APPENDIX B

EXAMPLE OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL:
"LIVING WITH GRIZZLIES" BROCHURE

ENCOUNTERS

Grizzly bears are omnivores at the top of the food chain and their actions are often unpredictable. The actions you take when you see a grizzly bear may affect the outcome. No research has been conducted to determine the best course of action when a human is confronted by a grizzly bear. **The following is a list of recommended responses to minimize the likelihood of attack or chances of human injury.**

First you should always maintain a safe distance and behave in a non-threatening manner. If you are close to the bear when you see it, or if the bear approaches, do the following:

Stay calm Drop something like your hat or gloves on the ground in front of you and slowly back away, speak in a soft monotone, and avoid eye contact. In most cases, the grizzly will leave. **Don't climb a tree** unless you are sure you can get at least 10 feet from the ground before the bear reaches you. Many experts recommend against climbing trees in most situations. **Don't run**—a grizzly can easily outrun the world's fastest human. Running triggers attacks.

If the bear charges your first option is to remain standing. The bear may "bluff charge" or run past you. As a last resort, assume a cannonball position and play dead. Leave your pack on to provide protection, cover your neck and head with your arms and hands, and curl up to protect your stomach. Do not attempt to look at the bear until you are sure it is gone. Many experts now recommend carrying a cayenne pepper spray for use in close encounters with grizzlies. This spray is available at sporting good stores.

If you are armed use a weapon only as a last resort. Wounding a bear, even with a large caliber gun, can put you in far greater danger.

If a bear attacks at night when you are in your tent... the bear may be seeking food rather than trying to neutralize a threat, so fight back to show the bear you are dangerous.

Report all encounters to one of the agencies listed inside this brochure. Your report can prevent someone else from being hurt.

The Bear Facts

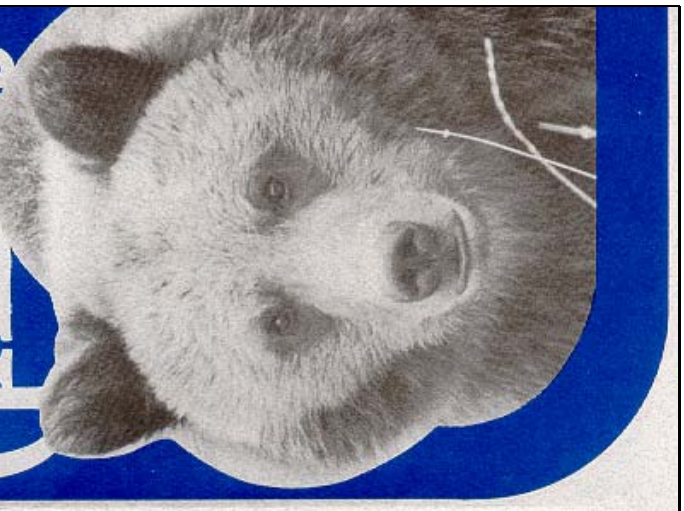
- The grizzly's diet is mostly composed of plants and fruits.
- Female grizzlies give birth and nurse their cubs in the den, and for the 5-6 months they're in the den they don't eat, drink or eliminate waste.
- Twin cubs are born more often than single cubs; triplets are not uncommon.
- On the average, it takes 12 years from birth for a grizzly to become a "grandmother", but only 4 years for a deer.
- The oldest bear recorded in northwest Montana was 35 years old.
- Grizzlies are not very social. Males roam the most, using areas from 600-1000 square miles. Females use areas up to 100 square miles. Grizzlies may travel 20-40 miles a day.
- A grizzly can climb trees—over 20 feet, run 44 feet per second, and swim across lakes and rivers.
- A grizzly stands to get a better view, not as an aggressive display.
- Grizzlies didn't move from the plains into the mountains; they were eliminated from the plains, and only those populations in the mountains have survived.
- Estimates are that about 35,000 grizzlies live in North America, mostly in Alaska, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Yukon. Over 100,000 are estimated to live in Asia.

Cover photo by Doug O'Looney, Helena, MT

FLATHEAD National Forest

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

LIVING with Grizzlies



GRIZZLY COUNTRY

To reduce the risk of problems with bears on or near your property, we urge you to follow this list of simple precautions. Avoid attracting bears to your property.

PREVENTION IS FAR BETTER THAN CONFRONTATION!

Garbage should be stored where bears can neither smell or gain access to it, either in a bearproof container or inside a building that bears can't get into.

1. Use outside garbage cans for non-food items only.
2. Haul garbage to an approved disposal site as often as possible but at least once a week to avoid build-up of odors.

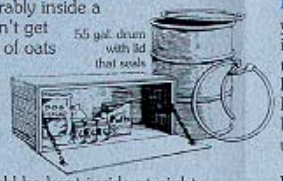
Remember: when bears eat garbage they may eventually have to be killed.

Fruits and vegetables: Fruit trees attract bears, especially when wild foods are scarce. Electric fencing is the most effective way to keep bears out of orchards. Pick all ripe fruit from trees and from the ground as soon as possible. Do not leave fruit on trees through the fall.

Vegetable gardens also attract bears. Gardens should be located away from forests or shrubs, which bears use for security and travel; electric fencing is a good idea.

Although composting reduces the load of waste in landfills, the odors attract bears. If you do maintain a compost pile, use an electric fence to discourage bears. Don't put meat, grease, or bones in a compost pile. Consider an enclosed composter.

Livestock & pet food should be stored in bear-proof containers, preferably inside a sturdy building that bears can't get inside. Cut down on spillage of oats and pellets by feeding from buckets or other containers, and don't leave leftover livestock food out overnight.



Dogs and other pets should be kept inside at night. Don't leave uneaten pet food outside.

Sheep are particularly easy prey for bears and should be closely herded. Pigs, and foods normally fed to pigs, are very attractive to bears. Consider electric fencing or not keeping pigs in bear country. Do not bury dead livestock. Haul them to a rendering plant or county landfill immediately. Bears will dig up carcasses.

Remember: when bears learn to kill livestock the bears usually have to be moved or destroyed.

Bears love honey and also seek bee larvae found in bee hives. You can protect the hives with electric fencing or by elevating the hives on platforms supported by metal poles that bears can't climb.

Bird feeders: Hummingbird feeders and suet can also attract bears. Feed suet only during the winter months, and suspend hummingbird feeders out of reach of bears.

Closely supervise your children when they are playing outdoors. Make sure that children are home before dusk and are not outside before dawn. Talk with your children about bears and teach them what to do if they encounter one.

Remember: If you find that bears have gotten into your garbage or livestock feed, remove the attractant immediately. **Repeated use of a site by bears is much harder to stop than a single instance. Bears will move on if no attractants are present.** Bears that associate food with humans and places humans live can become dangerous. These bears usually have to be trapped and relocated, or killed.

Use common sense; it's in everyone's best interest!

PLEASE DO YOUR PART people and bears can live together.