

Traveling in Bear Country



Avoid surprising a bear.

- Be alert along noisy streams, in thick brush, or whenever visibility is poor. Make noise while traveling (sing, clap, talk).

If you see a bear — stay calm.

- If a bear does not notice you - quietly leave the area from the same direction you arrived. Get your deterrent ready, and keep your eyes on the bear.
- If a bear does notice you - ready your deterrent, face the bear, group up with others and talk calmly to let the bear know you are human.

If a bear approaches you — stand your ground.

- Never run from an approaching bear!

If you surprise a bear, it may react defensively and aggressively- especially if it has cubs or a food cache.

- Continue to stand your ground.
- If this bear makes contact with you, and knocks you to the ground- lie facedown with your hands clasped behind your neck, and remain still. The bear will likely leave if it thinks you are no longer a threat.

If a bear approaches you calmly it may be curious, testing its dominance, seeking food, or on rare occasions, predatory.

- Stand your ground, and act aggressively.
- Fight back if this bear strikes or bites you!



Fishing in Bear Country



Don't teach bears that your catch provides an easy meal.

Splashing fish attract bears.

- If a bear is close enough to notice splashing – **STOP FISHING!**
- If the bear approaches you while you have a fish on, give the line slack or cut the line to eliminate splashing.

As soon as you catch a fish:

- Clean and store it where bears can't get to it – in a bear-proof container, a vehicle or a pack you carry with you.
- Coolers are NOT bear-proof!

If you must use a stringer:

- Don't let a bear have your fish.
- Keep it in the water and near you at all times.

Fish carcasses and guts attract bears.

Stop, chop and throw.

- After filleting, cut fish carcasses into smaller pieces that can be easily carried away in the current.
- Toss all fish waste into deep, fast-moving currents – not in dumpsters, or in the woods!

Store all food, bait, line and tackle, fishy clothes and garbage in bear-proof containers or in your vehicle.

Learn more about bears at:
www.alaskabears.alaska.gov



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