

BEARS

Public Safety would like to remind all property owners that bears and other wildlife are coming out of hibernation and are hungry. As we all know, the bears were very active in the community last summer and fall. The Division of Wildlife is willing to work with all communities to manage potential bear problems, but needs the active support of homeowners.

The main issue the Department of Wildlife is trying to address is the abundant supply of trash as a food source. It used to be that it was rare for a bear to have more than one cub at a time, but with the abundant supply of trash available to fatten them up, they are seeing three and sometimes four cubs with one mother, which adds to the bear population and problems. Add to this, the fact that the mother will bring the cubs down for food sources she remembers, thus training them in the habit.

In the end, removing the bears does not ultimately solve the problem. No matter how far away they have hauled problem bears, the bears find their way back to what they remember is a food source. DOW has trapped a bear, hauled it out into the middle of the flat tops, and within a day, the bear is back in some community causing the same problem. DOW's rule is two strikes and your out, unless the bear is aggressive, then it's the first strike and you're out.

Bachelor Gulch Village Association in cooperation with the Division of Wildlife has adopted "**Wildlife Regulations**" that require only approved Wildlife Resistant trash containers and that trash may be set out only on the day of pickup. Bachelor Gulch Public Safety routinely monitors for trash violations and assesses fines for repeat offenders.

The Division of Wildlife recommends the following:

- **All trash must be in Wildlife Resistant containers and only placed out on the day of pickup. Make sure latches are secure when putting trash cans out for pickup.**
- **All food sources such as dog food and bird feeders should be removed from outside of the home. While a homeowner may place a bird feeder where a bear cannot reach it, the bird feeder will still attract bears to your home.**
- **Close and lock doors into your home. Many of the bear invasions have happened when homeowners have left doors open and the bear came through the screen into the home. Bears will paw a door that they want to go through and lever door handles are an easy way for bears to open your door. Please lock them.**
- **Close and lock lower windows into your home. Even small openings in a window will allow the bear to pull the window open.**
- **If you need to leave a window open for ventilation, place nail tack strips or nail boards on the window sill or below the window. When the bear places its paw on the window or below the window, the bear will be stuck by the nails and leave your home.**

Bachelor Gulch Public Safety has a bear deterrent program and will be patrolling the community 24 hours a day looking for any potential bear problems. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Bachelor Gulch Public Safety at 845-2345.