

Happy Spring everyone! Bears are emerging from their dens in the Clearwater and we would like to tell you about a new trial project in the works. This project is aimed at helping you live safely around grizzly and black bears!

The Clearwater Neighborhood Network Trial Project seeks to develop a network of neighbors to accomplish the following: 1) *minimize the availability of human-related bear attractants and increase human safety*, 2) *communicate among neighbors about bear activity*, 3) *report observations, incidents, and bear behavior that may pose problems* 4) *use aversive or negative conditioning on black and grizzly bears to teach bears to avoid humans and areas inhabited by humans*, and 5) *report attractant source violations under Montana Code 87-3-130*.

We are looking for people interested in becoming Neighborhood Network Coordinators. The coordinator's duties will be: 1) *to inform Montana Fish Wildlife Parks if there is a concerning bear-human conflict in their area*, 2) *pass bear alerts and activity reports to other residents*, 3) *set up phone trees if requested and hand out outreach materials when necessary*. In some cases, websites, businesses and neighborhood associations can stand in for the neighborhood network coordinator.

If you are interested in participating in this program or just learning more about the project please go to www.Missoulabears.org or contact Erin Edge-Bear Aware Coordinator 406-531-6007 or James Jonkel, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Management Specialist 406-542-5500.



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Photo by Chris Lorentz

www.Missoulabears.org is a new website that has all the info you need to become Bear Aware and learn about bear activity in your area!

This project is a continuation of Bear Aware Seeley efforts. Let's continue to work together to increase human and bear safety in the Clearwater!

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