

BE BEAR SMART

WHILE VISITING & RECREATING

We're very fortunate to share this area with an abundance of wildlife, including bears. To keep bears wild and everyone safe, we all must do our part to reduce the risk of something unfortunate happening. Black bears have exceptional noses and are lured near people by the alluring scents of human foods: outdoor

grills, garbage, coolers, food in tents and more. They obtain huge caloric boosts from these "food rewards" and seek out more. Bears can become bold in their attempts to obtain more of these foods, often resulting in damage to vehicles, coolers, tents, campers and homes. Or worse.

WHEN VISITING OR RECREATING HERE, *taking some simple precautions will help in making our area safer for both people and bears:*

Never feed or approach wildlife.

Keep your dog on a leash.

Leave ear buds at home when recreating.

Watch for signs of bear activity.

Carry bear spray while recreating, have it readily-accessible and know how to use it.

Use bear-resistant trash cans or dumpsters and keep them locked, or pack out trash. Do not burn or bury trash.

Store coolers out of sight in vehicles. Keep vehicle windows and doors closed and locked.

Use food storage canisters or hang food bags when backcountry camping.

No food or scented items in tents.

Keep your camp area clean. If you leave your campsite, be sure no food or anything with an odor has been left out.

Empty grease traps from your outdoor grill and burn off any excess foods.

Leave your bird feeders at home. It's nearly impossible to feed birds without attracting bears.

Immediately report bear sightings or encounters to campground hosts or to the LPC Bear Hotline at 970-247-BEAR (2327).

Vacation Rentals:

Use bear-resistant trash containers and close and lock lids.

Keep any doors or windows accessible to bears closed and locked, including garage and vehicle doors.

Never leave food, trash or anything with a scent in vehicles. (Note that there's an exception when camping).

Feed pets indoors.

Clean outdoor grills after using and clean up after dining outdoors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



LPEA

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



bearmart
DURANGO helping people & bears coexist