

Southwest Alberta Bear Management Program



Help Keep Bears Wild and Prevent Conflicts

Success depends on early reporting

- If you see a bear and it is unafraid and doesn't leave the site, or if you know it has obtained a food reward, please notify your local Conservation Officer.
- The sooner a bear is conditioned to return to wild behaviors, the better for the bear. The longer the bear is actively coming into contact with humans, and finding food associated with humans, the harder it is to change its behavior.

On The Trails

- **When you see a bear on the trail** leave the area immediately.
- When out hiking or biking, make noise when approaching blind corners or traveling near creeks and rivers.
- Travel in groups of 6 or more whenever possible

Please see reverse for more info on how to prevent bear/ human conflicts

The Alberta Government manages bear/ human conflicts year round.

The goal is to protect humans and their property while maintaining viable bear populations in the province.

Lasting success requires both HUMANS and BEARS to change their behaviors otherwise bears will continually get into trouble.

To achieve this goal, government agencies work with landowners, the public and the Wind River Bear Institute's (WRBI) "Partners In Life" program (PILP) to recondition bears who have obtained food rewards and become accustomed to being around humans and developed sites.

This Program, created by Carrie Hunt, a veteran of 24 years of bear work worldwide, is the only effort of its kind in the world.

The public learns how to prevent bears from encountering humans, crossing human boundaries or obtaining food rewards they associate with humans.

This work helps prevent bears from having to be relocated outside their home ranges or destroyed.

In Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks estimates that 16 grizzly bears have been "saved" by this type of work, known as "bear shepherding".

Bear Shepherding involves the use of WRBI's specialized team of Karelian Bear Dogs, rubber bullets, noise deterrents and trained bear conflict specialists, working under the direction of Alberta's Regional Biologists and Conservation Officers.

The Program's success is based on public engagement, involving local residents and landowners as partners in preventing conflicts with bears and reporting bear sightings immediately, before bears develop a strong association between humans and food.

Tax-deductible donations to support the Partners-in-Life Program in Alberta may be sent to:
Karelian Bear Shepherding Institute-Canada, PO Box 1299, Florence, MT 59833