

PlaySmart in Bear Country



The North Cascades has more than 6.3 million acres of great habitat for bears. Hundreds of black bears and a handful of grizzlies (less than 10) inhabit the area. To safely recreate in bear country, you have to Play Smart:

- Know the difference between black bears and grizzly bears (see reverse).
- Minimize dawn, dusk, and after-dark hiking.

- Be alert (no earbuds!) and look for tracks and other bear signs.
- Hike with friends and talk or make noise as you walk.
- Carry bear spray (wear it!) and know how to use it (practice!).
- Store food in bear-resistant containers.
- Keep a clean camp free of food remnants and traces.

For more information: www.defenders.org/playsmart

GRIZZLY AND BLACK BEAR IDENTIFICATION

GRIZZLY BEAR

BLACK BEAR

ears Straight profile

Tall

Short claws



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Black bear front track



No hump

Don't rely on size and color to make an identification. Size is relative, and both species range in color from black to blond.

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