

Key safety messages:

- The following slides are a subset of the talk provided on 17-May-2017

Outline

- What Kind of Bear is IT?
- What is the BEAR doing?
- What are YOU doing?
 - Simple Steps to Remain Safe
 - Bear Safety Video
- Review of Safety Gear and Best Practices

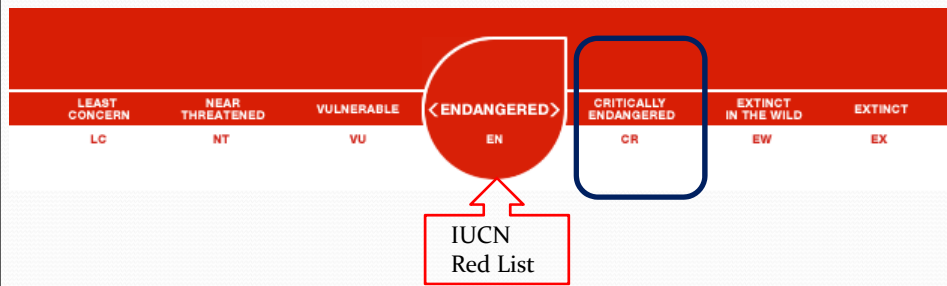


Mum & cub playing

International Union for the Conservation of Nature



- Dec 2016: declared Stein-Nahatlatch Grizzly bears to be “Critically Endangered”
= 1 step away from being extinct in nature



Have you seen a Grizzly bear?

Look for a combination of characteristics...

The infographic compares Grizzly and Black bears using several characteristics:

- Grizzly Bear:**
 - Shoulder hump (indicated by a red arrow pointing to a hump on the bear's back)
 - Dished profile (indicated by a red arrow pointing to a concave forehead)
 - Short rounded ears (indicated by a red arrow pointing to the bear's ears)
 - Front claw 2-4" long (shown in a silhouette)
- Black Bear:**
 - No shoulder hump (indicated by a red arrow pointing to a flat back)
 - Straight profile (indicated by a red arrow pointing to a straight forehead)
 - Tall pointed ears (indicated by a red arrow pointing to the bear's ears)
 - Front claw 1 1/2" long (shown in a silhouette)

color and size can be misleading!

What is the bear doing?

A black bear is lying on its back in a grassy field, with its front paws raised near its face and its hind legs also raised. The bear appears to be resting or playing.

Bear Behaviors - Curiosity

Signs of Curiosity

- Standing up to see or hear better
- Ears forward
- Sniffing, head wagging
- Might approach you



Bear Behaviors - Stress

Signs of Stress

- Yawning
- Chomping at the grass
- Vocalizing
- Ears back
- Paw swatting
- Stomping
- May run back a short distance or climb a tree



DO NOT Approach a BEAR

- A Defensive bear tries to remove you as a threat
- You Could Trigger a CHARGE!
- MOST charges stop short of contact



First Contact with a Bear

- You have **NO WAY** of knowing the history of a bear you encounter
- We tend to **assume**:
 - encounters in the wild are with wild bears
 - encounters in communities are with habituated bears
- **This is a false & dangerous assumption!!**

Steps to staying safe

- What Kind of Bear is IT?
- What is the BEAR doing?
- **What are YOU doing?**



Avoiding Bear Encounters

Be Vigilant & Noisy When:



- the **WIND** is in your face
- there is **AMBIENT NOISE**
- you are **VISUALLY SCREENED**
- you are **NEAR BEAR FOOD**
- there is **FRESH SIGN**

When you see a bear:

- Stop what you are doing
- Remain calm
- Assess the situation:
 - Does the bear see you?
 - Is it moving away or towards?
 - What is it's behavior?
 - Work together to stay safe

Distances:

How close is too close?

- Bears can easily run 30 ft/sec (9 m/sec)
- Your Best Response Time = 3 sec

1 sec = to recognize the danger

1 sec = to draw your pepper spray

1 sec = to aim and fire

Your minimum distance = 90FT (25-30m)

What's Wrong Here?



BEAR ATTACK: Are you Prepared to Avoid One?

- BE ALERT**
- MAKE NOISE**
- CARRY BEAR SPRAY**
- AVOID HIKING ALONE**
- DO NOT RUN**

- During a surprise encounter - slowly back away
- If the bear charges - stand your ground & use your bear spray
- If the bear attacks during a surprise encounter - play dead
- If the bear persistently stalks you then attacks - fight back
- If a bear attacks you in your tent – fight back

There is no guarantee of your safety in bear country

In the case of a serious incident
Call the Conservation Officers

- They will determine the level of response required

From the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), 2012