



NCDE Education & Outreach Update

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

*Regional Communication &
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Photo credit: Hunter D'Antuono, Flathead Beacon

IGBC Education, Outreach & Infrastructure Grants

- 5 grant requests for NCDE ecosystem in 2024
 - Conflict reduction education
 - Bear Smart Community support
 - Bear spray education
 - School programs
 - Bear-resistant garbage cans
- IEO team:
 - Rory Trimbo (USFWS)
 - Kira Powell (FNF)
 - Mary McFadzen (USFWS)
 - Ryan Wilbur (People and Carnivores)



Bear Smart Communities

- Proactive approaches can help reduce the potential for future conflicts.
- IGBC supports collaborative community-led strategies that benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape.
- At December 2022 meeting, the IGBC Executive Committee adopted the IGBC Bear Smart Community framework.
 - <https://igbconline.org/programs/bear-smart-communities/>



Bear Smart Communities in NCDE

✓ **Whitefish**

✓ **Columbia Falls**

✓ **Missoula City & County**

✓ **Potomac**

✓ **Alberton**

✓ **Clinton**

✓ **Seeley Lake**

✓ **Bitterroot**

✓ **Anaconda**

✓ **Philipsburg**

✓ **Drummond**

✓ **North Fork**

✓ **Choteau**

Montana Grizzly Bear Mortality Dashboard

- **Key Features**

- Real-time data
- Causes of mortality
- Maps and charts
- Educational opportunity

- **Benefits**

- Enhanced transparency
- Public outreach and education
- Informed decision-making

Map

Table

MONTANA IS **GRIZZLY BEAR** COUNTRY

Most bear encounters can be **prevented**. Here are some precautions to help...

- ▶ Carry bear spray and be prepared to use it immediately.
- ▶ Make noise to alert bears to your presence and travel in groups.
- ▶ Stay away from animal carcasses, which often attract bears.
- ▶ Follow food storage orders from the applicable land management agency.
- ▶ If you encounter a bear, never approach it.
- ▶ Keep attractants put away in a secure building.
- ▶ Never feed wildlife.



Learn how to
Be Bear Aware



Learn more about
**Grizzly Bear
Management**



Bear Aware Month

- September is Bear Aware month in Montana
- Several education events and opportunities statewide featuring activities, prizes and giveaways, including bear spray.
- Several [education videos produced](#), including testimonial with hunter who used bear spray in encounter



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, grizzly bears are the state mammal of Montana and an iconic American species; and

WHEREAS, grizzly bear recovery in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide ecosystems is a major conservation success story; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana successfully translocated two grizzly bears from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, ensuring genetic connectivity; and

WHEREAS, grizzly bears have reached recovery levels in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems and their population is expanding in both number and distribution; and

WHEREAS, avoiding conflicts with grizzly bears is a vital part of managing bears in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, federal agencies, tribal governments, and partners in the conservation and agriculture community work together to help communities and landowners avoid bear conflicts and manage conflicts where they occur; and

WHEREAS, promoting bear awareness to minimize conflicts with grizzly bears through education and outreach is a community effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim September 2024

BEAR AWARE MONTH

in Montana to encourage Montanans and visitors to live and recreate safely in bear country.

A blue ink signature of Greg Gianforte.

GREG GIANFORTE

Governor