



Franz J. Camenzind



What do you know about living with bears?

With the benefits of living in Jackson Hole come the responsibilities of minimizing our impacts on this amazing ecosystem. Learning to coexist with bears is one such responsibility we all share.

During the past five years, a shortage of the bears' natural food due to drought, plus increased development in bear county, have led to an average of 124 conflicts a year between humans and bears in this region. Local black bears and grizzlies, which are expanding their range southward into our area, have emerged from their wintertime dens, so this is a good time to review what we can do to prevent conflicts.

About 84 percent of all bear conflicts in Jackson Hole involve bears getting human-food rewards. Fifty-nine percent are garbage-related. In pursuit of an easy meal – handouts, garbage, compost, pet food, livestock feed, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, bird seed – bears can damage property and injure people. "Problem" bears may be relocated to remote areas, but sometimes they're killed.

Be part of the solution: **Dispose of garbage properly** (don't let it pile up or develop odors that can attract bears, put your garbage in bear-resistant containers, don't discard cooking grease in your yard); **be bear-aware when cooking and eating outside** (never leave any food or beverage outside, properly discard anything that's been used to hold food, don't leave food cooking outside unattended, keep outdoor cookers and coolers clean); and **make your property bear-resistant** (keep your vehicles, sheds and porches food and garbage-free, keep your lawn mowed and weeded, consider electric fencing for gardens, orchards, compost piles and beehives, and don't leave food for pets or livestock unsecured).

Want to know more?

BEARS AND PEOPLE IN JACKSON HOLE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 • Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Conference Room • Noon

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 • Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Conference Room • 7 to 9 p.m.

Mark Bruscano, bear management program supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, presents these two opportunities for people to learn about how to avoid conflicts with bears in Jackson Hole. (The evening forum will include more detail and time for discussion.)



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