



The Be Bear Aware Program is a partnership of wildlife agencies and organizations working together to increase human awareness and safety around bears and other wildlife.





Black Bear Kills Woman in Smokies

GATLINBURG, Tenn. — A woman waiting for her ex-husband on a trail at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was killed by a black bear.

Glenda Ann Bradley, 50, of Cosby was mauled Sunday, becoming the first person killed by a black bear in a federal park or reserve in the Southeast, park officials said.

Lions and Humans and Bears--They Just Don't Mix

Deer gets in home, causes damage

By The Examiner staff

State settles lawsuit from bear attack

Will pay \$2.5 million; federal case pending

By Jim Erickson
The Arizona Daily Star

Bear-mauling victim Anna Knochel and her parents have reached a \$2.5 million out-of-court settlement with the state of Arizona, the family's attorney said yesterday.

Knochel suffered severe injuries on her right leg and scalp when a 340-pound black bear attacked her in her tent during a 4-H campout in the Santa Catalina Mountains on July 25, 1996.

Black bear kills two people in Canadian provincial park

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FORT NELSON, British Columbia (August 15, 1997 5:05 p.m. EDT) — A black bear mauled two people to death and injured two others in an attack in a Canadian provincial park in northern British Columbia Friday.

Louisville needs critter control

Task force to address squirrel, raccoon problems in urban areas

Officials Shoot Another Wisconsin Bear Animal Approached Boy Scout Camp, Wouldn't Leave



SPODNER, Wis., Updated 10:00 p.m. August 17, 1999 — A second black bear that acted aggressively has been shot and killed in the search for the bear that attacked and severely injured a boy at a Boy Scout camp.

Cougar Kills Boy

The Associated Press
A P. O. E. L. P. K. E. Case — A cougar killed a boy on a popular trail, the second time a mountain lion attacked a hiker this week in a Colorado national park.

Boy Is Stable After Bear Attack Candy In Tent May Have Prompted Animal

Rubbermaid
Survives the Unbelievable!

Tough container turns bear into cheese-off vegetarian.
 Newfoundlanders Lisa and Wayne B. tell us they left steak marinating in one of our containers while going for a hike. They returned to find their campsite bear-ransacked. The only thing Bruno hadn't finished off was their T-Bone.
 ***** *Yes, you think we'd make the grade, don't you? ******

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Small 7.5 quart® containers aren't bound or intended for wilderness use (but just let us at your lifelines.)

This works well on the table, but will survive an occasional trip to the bear pits.

The 5-gallon water cooler. As rugged as the terrain you can expect it thru.

If always, it goes, it is in huge dunks. What more could you want for your food stash?

To read this survival story or completely see if your site, visit us at www.rubbermaid.com.

Here is an advertisement from Rubbermaid company claiming that by using this plastic product, food in your campsite will be safe from bears. Don't you believe it!

WANT TO...



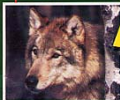
GET CLOSE?

From the car!

YELLOWSTONE BEAR WORLD

**MUST SEE! DRIVE THRU
WILDLIFE PRESERVE**

See wildlife right out your car windows roaming in their natural habitat. Drive through *THEIR* world for *CLOSE-UP* encounters with bears, wolves, elk, deer and other exciting wildlife.



NEW!

**JUST ARRIVED
WOLVES TO ADD
TO YOUR ENJOYMENT AT
OUR WILDLIFE PRESERVE!**



Get
Face
to
Face

**Lee G. Simmons
Conservation Park
& Wildlife Safari**
Nebraska's I-80 Exit 426
Operated by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

MASCOT COMES TO LIFE



NETTY CLARK PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Animal handler Bill Brown of Edgewood enjoys a tender moment with 28-month-old mountain lion "Shane Shalene" at Mountain View Middle School in Ho Branch on Tuesday.

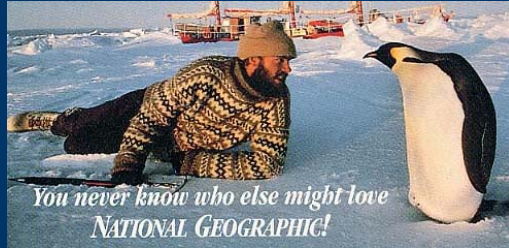
The mascot came to the mountain Tuesday.

"Shane Shalene," a cap-tive mountain lion at the Wildlife West animal refuge in Edgewood, visited Mountain View Middle School as part of spirit week activities.

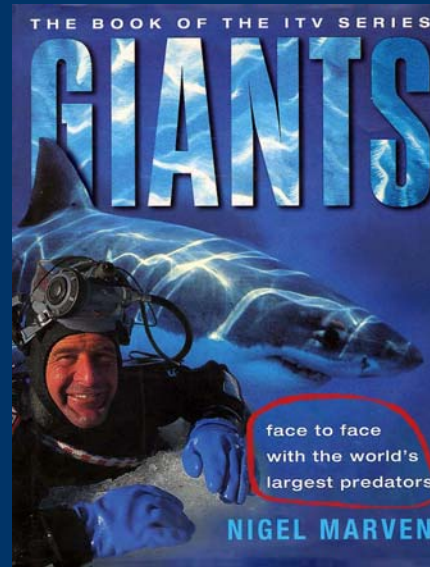
At the assembly, Timothy Bundy, a seventh-grader, was named winner of the school's gymnasium mural contest. Bundy's drawing of a mountain lion, which is the school mascot, will be the model for the planned mural. Bundy also received a \$50 gift certificate.



Sixth graders Britt Leiding, 11, left, and Bridgett Rice, 12, stand up to be counted during a spirit contest to see which grade could scream the loudest.



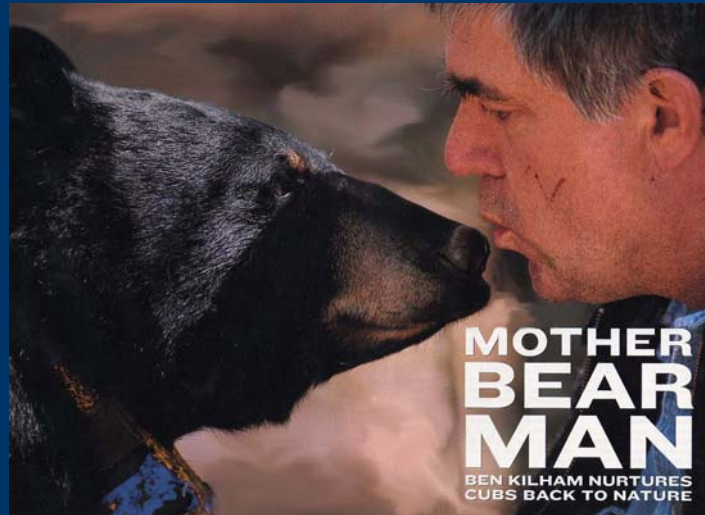
*You never know who else might love
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC!*



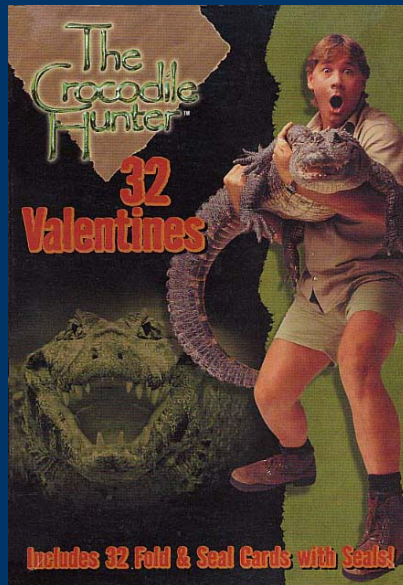
face to face
with the world's
largest predators

NIGEL MARVEN

The underlying message is that it is
"FUN and OK to get up close and personal with wild animals",
Including bears!



OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS is spent on media messages that give the impression it is ok to approach, feed and interact with wildlife.



Crocodile Hunter Making Millions

Steve Irwin, whose "Crocodile Hunter" television series airs in 130 countries, debuted at No. 5 on the Business Review Weekly magazine's Top 50 Australian entertainers chart with estimated earnings last year of 16.3 million Australian dollars, or \$8.7 million.

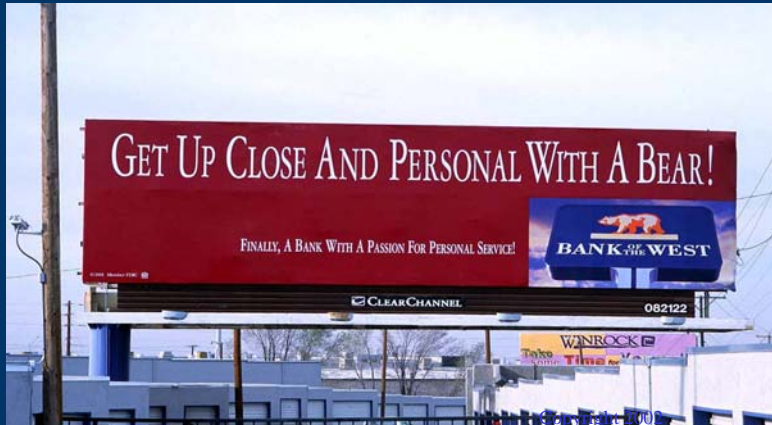


Irwin's income put the wildlife adventurer just behind actor Russell Crowe and director Baz Luhrmann on the earnings list, published Thursday. Crowe was No. 3 with an estimated 29 million Australian dollars, or \$15.5 million.

Australia's top show business moneymakers were theater impresarios James Erskine, David Coe, Tony Cochrane and Basil Scaffidi, who between them took home some 37 million Australian dollars (\$19.7 million) last year, the finance magazine said.

At No. 2 were rockers AC/DC, who earned 30 million Australian dollars, or \$16 million.

Many media outlets portray sensationalized and irresponsible images and messages to the public as it relates to human behavior around wild animals and their habitat.



This billboard was located adjacent to interstate 25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico for several weeks during the spring of 2002. Chuck Bartlebaugh from the Center for Wildlife Information met with the bank manager and shared the Be Bear Aware message. The manager said they had no idea that people might actually try to get close to a bear. They removed the sign and have revised their messages at all bank branches.

This is a local, regional, national, and international situation.

We have to work together to address this challenge.





Resource agencies want the public to have a safe, responsible and enjoyable outdoor experience.

People are injured and sometimes killed when they approach, feed, or touch wild animals.

Wild animals may suddenly, and without provocation feel threatened or frightened and may strike or attack!

Park grizzly kills Libby photographer

Man ventures too close
in search of better shot

By BREN KENNEDY

The pursuit of a grizzly bear photograph was fatal for a Libby wildlife photographer who was maddled Saturday afternoon near the western boundary of Glacier National Park.

Searchers found Charles "Chuck" Libby, 46, about 3 p.m. Sunday partway up Elk Mountain where he was last seen the previous day hiking toward a grizzly sow and her three yearling cubs.

"He wanted to get closer for a picture," said his wife Glenda, who was hiking with him. "He really wanted a good grizzly bear photo."

The Acadetone film in his camera was sent Monday to a Kodak laboratory in Palo Alto, Calif. to help determine what happened, but Park officials believe Gibbs restored his film to the grizzly and she attacked.

Evidence at the scene shows Gibbs tried to climb a 20-foot tree and reached the 15-foot mark, but the grizzly pulled him down, said Alan O'Neill, Glacier Park's assistant superintendent. The ground was lark up around the tree. Gibbs' own camera and a .40 semi-automatic Colt pistol were found at the scene of the struggle, O'Neill said. A 400 mm lens was mounted on the camera.

The handgun, found in Glacier Park, had five rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber, but apparently had not been fired, O'Neill said. Gibbs was wearing a shoulder holster.

The attack was an immediately fatal blow Gibbs was felled about 50 yards from the attack site. He was not dragged, O'Neill said. There was no predation.

Postmortem results from an autopsy performed Monday show Gibbs died from numerous lacerations and bruises on his arms, legs and head. He bled to death. He had no heart conditions although that was not a factor, the autopsy showed.

O'Neill said it appeared the 6-foot 170-pound Gibbs tried to fend off the bear by using it. No wounds were on his body or back.

Fishing hole? Glacier Creek brooks crossed the line of death at approximately 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

The couple had taken a day hike to Otis Creek and was returning to the trailhead at Faiding when they spotted bears high on the southwest face of Elk Mountain, O'Neill said. Gibbs wanted to get closer for photos, and Glenda Gibbs, recovering from recent surgery, decided to hike to the trailhead, where they arranged to meet later.

They split up less than a mile from where their parking camper was parked at the boundary. Elk Mountain is five miles southwest of Marcus Pass and is visible from Highway 2.

After waiting four hours for him to return, his wife drove to the Wallaw Ranger Station and reported her missing husband to ranger Charlie Logan.

Logan hiked into the area and fired three rifle shots, but did not get a response.

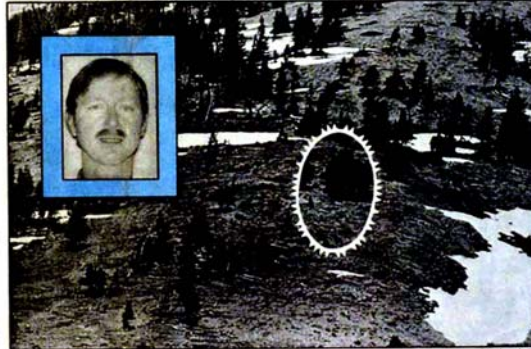
Logan searched at first light Sunday morning while 25 searchers from Glacier Park, North Valley Search and Rescue, and the Flathead County Sheriff's office assembled. They also were used, but wind hampered their effectiveness, O'Neill said.

After 7 1/2 hours, searchers found the body approximately one mile from the trail at about the 4,000-foot elevation. The body was taken from the mountain by a helicopter from Malheur Air Force Base, Great Falls, awaiting in the search effort.

"He knew the danger," O'Neill said of Gibbs' hike toward the bears. "It looked like he kept getting closer and closer. It appears to be a classic example of persistence of seeing."

No action is contemplated against the bear, O'Neill said. Rangers Eric Morry, Brian Rubin and Jay Frederick are patrolling the area. Meanwhile the Otis Creek drainage is closed to the public.

"The attack was Glacier Park's rarest incident in a season, and the seventh fatal mauling."



Telephone view of the mauling site from near the trailhead shows where a grizzly bear attacked Charles Gibbs (inset), the 46-year-old wildlife photographer from Libby. He was hiking up the slope (from lower left corner in this photo) toward a sow and three yearling cubs. When attacked, he tried to climb a tree but the bear pulled him down. Rangers said Gibbs walked at least 50 yards downhill from the attack scene and that's where he was found Sunday afternoon. For a complete view of Elk Mountain and additional coverage of the incident, see page 19.

'He was killed doing what he liked to do'

Charles Gibbs will be remembered, as an avid outdoorsman and wildlife photographer, said his wife, Glenda.

"He had a great love and respect for grizzly bears and accepted any risk involved when in their territory," she said Monday. "He was proud to live in a state that still has enough wilderness to support these magnificent animals. He shared this wilderness of life and nature with many adults and children," she said.

But Michael of M. said 24 transportation in Libby where Gibbs worked as a school bus driver, said Gibbs was "well liked in the community and was a real nice guy."

"He was your average everyday person," Michael said. "He was a very outdoors type of person. He was killed doing what he liked to do."

The couple has lived in Libby since 1976. She is a first grade teacher. They moved from Billings and came to Montana from North Carolina.

They had been in the area since Friday, photographing goats at the Goat Link and also hiking on the Astoria Creek Trail at Marcus Pass.

They often visited the Toothack area of the Flathead's North Park, where Gibbs looked for grizzly bears to photograph. They liked the area so much they named their dog Toothack.

She asked that Glacier Park officials not destroy the article that killed her husband. "He wish was that no harm would come to the bear," Glenda said.

This photographer got too close to a grizzly bear and was killed. Notice the second headline stating that he was killed doing what he liked to do. This suggests to reader that his death was okay because he died doing what he liked to do. It is doubtful that his family feels this way.

This is just another example of the consequences of approaching wild animals and the media response when humans are injured or killed.

Remember, the media is spending millions of dollars each year to promote getting close to wildlife.



Feeding or making food available to bears only increases their dependency on humans.

The likelihood that they will eventually harm someone or be destroyed also increases.

The purpose of this presentation is to:

- 1) Provide you with accurate, consistent messages you can use.
- 2) Ensure that the public reads and hears the same message from state to state
- 3) Encourage wildlife professionals to be the leaders in teaching the public about safety around bears and other wildlife species.

Black bear populations in North America are increasing.



- Gateway communities, internal subdivisions and mountain communities adjacent to forests are growing at very rapid rates.
- Larger numbers of people (baby-boomers) are retiring.
- Increasing development in and adjacent to forests, along with an increase in recreational demands, is a recipe for human/bear confrontations!

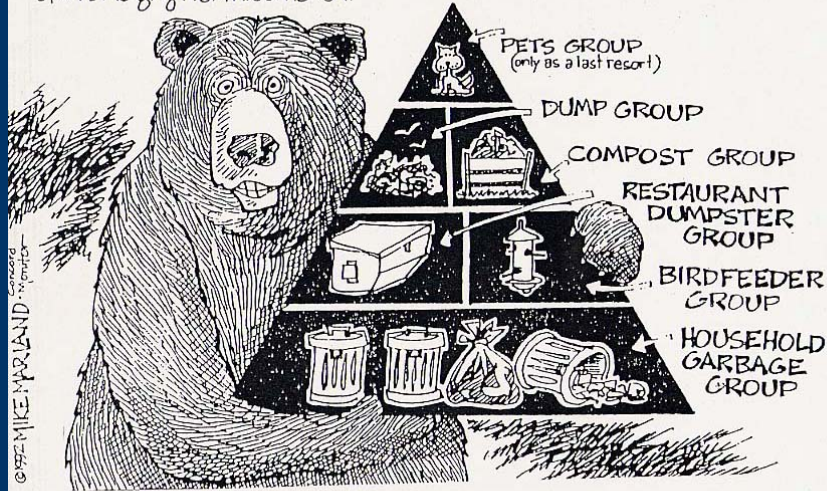


When habituated, bears lose much of their natural avoidance and fear of people and can become aggressive and dangerous!



THE BEAR FOOD PYRAMID

A Guide To Their Daily Food Choices
Upon Emerging From Hibernation.



This cartoon was printed on the editorial page of a major newspaper. We do not want to see this become the normal bear food pyramid.

- The nearly yearlong presence of people within large areas of bear habitat are modifying bear behavior and agencies are experiencing increased “nuisance bear” reports.
- Bears are, in many cases, having to be destroyed and more property damage, human injury and even deaths are being reported.



Unfortunately, most of these situations,
could have been avoided.

The cost to State Wildlife Agencies is highly significant, not to
mention the destruction of the animals and the human pain
and suffering involved when injuries occur.



FOR EXAMPLE in one state:

- In 2001, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish received over 130 phone calls and spent over \$35,000 responding to the complaints.
- Thirty-five bears were moved and five were destroyed.
- There were an estimated 120 bears in this area!
- 2.4 million acres of primary bear habitat is within 3 miles of residential communities in New Mexico .
- This is multiplying across North America

From coast to coast human/wildlife interactions increase as wildlife re-establish themselves in metropolitan settings



In the last five years black bear attacks have increased:

- A woman in Arizona was attacked while sleeping in her tent and severely mauled.
- a baby was taken from a stroller and killed by a black bear in New York.
- the first human fatality occurred in New Mexico.
- A woman was killed in Smokey Mountain National Park

Major incidents like these have changed how we view human/wildlife conflict.

This slide displays the consequences of increasing human and black bear populations, the added impact of an enduring drought and habituated bears.

Add statistics from your area for this slide.

The cost to state and federal agencies in personnel and equipment is significant and increasing.

The media have become keenly interested in reporting bear stories, sometimes without adequate information



Partnerships for Success:

In 1998, Forest Service and the States of Arizona and New Mexico established the Southwest Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship program.

The Center for Wildlife Information developed educational materials that were tested and distributed.

The concern and commitment from state and federal agencies to reduce the risk to human safety and increase awareness around wildlife was essential for the Be Bear Aware program to succeed in the Southwest.

Add the local history of Be Bear Aware in your area on this slide.

We can and must do a better job in communicating accurate, consistent and timely information with each other and the public.



The need for bear resistant containers is increasing.
Coordinating waste management
with local communities and agencies is the solution.



Agencies are working on certifications for containers to ensure that they are bear resistant. There are very few practical containers available that can be considered “bear proof”.

We must work together and take the lead to educate the public about the latest safety techniques to avoid encounters. It is important to use clear graphics and text to reinforce key messages



This is called the “Bear-muda Triangle” by the Boy Scouts. It is important to use clear graphics and text to reinforce key safety messages.

We must coordinate to identify areas where potential human/wildlife conflicts may occur and reduce the risk.



Management of problem or habituated bears must be closely coordinated among and between agencies and communities. Identification of areas where bears are likely to become habituated, or receive food rewards requires increased coordination and communication.

This coordination includes recreation, wildlife, law enforcement, public affairs, environmental education, campground hosts and campground contractors at a minimum.

May is Be Bear Aware
Month

Join us in hosting a press
conference in every state

Hold a Bear Awareness
Workshop



College students serve
as mentors, through
The Wildlife Society
and The Center For
Wildlife Information.

Workshop outlines and instructors' guides are available through the Forest Service, state game and fish departments and the Center for Wildlife Information.

The graphic features a scenic background of a mountain range with a lake in the foreground. The text is centered and reads:

**National
Be Bear Aware
and
Wildlife Stewardship
Campaign**

- USDA Forest Service
- Center For Wildlife Information
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- The Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Management Institute
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

These are the partners who are joining in the effort to develop clear, consistent and accurate messages that will increase awareness and public safety related to bears and other wildlife.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

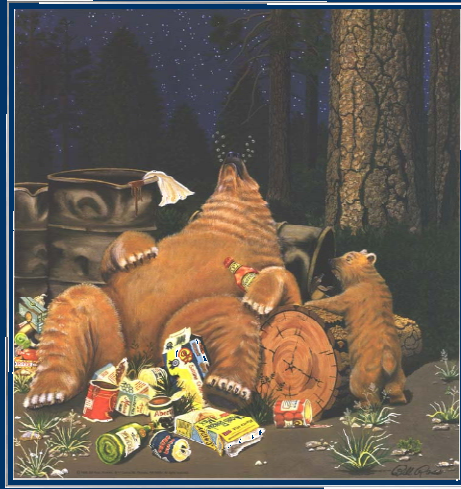
You can join us!

Anyone and everyone can be involved. This is a grassroots program. Community involvement is essential for success.

Your participation ensures that:

- The public receives correct information
- The public receives consistent information no matter what agency they contact
- Wildlife professionals speak with one voice

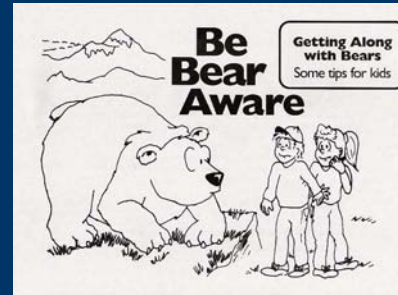
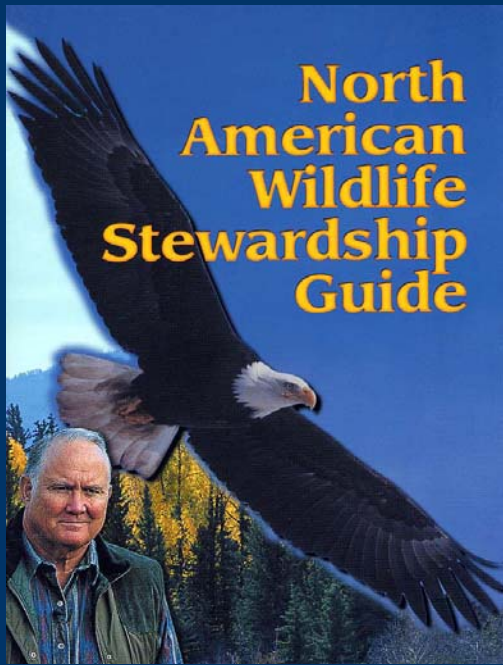
Don't assume the messages are accurate or that they are consistent. Check them out.



A Role Model Can Be An Awesome Thing.

Please Do Not Feed the Bears.

This poster is available through the artist, Bill Ross in Olympia, Washington. It can be used with all age groups to help make our point. For example, ask you audience what they think the young bear cub is learning from the mother bear. Ask what they think the cub will be doing as it grows up. Ask what they think the future of this bear cub is. Ask them how they can help the cub grow up to be a healthy, wild bear.

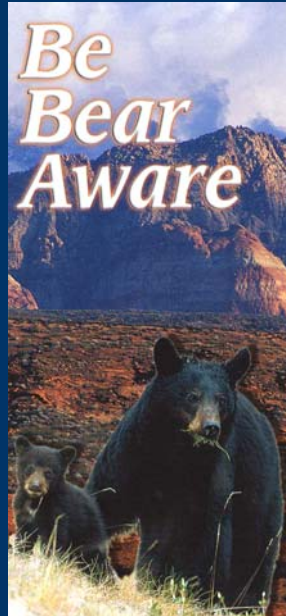


**PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH
OR FEED THE BEARS**

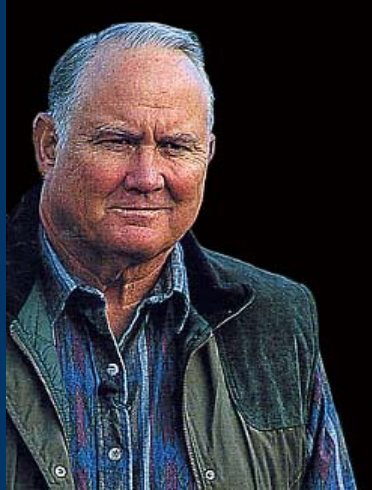
CENTER FOR WILDLIFE INFORMATION • P.O. BOX 8889 • ORONO, A. ME 04471 • 401-523-7750 87199



Displays featuring black bears and brown (grizzly) bears are available for purchase, or can be checked out by contacting the Center for Wildlife Information or the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service.



Brochures featuring black bears were developed in 2002. Previous Be Bear Aware materials featured both species. These were developed for those areas where only black bears occur. We found that in areas where only black bears are found, featuring two species confused the public. One brochure features a Southwest theme. Many tourists to the Southwest did not realize that Black bears can be found in the desert.



"Wild wildlife – we can leave
our children and their
children no finer legacy."

*National spokesman for
Be Bear Aware and
Wildlife Stewardship Campaign*