



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grizzly Bear Cub Killed by Vehicle in Grand Teton National Park

A male grizzly bear cub was hit and killed by an unknown vehicle in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 14, near the northeastern shore of Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park. The young grizzly cub, weighing just 30 pounds, was discovered by a park employee around 5:45 a.m. lying in the middle of the roadway just north of the Arizona Island picnic area on Highway 26/287. The cub, born earlier this year, may belong to an unmarked grizzly sow that has been frequenting the area with her two young cubs. Park officials did not receive any reports of an accident and further details are not known.

This is the third grizzly bear killed by vehicle on park roads in the past three years. During the summers of 2005 and 2006, two male bears were hit and killed along Highway 26/89/191, a few miles south of the Moran Junction. Each year in the park, approximately two to three black bears are also involved in vehicle accidents that result in injury or death of the bears.

These encounters between vehicles and park bears – among other wildlife incidents – serve as a reminder that wildlife are actively crossing and using park roads. Motorists are advised to be especially alert for wildlife and to drive with extra caution.

Motorists are reminded to drive the posted speed limit and to be prepared to stop suddenly for wildlife along or on park roadways. Driving slower than indicated speed limits – especially at night – can increase the margin of safety for people and wildlife. Collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife may result in severe damage to a vehicle, serious or fatal injuries to the occupants of that vehicle, and/or death for the animal involved.

In addition to bears, other wildlife such as elk, moose, bison, deer, pronghorn antelope, and coyotes may also be encountered on or near roadways in Grand Teton. Many of these animals have been killed in collisions with vehicles.

Visitors are reminded to report all motor vehicle accidents, including those that involve wildlife, to park rangers. According to the Code of Federal Regulations 36, a motor vehicle operator is required to report an accident involving property damage, personal injury, or death.

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