



Conservation Officers

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What we do























A photograph of a brown bear standing on a gravel surface in front of the rear of a white Ford pickup truck. The truck has "FORD" and "4x4" badges. The background consists of dense evergreen trees. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey layer and decorative white dotted patterns in the corners. The word "BEARS" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

BEARS



NATURAL HISTORY



GENERAL **INFORMATION**

- Black bears are the most prevalent bear species in North America.
- They average in length from four to seven feet from nose to tail. Males are typically larger.
- They come in a variety of colors such as: black, brown, blonde, and cinnamon.
- They are excellent tree climbers and they can outrun humans in any terrain. At top speed they can reach more than 30 miles per hour.

HABITAT AND **RANGE**

- They usually habit forests that are abundant with fruits and nuts. However, someone's yard trash or fruit trees will do!
- They can be found in deciduous, coniferous, or mixed forest regions.
- Their home range varies depending on the location, the season, and food availability.
- Usually, a males home range is larger than a females. They can range anywhere from 10-60 square miles. Females usually stay within 15 square miles.
- Some areas, such as the Sandia and Manzano Mountains holds more bears than a normal area this size due to the uniqueness of the mountains.
- Since food is not concentrated in one area, black bears **DO NOT** feed together and mostly travel alone with the exception of female bears with cubs.

BEAR FACTS

- Bears will generally avoid humans unless they grow accustomed to eating human food or garbage.
 - Roughly 85 percent of a Black Bear's diet is vegetable matter.
 - Human trash accounts for over 50 percent of bear-human conflicts.
 - Creating a nuisance by feeding bears is illegal and you can be cited.
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MATING AND BREEDING

- Male bears will compete for females and will mate from late May until early July.
- The embryo will not implant into the uterus until adequate fat and nutrients have been built up for the winter.
- Cubs are born in January or February
- Each litter usually consist of two cubs.
- Cub mortality for the first year is between thirty and fifty percent.
- Bear cubs remain with their mother for approximately 17 months.
- Female bears force their offspring away when they are ready to breed again.
- Black bears are solitary, except when breeding.

HELPFUL HINTS AND
POINTERS FOR
HOMEOWNERS, HIKERS,
AND CAMPERS



HOMEOWNERS

- GARBAGE – Should be stored in closed, sturdy cans and kept inside a secure metal shed or garage. Do not put trash out until the morning of pickup.
- PET FOOD – Feed pets indoors. Pet food should be stored in secure metal cans inside a secure metal shed or garage. Make sure your garbage door is closed at night.
- BIRD FEEDERS – Set out only enough bird seed to last throughout the day. Hummingbird feeders should be brought in at night. Hang feeders from trees, not the porch or house. Take down all feeders if a bear is present.
- FRUIT TREES - Plant fruit trees away from your house. Fruit should be picked as it ripens. Spoiled fruit that falls to the ground should be removed to keep from attracting bears.
- WOODPILES – Keep woodpiles away from the house. These piles attract rodents, which bears eat.
- COMPOST PILES – Keep Compost piles away from the house. Do not add melon rinds or other fragrant fruit.
- BEEHIVES AND CHICKEN PENS – Livestock and beehives should be placed away from your home and protected with electric fencing.
- BARBECUES – Barbecues should be cleaned after each use and stored in a sturdy shed or garage.

HIKERS

- ALWAYS HIKE IN GROUPS - The bigger the group the better.
- MAKE NOISE - A surprised bear can be a dangerous bear especially when cubs are present.
- KNOW WHERE THEY ARE – Keep all children and pets close at hand.
- DON'T TRASH IT – Don't leave trash on the trail. If you pack it in, pack it out!



CAMPERS

- KEEP A CLEAN CAMP – Always keep your camp clean and do not leave food out when not in use.
- COOLERS AND LUNCH BOXES – Keep coolers and lunch boxes in hard sided trailers, campers, or vehicles if possible.
- COOKING ODORS – Cooking odors attract bears. Cooking areas should be at least 100 yards from the sleeping area.
- CHANGE CLOTHES – Do not sleep in the clothes you cooked in.
- HANG IT UP – Hang all food and garbage from a tree 10 feet off the ground and four feet from side trunks and branches.
- LEASH EM' – Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- STRAIN DISH WATER – Be sure to strain food particles from your dishwater and pack them out.
- PACK IT OUT! – Never bury or burn your garbage. This may attract bears and cause problems for future campers . If available, use bear resistant trash cans.

Bear **Encounters**

- DO NOT RUN – If you see a bear, stay calm.
- STAND UPRIGHT – Slowly wave your arms so it knows your there and to make you appear larger.
- BACK AWAY – Slowly back away while keeping you eye on the bear.
- LOOK FOR CUBS – Never get between a female and her cubs.
- FIGHT BACK – If attacked, fight back aggressively. Never play dead!

Bear Visits

- This really depends on a variety of factors. Where do you live, how populated is the area, what is the bear doing, and what is the likelihood of the bear leaving the area if left alone. Moving bears is not always the best solution.
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WHAT HAPPENS TO A BEAR IF GAME AND FISH IS DISPATCHED?

- Each bear call is unique, and not every call will end up the same. There are many factors that play into each call that will help determine whether the bear will be left alone, captured and relocated, or euthanized.
 - The goal of the Game and Fish is to ensure the safety of not only the public but also the wildlife when dealing with these situations.
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GARBAGE = FOOD **FOR BEARS**

- Anything that smells like food is food for a bear. They can smell food over a mile away.
 - They will eat anything from the grease on a BBQ grill to burnt brownies thrown in the garbage.
 - When bears start eating food provided by humans, intentionally or not, it becomes their food of choice because it is easy to get.
 - They teach their young habits such as “Dumpster Diving,” and they become a problem in the future.
 - Remember, “A FEAD BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!”
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Mountain Lions

General information

Mountain Lions are the largest cat species in North America

Other names include Cougar, puma, or panther

Extremely secretive and reclusive

Excellent climbers

Habitat and Range



Exist in a variety of habitats in New Mexico but prioritize their ability to hide and hunt effectively



Extremely territorial which leads to lower population numbers

Mating and Breeding

Capable of breeding year-round but tend to have cubs between May and October

Cubs stay with the mother for 12-24 months

Cubs will disperse once they have established hunting techniques and survival strategies

Males are usually larger than females and disperse further than females

Mountain lion facts

- Generally make a large kill once every 7-10 days .
- Will haul kills to a secluded spot and cover with debris
- Carnivorous

Tips for homeowners

Protect pets and livestock with
adequate fencing and shelter

Electric fencing helps deter
lions from entering pens

Guard dogs can help deter lions

Ammonia is a good deterrent

Mountain Lion encounters

Much less common than bears

Get big and make your presence
known

Get loud

Do not turn your back on a lion