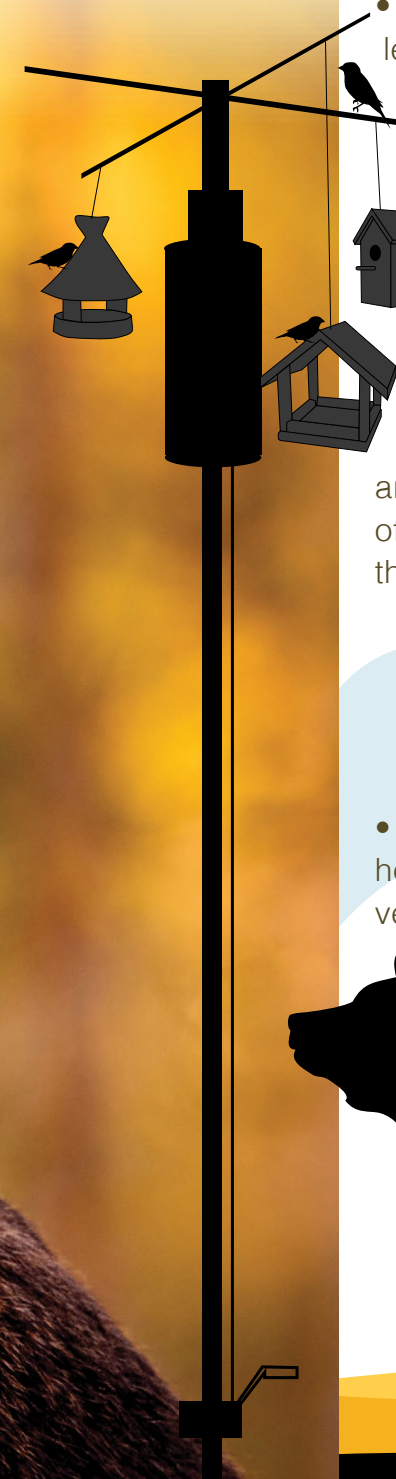
» BIRD FEEDERS:

Bird feeders must be inaccessible to bears and other wildlife (except birds) at all times of the year.

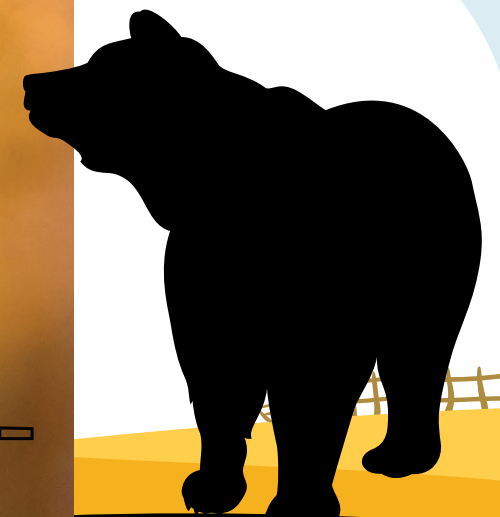
USEFUL TIPS:



- We recommend having bird feeders out only during winter months (December-March) when bears are hibernating.
- Bird feeders should be at least 10 feet from the ground, deck, railing, or any other surface, and 4 feet out from any structure, tree, or limb.
- Attach a catch pan below the feeder that is at least 4 inches in diameter wider than the feeder.
- A 4-foot bird feeder hanger arm can be attached to the side of your home 10 feet or more off the ground.



- Consider using bird houses, bird baths, and native vegetation as alternatives.



» ORNAMENTAL FRUIT TREES:

Planting of new ornamental fruit bearing trees and shrubs (including crabapples and cherries) is prohibited in Teton County and the Town of Jackson.

Existing ornamental, non-native fruit bearing trees must be managed to prevent large mammals from obtaining food rewards; therefore, they must be fenced or harvested as soon as fruit is ripe. All exclusionary fencing must be properly maintained.

USEFUL TIPS:



- For information on cost-share programs available for replacing ornamental trees with native plants, visit the Teton Conservation District:



- Farmstead Cider is a local company that may be available to assist with harvesting and removing fruit from existing trees. Visit this link for more details:



» WILDLIFE FEEDING:

Teton County and the Town of Jackson prohibit the public from providing supplemental feed to wildlife. Supplemental feed includes any human food, pet food, hay, forage product or supplement, grain, honey, seed or birdseed, salt or mineral licks, or any other feed made available to wildlife.

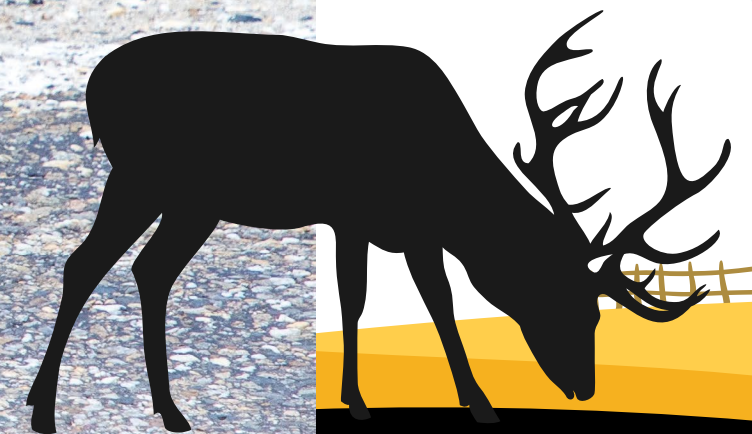
These regulations do not prohibit the feeding of birds using conventional feeders (see Bird Feeders page) as long as they are inaccessible to other wildlife.

USEFUL TIPS:



When talking to your neighbors or tenants about why wildlife feeding is prohibited, we've found it compelling to discuss three reasons this regulation is in place:

- Feeding animals can attract large carnivores, which can lead to property damage and injury to people.
- Feeding animals can increase the spread of diseases and result in animals being hit on roadways.
- Animals are adapted to specific food sources. Many animals are unable to digest alternative food sources (e.g. hay, grain, human food) and it can kill them.



» RECREATING IN BEAR COUNTRY:

As residents and visitors of Teton County, it is our responsibility to help preserve the unique character of this amazing place on both private and public lands.

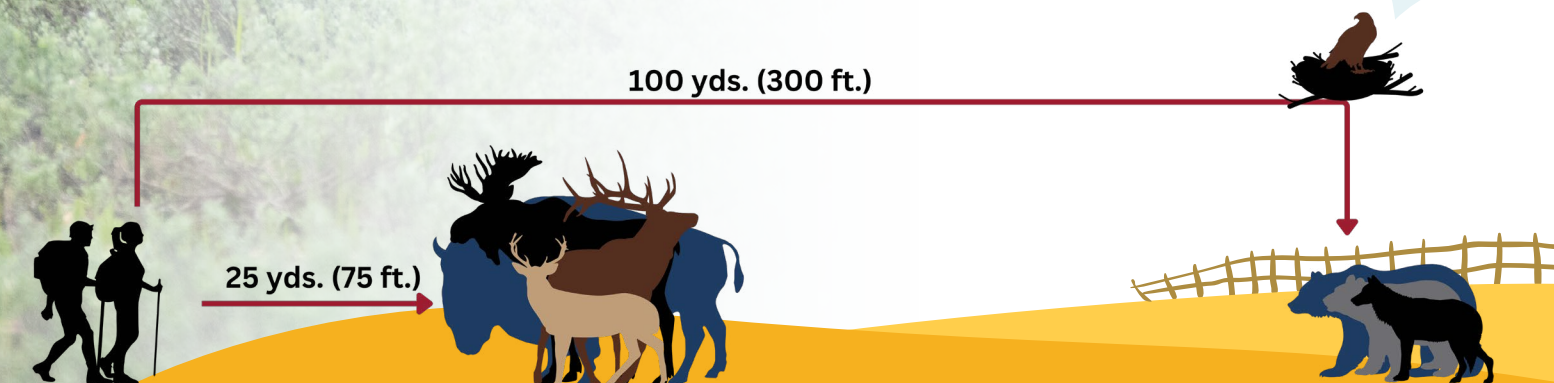
Local wildlife and land management agencies need our help. We can each do our part by adhering to food storage regulations on public lands, following local land

development regulations and ordinances on private lands, giving wildlife space, driving more cautiously, and being more in tune with our surroundings.

USEFUL TIPS:



- Give bears and other large carnivores at least 100 yards of space.
- Stay at least 25 yards away from all other wildlife, including bison, moose, and elk.
- Slow down while driving at night and in areas with limited visibility to avoid collisions with wildlife.
- Hike in groups of three or more and make noise.
- Carry bear spray. It works for aggressive moose and other animals as well.
- Keep potential attractants with you or properly secured while recreating in wild places.
- Never keep any attractants in your tent or with you while you are sleeping, and maintain 100 yards between your tent and food/cooking area.



» ASSISTANCE SECURING ATTRACTANTS:

If you need assistance securing bear attractants on your property, please call:



Bear Wise Jackson Hole
(307) 739-0968
info@jhwildlife.org | jhwildlife.org



We can assist homeowners, homeowners associations (HOAs) and businesses with securing bear attractants like chicken coops, apiaries, compost bins, and fruit trees. We can also help find resources for replacement of trash cans and dumpsters. Bear Wise Jackson Hole has experience installing both temporary and permanent electric fences as well as assembling volunteers to harvest and remove fruit.

» REPORTING HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS:

Reporting human-bear conflicts helps save bears! The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is the agency responsible for managing human-bear conflicts on your property. They work diligently to keep bears wild and people safe, but they need your help. The sooner a bear conflict is reported, the more options exist to try to keep that bear wild.

USEFUL TIPS:



- To report bear-conflicts call:



Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Jackson Regional Office
(307) 733-2321

- If calling after hours, leave a message with a brief description of the conflict, your name, location, and contact number.

- To report a violation of Teton County or Town of Jackson regulations please call:

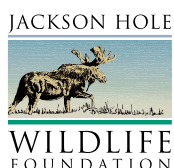
Teton County: (307) 733-3959
Town of Jackson: (307) 733-3932

- To read the Town of Jackson Ordinances and Teton County Regulations in their entirety, please scan this QR code:





Cover photo: Kevin Perozini



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