



Living With Your Wild(er) Neighbors

Kristin Cannon, District Wildlife
Manager-Boulder North

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Mission: The mission of the Division of Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state park system, and to provide enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, angling, and wildlife viewing that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.





FOOD

WATER

HABITAT

SHELTER

SPACE



Members of Your Wildlife HOA

- Black Bears
- Mountain Lions
- Coyotes
- Turkey, Foxes, Raccoon, Skunk, Porcupine?
- Deer and Elk
- Moose
- Wolverine, Wolves, Otters, and Other Rare Wildlife

Black Bears



www.cpw.state.co.us/bears



Bears in Colorado are all the same species: black bear (*Ursus americanus*). They can be black, brown, blond, or cinnamon. Females weigh an average of 150 lbs and males 250 lbs.



They live in forested or tall shrubland habitat but can be found in open areas or even cities like Boulder and Colorado Springs.

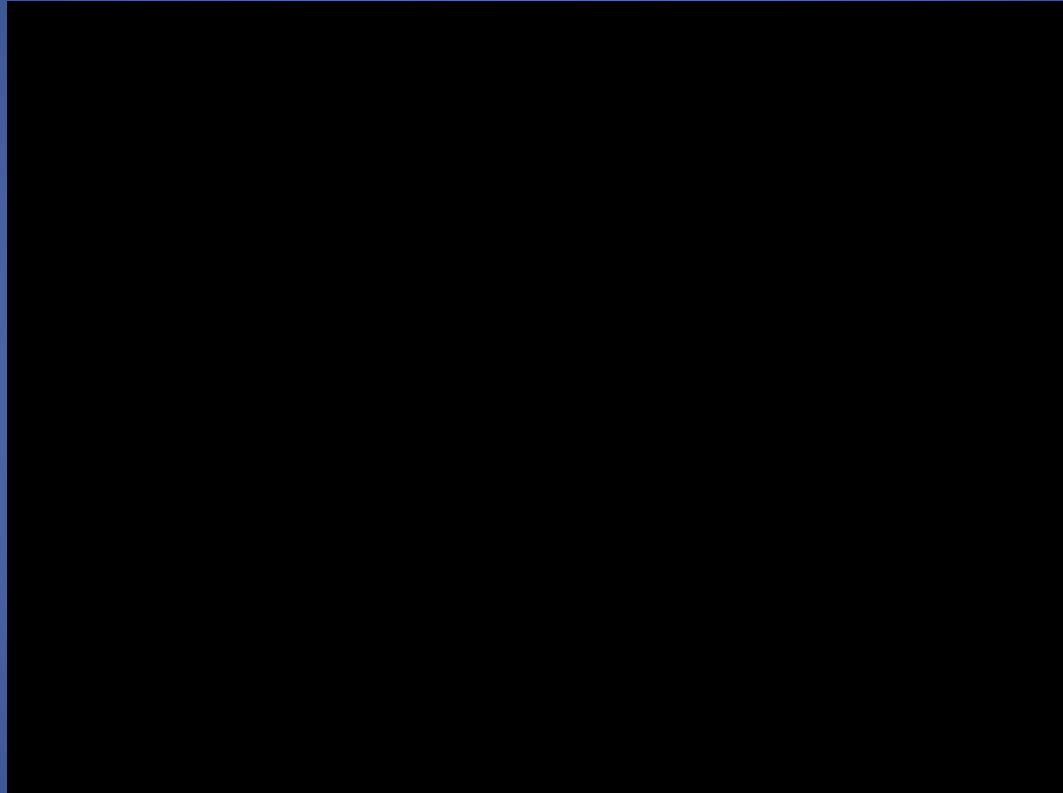


Bears eat...

- Grasses, forbs
- Berries
- Acorns
- Seeds
- Insects
- Carrion
- Fawns

They also eat...

- Apples, plums, cherries
- Dog food
- Bacon grease
- Bird seed
- Humming bird food
- Baby diapers
- Big macs, leftovers
- Skittles
- Just about everything...



claws



sense of smell



ADAPTATIONS



memory



ability to navigate

What does it mean to live in Bear Country?

!!!Don't wait for a problem!



How to use our advice.

- Adapt, adapt, adapt.
- If something doesn't work, try something new.
- Be safe but creative.



How to Prevent Conflict

- Secure garbage and compost in a bear resistant container, shed, or garage at all times.
- Keep doors and windows closed and locked at night and when you are away.
- Do not feed birds when bears are active.
- Secure pet, bird, and livestock food.
- Protect apiaries, chickens, and other livestock with electric fencing.
- Keep vehicles clean, lock doors.

After there's a problem...



Decrease reward:

- Store garbage in alternate location
- Remove birdfeeders
- Clean area, use ammonia soaked rags.
- Pick up fruit, remove attractant.



Increase (perceived) risk:

- Use electric mat, fencing.
- Radios, other noise makers
- Motion activated lights
- Hazing (airhorn)

...because the bear will be back!



Once you're house is on the map it's up to you to get it off.

What to do if you see a bear.



Leave it alone.

What to do if you see a bear.

Scare that bear!

- Make noise from a safe location
- Do not approach
- Always make sure the bear has a clear escape route



What to do if you see a bear.



If a bear approaches you (this is rare):

- Don't run, back away slowly
- Look big
- Yell loudly and deeply
- If you are attacked by a bear (very rare) fight back.

Why should you care?

Bears can cause serious property damage.



Why should you care?



Let's talk about relocation...

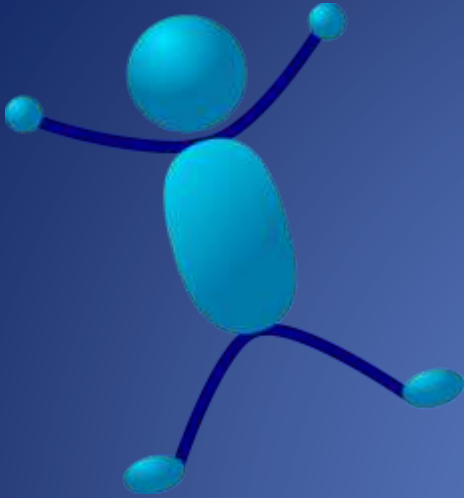


Photo credit: Nicole Freund

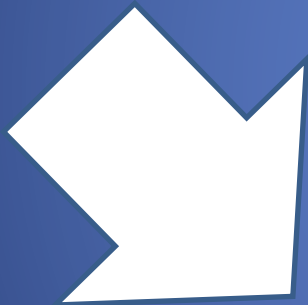
It's up to you!

- Relocation doesn't work, is not a solution.
- Lethal removal is a reaction, it is not an answer.
- Wildlife officers can only do so much
- With 20,000 bears and 5 million people in Colorado we have to learn to share habitat.

#1 YOURSELF



#3 YOUR COMMUNITY



#2 YOUR NEIGHBORS



How to learn more.

www.cpw.state.co.us/bears

- Feeding Birds Not Bears
- Bear Unwelcome Mat
- Bear-Proofing Your Home
- Deterrents Can Teach Bears to Stay Away
- Camping and Hiking in Bear Country
- Bear Proofing Your Trash



Mountain Lions



Quick Facts about Lions

- Lions primarily eat deer but they will also eat elk, raccoon, skunk, turkeys, and foxes.
- Although they may occasionally scavenge they rely mostly on meat from animals they have killed themselves and only eat meat.
- Kittens will stay with their mother until they are 12-18 months in age (average is 14 months).
- Lions are solitary but may be together when mating or raising young.
- They are ambush predators.
- Dens are only used when kittens are very young.
- Lions are built to climb on rocks, jump, and balance.



What do I do if I see a lion?

- Keep your distance and do not approach.
- If the lion moves towards you, make yourself look big, yell, and throw things at the lion.
- If ever attacked by a lion fight back.
- Report sightings, caches, and unusual behavior?

What is a cache?



Protect Your Pets



Coyotes



Coyotes

- Habituate to people and development quickly.
- Intelligent aka “cunning”
- Diverse diet
- Most conflict with people occurs Feb/March through June.
- Very adaptable



Coyotes-Signs



Coyote Vocalization



Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks,
birds, and snakes.



Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks,
birds and snakes.



Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks,
birds, and snakes.



Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, skunks, birds, and snakes.

- Conflicts...
 - Den in attics, walls
 - Spray pets
 - Prey on pets
 - Build nests in walls
 - Eat garbage
 - Some safety risks (bites)
 - Act as attractants for larger predators

Bobcats



Bobcats



Turkeys



Deer and Elk



- Cows and does can be dangerous in June when calves and fawns are newborn and vulnerable. (Many times aggression is directed at dogs)
- Bulls and bucks can be dangerous in the fall during the rut.

Chronic Wasting Disease



- Prion disease similar to mad cow disease
- Can take several months/years for deer to succumb
- Only affects deer, elk, and moose
- Found in the environment
- Monitoring in 2017

Please don't...



Moose



Moose quick facts

- The Shiras subspecies of moose was (re?)introduced to Colorado in 1978 and again in 1979 and 1987.
- Moose have evolved with wolves as their main predator which is why they don't like dogs.
- Moose can travel long distances when seeking out new territory.
- Moose are born in the late spring and stay with their mother for over a year.
- They are excellent swimmers.



What do I do if I see a moose?

- Give it plenty of space.
- Put dogs on a leash and keep them close.
- Pay attention to the moose's behavior.
 - Ears flat
 - Hackles up
 - Side eye
 - Change in activity
- If a moose charges you, run get behind cover.

Wolverines and other rare wildlife



Take home message

- ✓ Where there is habitat, there is wildlife.
- ✓ Don't feed wildlife.
- ✓ Discourage habituation by increasing risk and decreasing reward.
- ✓ The more you know about wildlife species the better you can live with them.
- ✓ If it's got claws stand your ground, if it's got hooves retreat.

Thanks!

Kristin Cannon

Cell: 303-877-6094

Email: kristin.cannon@state.co.us

