



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Living with Predators Project: 0003 (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks R2)

Are you living on the edge of “wild country”?

Is your home in mountainous terrain, near a stream, river or wooded area?

If so, this is the urban wild lands interface and your residence is adjacent to important wildlife habitats and travel routes! Please share this area with bears, lions and other wildlife.

Accept the responsibility of learning how to live with wildlife!

1. Wildlife can become complacent around humans and utilize human-influenced habitats.
2. Reduce residential attractants and become familiar with wildlife sharing the area.
3. Routinely search the property for signs of predator activity and educate children about lions and bears.
4. “Bear-proof” and “wildlife-proof” summer homes or residences when absent for extended periods.
5. “Bear-proof” cabins, sheds and garages with sturdy shutters and doors and board up crawl spaces.
6. Store garbage in bear-resistant containers, structures or buildings and never let garbage accumulate.
7. Never have an open dump and always compost food scraps in bear-resistant containers.
8. Keep barbecues clean or stored in bear-resistant structures when not in use.
9. Store pet, chicken feed and livestock feed in closed buildings or bear-resistant containers.
10. Don’t keep freezers, food stores on back porches or in open buildings.
11. Be aware that bears will steal big game carcasses hanging in garages or meat poles within reach.
12. Remove bird feeders or suspend ten feet (above a bear’s reach) and four feet from the support.
13. Bird feeders should never be on or adjacent to residences—they lure bears and wildlife to the premises.
14. Do not feed, salt or attract elk and deer ---it is illegal and attracts predators to the property.
15. Be aware---green lawns attract deer, elk, bears and other wildlife—especially during the dry season.
16. Be aware---cleared property in forested habitats opens the canopy and lures in wildlife.
17. Landscape with native vegetation and clear hiding cover near your house, garage and yard.
18. Remove natural bear foods, such as serviceberry or choke cherries within the yard area.
19. Expect to see lion, wolf, coyote and bear activity wherever you see elk, deer and other wildlife.
20. Wildlife-proof your garden with multi strand electric fence or 8 foot deer fence.
21. Aesthetically pleasing residential electric fence deters wildlife, contains attractants and creates safe zones.
22. Place electric fence around gardens, fruit trees, garbage, bee yards and vulnerable livestock.
23. Livestock such as chickens, turkeys, rabbits, sheep, pigs and goats attract predators.
24. Place vulnerable livestock in secure buildings or electrified pens at night.
25. Keep vulnerable livestock away from brushy areas inhabited by predators.
26. Store livestock salt and mineral licks in contained building and place licks away from pens and residences.
27. Remove animal carcasses at least two miles from your residence and livestock.
28. Free-running dogs and cats harass wildlife and are occasionally prey for by owls, coyotes, wolves and lions.

If you want to learn more about wildlife proofing your residence or business contact:

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