



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Young Male Black Bear Euthanized in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that park biologists euthanized a yearling male black bear on Monday, September 10, out of concern for public safety. His increasingly frequent and bold behavior toward park visitors and campers in attempts to get their food forced park officials to make the difficult decision to remove this bear from the population in order to reduce future threats to visitors and their safety.

The 60-pound male black bear was reportedly sighted in late June near Inspiration Point. Early reports of his behavior indicated that he was relatively unafraid of people, approaching to within 2 feet of visitors in a late July incident but leaving when they clapped their hands. The first report of his receiving a food reward came in early August when he found food people had left unattended at Inspiration Point. Since then, this young bear repeatedly acquired food from people, once more at Inspiration Point but primarily at the Jenny Lake Campground and along the shores of Jenny Lake. He boldly approached people to take food and did this more frequently as time passed. During the first week of September, incidents involving this bear occurred almost daily. He showed no fear of humans by this time, approached families at picnic sites, walked around cars in parking areas, and even investigated a cabin in one incident, putting his paws up on the cabin window. Park biologists determined that this bear was not a good candidate for relocation or rehabilitation because of the extent of his activities.

Once again, park officials remind visitors that disposing of garbage and storing food properly is extremely important – often a life or death situation. Human carelessness doesn't just endanger people; it can also result in a bear's death. Once a bear acquires human food, it often loses its fear of people and can become habituated and sometimes dangerous.

Bears are active in areas of high visitor use, as well as in the backcountry. For the health and safety of bears, as well as that of park visitors, please adhere to the following rules: Never leave food or backpacks unattended, even for a minute; use available storage facilities when camping, or secure food in your car; dispose of garbage in bear-proof garbage cans, provided at all campgrounds; when camping in the backcountry, hang food and scented items using the counter-balance method; never run from a bear, and do not drop your backpack if a bear charges you.

Detailed information about how to behave in bear country is available at park visitor centers and ranger stations. Please take the time to educate yourself about bear safety before enjoying the park.

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