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Bear and Mountain Lion News

Welcome to our first issue of bear and lion news! Our hope is that this newsletter informs residents residing in Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Region Two, about living with these charismatic species and provides activity updates on grizzly, black bears and mountain lions. This newsletter will be updated quarterly. We may post more issues if needed.

We do have black bears confirmed up and about in Missoula city and county. Grizzly bear activity has been seen in Yellowstone, Glacier, the Rocky Mountain Front and recently the Blackfoot and Swan/Clearwater. These early risers are probably males. Females tend to emerge from their dens later especially, if they have cubs.

If you have attractants such as garbage, birdseed or livestock feed currently accessible to bears it is time to put it in a secure location. Some natural foods bears are eating in early spring are: green grasses, winter deer and elk die-off, and succulent forbs such as glacier lily and spring beauty. It is our hope that bears do not find unnatural food attractants in their search for spring calories.

The city of Missoula has two ordinances 3420 and 3419, making it illegal to feed bears and leave attractants unsecured in bear "buffer zones". Montana code 87-3-130 makes it illegal to feed wildlife in the state of Montana. If you have questions or concerns about attractants on your property go to www.missoulabears.org for more info.

Missoula Bears New Website



Bears will be looking for the first green grass of spring. Pay attention to bear sign near water.

www.missoulabears.org is our new and improved website. This website merges the old rattlesnakebears.org and seeleybearaware.com. In this website you can:

- obtain educational information
- find appropriate contacts
- report bear and lion sightings
- report any concerning bear attractants
- and find links to many other resources and similar programs

Feel free to email us with any questions or comments about this new website!

Mountain Lions

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region Two received continual winter reports of lion activity.

In and around Missoula and the upper Clark Fork valley there were a handful of residential and livestock conflicts. Some examples were: one incident of dog killed by a lion in the Bitterroot and one incident of a lion killed in self defense in the Clark Fork.

In lion country do not feed or salt for deer or turkeys, congregates of deer and turkeys attract lions.

If you have any questions or concerns about lions feel free to call MDFWP 406-542-5500. You can also report lion sightings at www.missoulabears.org

For more information: www.missoulabears.org or Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks 542-5500, www.fwp.mt.gov