

INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE

CERTIFIED BEAR RESISTANT CONTAINERS

Background

In 1989, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) published minimum design and structural standards, inspection and testing methodology for BEAR RESISTANT CONTAINERS. To structure the testing methodology, the USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) designed an impact-testing machine that closely simulated the pressure a bear can exert on a container. This information formed the basis for the courtesy inspections of commercially produced and personal use (container built by an individual and not for commercial production and sale) containers designed to properly store food and other attractants in bear country.

The inspection and testing of containers for bear resistance and user compatibility is an ongoing process. We continue to refine test procedures as new products and materials are developed. Since 1989, our approach has been to utilize bears whenever possible to help establish engineering standards based on “bear testing” of containers. Once initial field tests are performed with bear(s), then MTDC seeks to duplicate pressures, strengths and leverages with engineering measurements and standards.

To receive the courtesy IGBC certification, **commercially available products** are evaluated at the Forest Service facility in Missoula, Mt. or Cody, Wyoming. This evaluation includes inspection of materials and construction as well as an impact test. Products that are certified by USFS as “bear resistant” receive an individually numbered IGBC decal and a receipt of certification. [Exceptions: Garcia products (2 backpacker models) and Greenlee Mobile Storage Chest – Model 2448 are approved, but do not have the IGBC decal attached].

Courtesy inspection of **containers that are built for personal use** only can be completed in several Forest Service offices in western Montana and Wyoming. Individuals can construct their own containers based on designs provided by the USFS or other sources. These “personal use” containers that pass the courtesy inspection will each receive an individually numbered IGBC decal and inspection receipt. Contact your local Forest Service office in Montana or Wyoming for additional information or one of the contacts listed below.

Maintenance of Containers

It is very important to check your containers to make certain that latches continue to close tightly and are not broken or malfunctioning. Field use of containers can cause stresses and impacts that can cause damage to latches, hinges, seams, etc.

Containers that are certified “bear resistant” need to have all the latches (catches, fasteners, etc) operating properly to remain bear resistant. If a latch becomes loose or broken, contact the manufacturer for replacement parts or advice on repairing the damage.

If a container is damaged and the lid does not seat or seal properly, that is, there are **gaps or cracks that are ¼ inch or greater**; this may allow a bear to open the lid. Again check with the manufacturer for advice on completing repairs to ensure your container remains bear resistant!

Please Note: IGBC certified containers are one of the methods available to meet USDA Forest Service food storage regulations on National Forests in the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Ecosystem and Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Ecosystem.

When you are in Yellowstone, Grand Teton or Glacier National Parks, check their regulations for food storage requirements and methods.

Update #1

In partnership with the Grizzly Bear Discovery Center (click on “bear test” video) at West Yellowstone, Montana and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the MTDC again has grizzly bears available to “test” containers. Subsequently, MTDC is developing engineering specifications that closely relate to actual “bear tests” similar to the approach in 1988-89, when the initial standards were developed. Specifically, there are new containers or prototypes being developed that involve new uses of various plastic materials. MTDC is investigating “puncture strength” (that is, bears’ use of claws and teeth) and tear strength of plastic materials as parameters that can be measured and utilized to develop inspection standards.

In addition, IGBC has asked the Forest Service (Karsky, Claar and Barber) to test various sizes and models of dumpsters and garbage containers and subsequently define specifications relative to bear resistance. These products are currently constructed from metal or plastic.

Update #2

In partnership with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), the USDA Forest Service (Shoshone National Forest) and Wyoming Game and Fish Department cooperated in experimental field tests of an electric fence prototype as an alternative food storage method. During spring, 2003 the USDA Forest Service in partnership with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will perform additional field tests of the electric fence prototype.

For additional information or testing of products, contact:

Richard Karsky, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC), 406-329-3921.

James Claar, Northern Region, 406-329-3664; Missoula, Montana.

Kim Barber, Shoshone National Forest, 307-578-1235; Cody, Wyoming.

**“BEAR RESISTANT” PRODUCTS CERTIFIED BY THE INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY
BEAR COMMITTEE (IGBC)**

The following companies produce certain containers that have been approved and certified as “bear resistant” through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee’s testing methodology. Commercially produced containers that are determined to be “bear resistant” receive an individually numbered IGBC decal and inspection receipt. At this time, photographs are not available for all products that are certified.

This commercial product list is for information only and does not imply any endorsement of one product or source over another.

SMALL CONTAINERS

Garcia Machine
14097 Avenue 272
Visalia, CA 93292
559-732-3785
Backpackers Cache



www.backcountrystore.com
1-800-409-4502
Garcia Backpackers Cache

www.rei.com
Garcia Backpackers Cache
click on Camp/Hike
click on Health and Safety
click on bear protection

www.campmor.com
Garcia Backpackers Cache

www.bearproof.com
Garcia Backpackers Cache

Riley Stove Company
P.O. Box 8117
Townsend, MT 59644
406-266-5525
Grain storage container
Food storage container
Insulated cooler



Wind River Products

#4 Absaroka Court Sand Creek Lane
Dubois, WY 82513 Alcova, WY 82620
307-455-2464 307-267-3879
Backpack Container/Small Pannier

Wyoming Outdoor Industries, Inc.

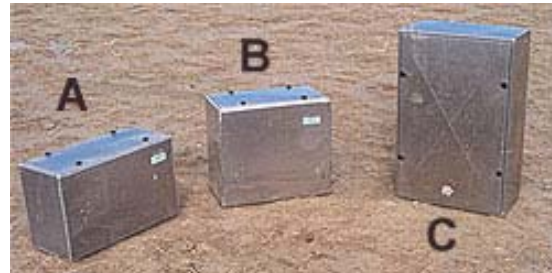
1231 13th Street
Cody, WY 82414
1-800-725-6853 or 307-527-6449
www.wyomingoutdoor.com
Backpack Container/Small Pannier



BEAR RESISTANT PANNIERS

LMI Welding, Inc.

PO Box 772
Cutbank, MT 59427
www.lmiwelding.com
(fax)406-337-3023
406-337-3021
800-345-5623



Salem Tent and Awning

280 Wallace Road NW
P.O. Box 5274
Salem, Oregon 97304
(503) 363-4788
(800) 892-8659
www.salemtent.com



Wind River Products

#4 Absaroka Court Sand Creek Lane
Dubois, WY 82513 Alcova, WY 82620
307-455-2464 307-267-3879



Wyoming Outdoor Industries, Inc.

1231 13th Street
Cody, WY 82414
1-800-725-6853 or 307-527-6449
(fax) 307-527-7508
www.wyomingoutdoor.com

Wyoming Outdoor Industries products can also
Be purchased at:

Sonaoma Mountain Pack Station

244 N. Main
Spanish Fork, UT 84660
801-794-2082



Buckstich Canvas and Leather
1107 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, WY 82414
www.buckstitchcanvas.com
307-587-4426
1-800-268-442



BEAR RESISTANT PANNIERS

Robertson Enterprises

P.O. Box 1711
Cody, WY 82414

Aluminum Panniers

Teton Welding

PO Box 976
Choteau, MT 59422

Aluminum Panniers

Ben Notti/Marshall Ridenour

1029 Terrace View Drive
Alberton, MT 59820

Aluminum Panniers

Koffler Boats Inc.

90017 Green Hill Road
Eugene, OR 97402
541-688-6093

Aluminum Panniers

Columbia Construction, Inc.
455 4th Ave. E.N.
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-892-3856

Aluminum Panniers

Metalworks of Montana
109 North California
Missoua, MT 59801

Aluminum Panniers

Decarteret Pack Equipment
30547 Mehrten Drive
Exeter, CA 93221

Aluminum Panniers

Outfitters Supply
www.outfitterssupply.com
7373 Hwy2 East
Columbia Falls, MT
1-888-467-2256

Wind River Products'
Green Kitchen Panniers

SPECIALIZED PRODUCTS FOR HANGING FOOD

Williams Products, Inc.
2825 Rehberg Lane
Billings, MT 59102
406-652-8930
1-800-522-8930
Hi Stor



NATPRO, Inc.
Box 1076
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-3068

Game Hoist with Adjustable Gambrel:

(Product uses webbing and rollers, and is available nationally through Sportsman's Guide, Cabela's and Wal-mart)

SPECIALIZED PRODUCTS FOR HANGING FOOD

www.rei.com

click on Camp/Hike

click on Health and Safety

click on bear protection

Bear Bag

*holds 60 feet of line for hanging
bag in tree.*



FRONT COUNTRY STORAGE CONTAINERS

Greenlee Mobile Storage Chest – model 2448

Available at Home Depot in Billings

Other models of Greenlee may pass the bear resistant test,
this is the only model tested to date. Specifics on the model
2448 chest and other greenlee products can be viewed at:

<http://www.greenlee.textron.com/download/archive/287-291.pdf>



PUBLICATIONS AND REFERENCES

USDA Forest Service, **Bear Resistant Containers – Minimum Design and Structural Standards: Inspection and Testing Methodology - 1989**, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

USDA Forest Service, **Living with Grizzly Bears – Structures That Work, 1991**, Northern Region, WWFRP, PO Box 7669, Missoula, MT. 59807.

USDA Forest Service, **Low Impact Food Hoists**, Publication No.9523-2809, Nov. 1994, Missoula Technology Development Center, Building 1 Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT. 59804. 406-329-3935.

USDA Forest Service, **Bear- Proof Food Lockers**, Second Addition, Publication No. 9723-1811, September 1997, San Dimas Technology Development Center, San Dimas, CA 91773 (Attn. Publication Distribution, 444 East Bonita Avenue, 1-909-599-1267 ext. 201).

USDA Forest Service, Recreation Tech Tips, **Modifying Military Medical Boxes for Bear-Resistant Containers**, April 1996, Missoula Technology Development Center, Building 1 Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT. 59801. Telephone: 406-329-3935.

USDA Forest Service, **Animal Resistant Garbage Containers**, Publication No. 9523-1205. San Dimas Technology and Development Center, San Dimas, CA 91773-3198 (Attn. Publication Distribution, 444 East Bonita Avenue, 1-909-599-1267 ext. 201).

USDA Forest Service, Recreation Tech Tips, **Electric Fence Systems: Requirements for Meeting the NCDE Food Storage Special Order**, March, 1999. Missoula Technology Development Center, Building 1 Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT. 59804.