



## ***Grizzly Bear Caught-in-the Act Deterrence Guidelines***

### Guidance for Livestock Owners and Homeowners

Grizzly bears are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As such, harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting grizzly bears is not permitted. However, if a grizzly bear is caught in the act of attacking, killing, or threatening to kill livestock or pets, obtaining non-natural food, in the immediate area of homes or developed camp sites, or otherwise actively causing conflicts, individuals may use the following **non-injurious** methods to deter grizzly bears:

#### **Non-Injurious Deterrence Methods:**

**Non-Projectile Auditory Deterrents:** Yelling, clapping, banging pots or other objects, air horns, vehicle horns, vehicle sirens, and P.A. systems (vehicle-based or hand-held) are often sufficient to move bears short distances.

**Visual Stimuli/Deterrents:** Sometimes simple visual stimuli, such as spotlights or flashing lights can frighten a bear away. Use in combination with yelling so the bear associates the stimuli with human presence.

**Vehicle Threat Pressure:** Vehicles can be an effective hazing tool. By driving vehicles towards bears (without hitting them), it can apply enough threat pressure to get bears to leave the immediate vicinity. The effectiveness of vehicle pressure can be enhanced by using it in combination with auditory deterrents such as sirens or horns. Caution must be taken that no contact is made between the vehicle and the bear(s). As soon as the bear(s) is clear of the immediate vicinity, pressure and noise should be discontinued.

**Water:** The use of water in a large steady stream has proven effective at temporarily displacing some bears from human use areas. Hoses with a nozzle that gives a high pressure, long-range stream, such as a fire hose, can be an effective deterrence tool. As with all deterrence techniques, use of water for hazing should be accompanied by yelling so the bear associates the experience with human presence.

**Dogs:** Dogs, such as Karelian Bear Dogs or guard dogs used on a leash can be an effective deterrence tool.

#### **Preventative Methods:**

Livestock owners should take measures to prevent or minimize losses from predation through good husbandry and strategic use of pro-active deterrent methods such as electric fence, guard animals, and human presence. More information is provided in the [Loss Prevention Toolkit](#) on the Montana Livestock Loss Board website: [www.llb.mt.gov](http://www.llb.mt.gov).

#### **Human Safety:**

Individuals may legally take a grizzly bear in an act of self-defense or defense of another human if there is an immediate danger of being attacked.

For more information, or to report a livestock depredation, please contact one of the following:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406-444-2535
- USDA Wildlife Services at 406-657-6464
- Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Department at 406-338-7207
- Confederated Salish Kootenai at 406-270-3387
- USFWS Office of Law Enforcement at 406-247-7355
- USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Program at 406-243-4903