

## The “Golden Rules” for retrieving game meat out of bear country:

- ▶ When hunting in grizzly country, the golden rule is “get the elk or deer out of the area as quickly as possible.” The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in hunting camp, or in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a grizzly. The sooner elk and deer are taken home and butchered, the better.
- ▶ Some grizzly bears may move in the direction of gunshots because they have learned to associate hunting activities with a gut pile or animal carcass.
- ▶ Carcasses left for a period of time require special precautions. Carry a colored, lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them as far away from the carcass as possible. Then use the tarp to cover the carcass. This will reduce the scent trail from the gut pile to the carcass, and discourage birds and a bear’s attention to the carcass. Locate an observation point 200 yards (if possible) away from the carcass with a clear line of sight. Before leaving, walk to the observation point and memorize the site. If you are going to grizzly country to hunt, camp, or hike you may be required by USFS to follow food/carcass storage regulations. You can find and read these “Food Storage Regulations” by going to <http://bit.ly/bearreg>.
- ▶ When returning, approach the carcass carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. With binoculars study the scene from the observation point and scan the area for the carcass and any movement. If a grizzly bear is at the site or the meat has been covered by a bear with debris and is not salvageable, report the incident to FWP. Hunters who have lost an animal to a grizzly may be eligible for another license.

- ▶ Do not attempt to frighten away or haze a grizzly that does not leave a carcass when it becomes aware of you.
- ▶ If you live in grizzly country, do not hang carcasses behind the house or in the garage for extended periods. Big game carcasses stored outside should be hung from a pulley attached to a stout 15-foot-long “meat pole” that is at least 25 feet off the ground. The lowest portion of the elk or deer should be swinging from the center of the pole and at least 10 feet off the ground. Grizzly and black bears have been known to climb trees and stand on objects in order to reach attractants.
- ▶ Bears are opportunists and change their behavior in order to take advantage of new food sources. So if you are hunting or living in grizzly country, always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.

If you have questions please call the nearest FWP bear management specialists:

Mike Madel, Choteau 406-466-5100  
Erik Wenum, Kalispell 406-752-5501  
Tim Manley, Kalispell 406-892-0802  
Kevin Frey, Bozeman 406-994-3553  
James Jonkel, Missoula 406-542-5508  
Kim Annis, Libby 406-293-4161  
Wesley Sarmiento, Conrad 406-450-1097  
Jeremiah Smith, Bozeman 406-994-7685  
Kylie Kembel, Red Lodge 406-850-1131



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.



# HOW TO HUNT SAFELY IN Grizzly Country



[fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)



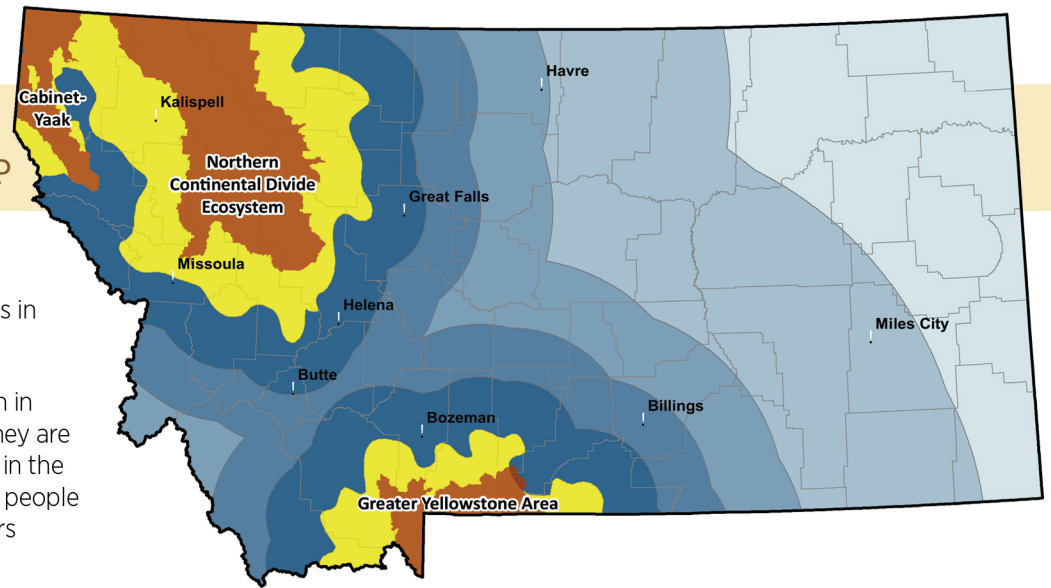
## Think grizzly and be prepared

- ▶ Grizzly bears have expanded to areas where they previously may not have been. They can now be found throughout Western and Central Montana. Grizzlies may remain active, even at low elevations, through December and some grizzlies will even roam around for brief periods at anytime during the winter.
- ▶ Be aware that the act of hunting puts you at risk of encountering grizzlies and that elk bugling, game calls and cover scents may attract bears.
- ▶ If you hunt alone in grizzly country let someone know your detailed plans and have a way to periodically check in. Hunting partners should share details of their hunt plans and have a check in or communication system. If you feel uneasy hunting alone in grizzly country, hunt side-by-side with a partner.
- ▶ While hunting in grizzly country pay attention to fresh bear sign. Look for bear tracks, scat and concentrations of natural foods. Use caution when hunting areas that have evidence of bear activity or areas with scavenging birds such as magpies, ravens or crows.
- ▶ Hunters should avoid tall, dense shrub fields and don't send dogs into them. Grizzly bears tend to use these areas to sleep during the day. Hunters should always keep a close eye on hunting dogs.
- ▶ If there is abundant fresh sign of grizzly bears in the area consider hunting somewhere else. Communicate with other hunters and let them know when grizzly bears have been seen and/or fresh sign has been observed.
- ▶ When in close proximity to people, most grizzly bears become aware of human presence and leave the area. If you encounter a bear, keep the bear in sight, talk calmly, back away slowly, and leave the area. Use your bear spray if the bear is close. Back away when the bear is not actively watching you. Occasionally bears will quarter toward you when leaving, so continue to be cautious.
- ▶ When hunting in grizzly country, carry bear spray. Keep it within reach and be prepared to use it at a moments notice. In sudden grizzly encounters spray has proven to be a valuable deterrent tool.

## GRIZZLY BEAR EXPANSION MAP

The grizzly bear gradient shows the theoretical expansion of Grizzly bears in the state of Montana.

**Black bears** are common in Montana. Even though they are generally more common in the western half of the state, people can encounter black bears anywhere in Montana.

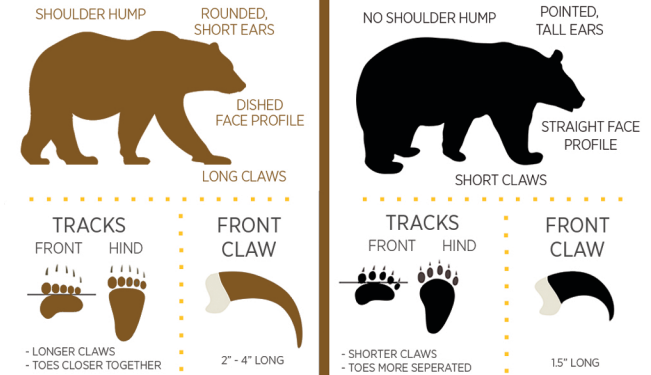


The possible extent of grizzly bear distribution in Montana is depicted in blue (the darker the colors, the more likely grizzly bears are there.)

- Expansion of grizzly bears
- Grizzly existing range
- Grizzly recovery zones

- ▶ Most grizzly attacks are prompted by inadvertently running into a female with young or surprising a bear at close range. It is recommended that hunters mentally rehearse a worst-case scenario with grizzly bears. Where the mind goes, the body will follow.
- ▶ Wounded bears may intensify their level of attack. If you have to kill a grizzly in self-defense, take careful aim and attempt to knock it down by hitting major bones in the front shoulders. Other shots to the vital area will kill the bear. Leave the scene immediately and report the incident to FWP.
- ▶ If physically attacked, still use your bear spray. Bear spray has ended attacks. Otherwise, play dead. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your hands and arms. If you have a backpack, leave it on to protect your back. Stay face down, never look at the bear and remain still until the bear is gone. Many people have survived bear attacked using this method.
- ▶ You shouldn't play dead if you encounter an intent, calm, or curious bear.

## GRIZZLY BEAR VS BLACK BEAR



LOOK FOR A COMBINATION OF CHARACTERISTICS  
COLOR AND SIZE CAN BE MISLEADING

Black bear hunters in Montana will be required to pass a bear identification test in order to obtain a Montana black bear license. The identification program is intended to prevent mistaken identity killings of grizzly bears and help Montana maintain its black bear hunting season.

### To take test and training:

- on-line and become immediately certified visit [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)
- request a mail-in test from FWP: 406-444-2535
- pick up a mail-in test at any FWP office or license agent