

Dear Neighbors,

Please read the following tips on how to keep you and your family safe and New Mexico's bears protected. You won't see bears around your home if there is nothing there for them to find to eat. These tips will take less than a couple of minutes a day to maintain. BearWatch wishes you a fun and safe summer.

SANDIA MOUNTAIN BEARWATCH'S TIPS FOR LIVING WITH BEARS.

- **DON'T FEED A BEAR – EVER.....A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!**
- If you live in 'bear country' and see a bear nearby or it is in a nearby tree...take your dog and yourself inside to give the bear time to leave. Call NMG&F only if the bear appears aggressive or is hanging around for several days.
- Keep trash in a bear-proof garbage container or stored in a sturdy metal shed or closed garage. Put out garbage only on morning of pickup. Bear-proof containers can now be purchased at Davis Hardware. EM Disposal and L. Mora garbage companies will service your bearproof garbage cans.
- Don't feed pets outdoors or leave pet dishes or store pet food outdoors. Keep pet dishes/pet food away from door entries. Store pet food in a secure area.
- Hang seed feeders and hummingbird feeders from wires 10' off the ground or bring in hummingbird feeders each night. Feed suet and peanut butter only in winter when bears are in hibernation. Store birdseed in a closed container in a sturdy shed or the garage.
- Keep barbeque grills clean or stored inside.
- Keep kitchen windows and doors closed on summer nights.
- For small livestock and chickens, use a sturdy metal shed and/or a 5-strand electric fence using an approved fence charger with alternating current. Be sure to check with the county inspector for guidelines and limitations.
- Put an electric fence around beehives and fruit trees.
- Don't plant fruit trees or berry bushes near your home. Remove fruit before it ripens to stop bears from climbing and breaking branches. Remove fallen fruit. Don't add melon rinds or fruit to compost pile except in winter.
- Don't leave food, groceries, pet food or birdseed in you car overnight
- Don't feed other wildlife; it will also attract bears. It is against NM law to feed bears on purpose.
- If a bear is drinking from your swimming pool or hot tub, put water out as far away from your house and neighbor's homes as possible.
- Keep all poisons inside your house; many bears die from unprotected poisons or ingesting garbage bags.
- Keep woodpiles and junk away from your house that draws rodents. Bears eat rodents.

Please understand that a trapped bear does not transplant well. A high percentage of bears die after being relocated. NMG&F has raised the 2009-2010 statewide bear hunt by 21%. It's up to you to take it upon yourself to help protect our East Mountain bear population.

Call your local Wildlife Steward or Sandia Mountain BearWatch's Jan Hayes for more advice at 281-9282.

<http://SandiaMountainBearWatch.org>