

Dear Glacier National Park Resident:

Living and working in Glacier National Park provides you, your family and your guests with a unique opportunity to experience first-hand many of the natural wonders which are preserved and protected in your National Park. Among those magnificent natural resources are grizzly and black bears, mountain lions and wolves. Living and working with these large carnivores exposes humans and wildlife to certain risks. Grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions are large powerful animals that occasionally attack humans. We need your cooperation to provide a safe environment for people and for wildlife.

The following recommendations are provided to minimize the risk of injury to you, your family, and your guests and to the wildlife. While these precautions require some effort on your part, they will reduce the incidence of bear-related property damage, the potential for wildlife related injuries, and may allow us to avoid the subsequent loss of a bear, mountain lion or wolf:

1. Garbage must be stored either in a bear-proof garbage can or dumpster or inside a building that bears or other animals can not access.
2. **Bird feeders have been an attractant to bears in this ecosystem, and are illegal within Glacier National Park.**
3. Livestock and pet food should also be stored in containers and/or inside a building that bears or other animals cannot access. Don't leave pellets, dog food or bones out over night.
4. Barbecue grills, smokers, ice chests, coolers, beverage cans, and bottles are bear attractants and should be stored inside. Care must be taken to assure that no burning coals are brought inside buildings in grills or barbecue devices.
5. No food of any kind should be left outside unattended.

All bears and other predators can be dangerous. The likelihood of encountering a bear or mountain lion is very real, especially at night. While we attempt to minimize wildlife hazards we cannot completely eliminate the hazard or guarantee your safety. Always be alert to your surroundings, closely supervise children, and talk with them about what to do if they encounter a bear, lion or a wolf. The appropriate response when confronted with each one of these animals is different. Learn what the appropriate responses are and explain them to your children.

The following precautions are appropriate for all wildlife species:

- a. Don't travel alone or at night.
- b. Make noise when walking.
- c. If you must travel at night, use a flashlight.

- d. Avoid heavily wooded areas at night.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you not to feed or attract wildlife into your yard by salting, or any other form of baiting. Such activities are both dangerous and illegal. Despite the brief pleasure you may receive from watching wildlife at the "salt lick", such habituation of wildlife species, especially carnivores, could endanger you or your guests and usually leads to the animals' death. For example, the concentration of deer attracted to a salt lick may attract mountain lions. Bird feeders not only increase the risk to humans, but also have been directly linked to unacceptable bear behavior in this ecosystem. Bear managers are usually unsuccessful in trying to change the actions of bears that have learned to eat from bird feeders, and the result is often the death of the bear. Please refrain from the temptation to use bird feeders within the park.

Glacier National Park's "Bear and Lion Information Management Systems" are important tools which provide accurate and timely information on bear and lion sightings, incidents, and behavior. This information is a critical component of Glacier's wildlife management program. We need your help! Please report all bear and mountain lion sightings and/or incidents to the Glacier National Park Communications Center, at (406) 888-7800 as soon as possible after they occur.

Please contact the District Ranger if you have any questions regarding the recommendations or precautions outlined in this letter.

Remember, every employee and resident has a shared responsibility for the future of bears and other wildlife.

If you would like additional information or are unable to contact the District Ranger, please contact the Chief Ranger's Office at (406) 888-7828.

Sincerely,

Chas Cartwright
Superintendent