



FOOD STORAGE REGULATIONS

IN SMITH RIVER STATE PARK



The Smith River flows through black bear habitat and there is a history of bear activity in and around the boat camps. In order to minimize human-black bear conflicts for both public safety and the well being of area black bears, a mandatory food storage regulation has been implemented. The regulation states that all food, garbage and attractants that are unattended during both day and night must be secured using one or more of the following methods:

- Secured in a portable bear resistant container, portable electric fence or other storage device or system approved by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC). For a list of IGBC approved products visit: igbconline.org
- Suspended at least 10 feet vertically above the ground & 4 feet horizontally from the trunk of a tree or other upright support which a bear could climb. Cutting, limbing, nailing into or otherwise damaging trees and/or constructing a fixed device is prohibited.
- Secured inside a hard-sided vehicle, camping unit or towed unit (applicable at Camp Baker and Eden Bridge only).

Bear Attractants

- All human food & beverages including canned/bottled items
- Garbage including micro-litter
- Cooking equipment containing residual food particles & odors
- Residual food/grease in the fire grate
- Fish & fish entrails
- Personal hygiene products



If A Bear Enters Your Boat Camp

- Bears enter camps because of attractants – food.
- Ready your bear spray with canister in hand.
- Remain calm, group together, pick up small children. Face the bear & slowly retreat to safety.
- If the bear continues to approach, scare it by yelling or other loud noises, waving your arms & acting aggressively.
- If the bear charges/attacks, discharge the bear spray.
- If bear spray does not deter the bear, fight back with all your power including fists, kicks, sticks, rocks, etc.

Be Bear Aware

Safety Tips for Camping in Black Bear Country!

- Carry Bear spray.
- Plan meals that are less odorous, easy to store & properly sized to avoid left-overs.
- Keep cooking/eating & food storage 100 yards from sleeping/tenting areas.
- Strain food particles from dishwater & pack out with garbage. Dump dish water into river or broadcast it at least 100 yards from sleeping/tenting area.
- Pack out EVERYTHIN. Do not burn left-over food in the fire grate
- Wash hands after cooking or handling fish
- Keep tents & sleeping bags completely free of food, food odors & beverages. Do not sleep in the clothes you cooked in.
- Keep bear spray & flashlight ready.

Hiking In Bear Country

- Hike with a group, never alone.
- Keep children close.
- Scan the area for bear sign.
- Make noise as you go
- Never run from a bear.



For more information about bear safety visit: fwp.mt.gov



Bear Incident Reporting

Please help park managers properly address human-bear conflicts by promptly reporting all bear observations & incidents to park personnel or call (406) 547-3893 or (406) 454-5840.