



This Is BEAR COUNTRY

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is bear country. Both black and grizzly bears live here and you may encounter one. The average black bear, about the size of a large St. Bernard dog, can be a variety of colors: blonde, cinnamon, brown or black. The grizzly bear is larger and may also be a variety of colors with or without silver tipped hairs.

The grizzly is protected under the Endangered Species Act as a "threatened species," that may be in danger of extinction unless conservation measures are enacted.

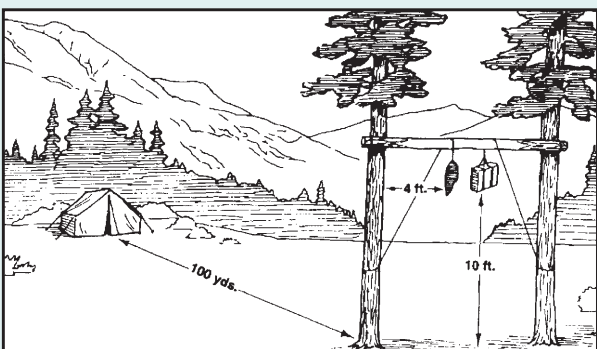
To reduce your chances of having a confrontation with a bear, we recommend that you learn about them and modify your behavior when in their habitat. Following some common-sense guidelines will improve your personal safety, reduce property damage and help the bears to survive.

Here are some key points:

- Bears are attracted to food and drink that we enjoy or give to our livestock and pets. They even find toothpaste to their liking. Once bears have found food they remember and often return to these locations.
- A bear's sense of smell is keener than ours, so keep your camp clean. Wash dishes after use and keep gear clean and free of odor. It's best to sleep 100 yards from your stored food and in different clothes than you wore while cooking.
- It is required in grizzly country and recommended Forest-wide, that you store all food and garbage where it is impossible for a bear to reach. Hang your food at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk (see diagram). Also, remember to check your sardiebags and pockets for forgotten food every night before sleeping. Never bury garbage.
- Bears do not like surprises, so it's best to travel during daylight and make your presence known by making noise.
- Never approach a bear or get between a mother and her cub.
- Be aware that bears usually travel on ridges, game trails, and along water. They often rest in cool, dark, thick forests. In spring and early summer, bears are often in lower elevations along rivers. Later in summer, they usually move to higher elevations, often to open areas. In fall, bears are often found in whitebark pine forests.
- For your safety and convenience, food storage poles and boxes are provided at many campgrounds. Also, bear-resistant food containers are available at the Buffalo and Pinedale Forest Service offices.

Signs Of Bear Activity:

- Tracks
- Torn-up stumps
- Diggings for roots or small animals
- Scratch or bite marks on trees
- A buried animal carcass
- Bear scat



Wildflowers & Trees

Various wildflowers flourish during the summer months, growing in many different terrains. Most flowers have short blooming seasons and are a food source for wildlife. Because there are numerous flower species you may want to review a flower guide for identification assistance.

The trees and flowers shown below are a sampling of the vegetation typically found in the west. The bushes are hearty enough to survive harsh winters, and trees are sparse except for mountain areas.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot

Large arrow-shaped leaves and showy yellow blossoms resembling a sunflower are characteristic of this early-summer bloomer. They thrive in dry soil and are commonly seen mixed with sagebrush near highways.



Indian Paintbrush

This bright red or orange wildflower found throughout the Forest is Wyoming's state flower. Resembling a brush dipped in bright paint, its peak blooming season is July.



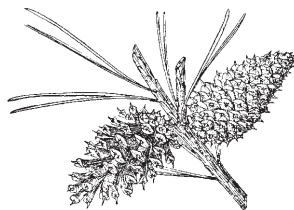
Sagebrush

This durable shrub is found throughout Wyoming. Its leaves are dusty green and narrow. They have a fragrance that may remind you of the west. The woody twisted trunks give the shrub an aged appearance.



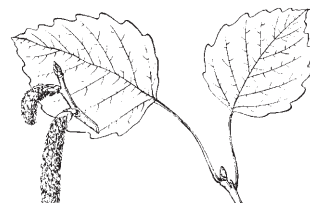
Lupine

Lupine has long stems with tightly-bunched purple flowers. Their star-shaped leaves appear silver-green due to small hairs. Lupine grows well in sub-alpine and alpine zones, as well as with sagebrush. They typically bloom in July and August.



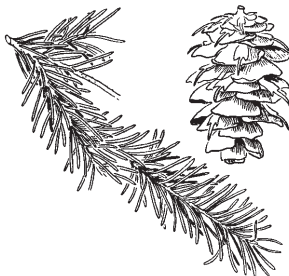
Lodgepole Pine

These trees are easily identified by their height, slender shape and paired needles. The first 15 to 20 feet of trunk are usually bare of limbs since they require abundant sunlight. The name comes from their use as teepee poles. The tree grows very quickly and is a popular building material for log homes, furniture and fences.



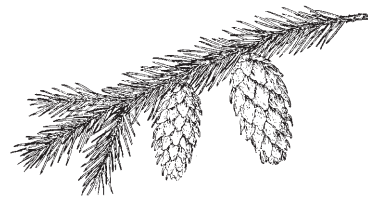
Aspen

These beautiful trees have heart-shaped leaves that quiver in the slightest breeze, providing it's name "quaking aspen." The green leaves turn vibrant yellow or orange as fall approaches. Aspen trees reach heights between 20 and 50 feet with trunks up to two feet in diameter. Distinguished by their white bark with black scars, aspen are often mistaken for birch trees.



Douglas-fir

Much fuller than the lodgepole pine, the limbs start almost at ground level, and the single needles are dark green. This gives the Douglas-fir a rounded appearance. They are popular Christmas trees because of their shape and dark green foliage.



Spruce

Similar to fir trees, spruce can be distinguished by stiff, sharp, four-sided needles that may appear blue in color. These trees grow in the hills and also near water. The name *spruce* comes from their neat, "spruced-up" appearance.