

BearWise in Chelan County

► Helping
People Live
Responsibly
in Bear
Country

► Photo: WA.Gov



Bear Attractants

- *The South Lakeshore of Chelan and Leavenworth are home to a large population of black bears.*
- *Unsecured garbage totes and dumpsters often attract bears.*
- *Our large number of rentals and vacation homes increase our challenge to be BearWise.*
- *Feral orchards, bird feeders, grapevines, and fruit trees are huge attractants for bears, often females with cubs.*
- *Hummingbird feeders at ground level are especially attractive—32 ounces of hummingbird nectar contains 3200 calories, when bears are in their hungry phase, preparing for hibernation.*
- *Bears become habituated to human food and garbage resulting in human-bear conflict.*
- *Photo: WDFW*



Bears become habituated to human food and garbage resulting in human-bear conflict.


Photo: Bear in Leavenworth/NCWLife.com





**Woman Hospitalized After
Bear Attack in Leavenworth**

2022 was a bad year for bears in Washington
Photo: KHQ.com

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- ▶ **One female and three cubs were lethally removed in North Bend.**
 - ▶ **In Chelan, a homeowner killed a mother bear, and orphaned two cubs, only one was rescued.**
 - ▶ **In Leavenworth, a mother bear attacked a woman and was lethally removed, both of her cubs were rescued.**
 - ▶ **In Whatcom County, a mother bear attacked a man after he got in the middle of the bear and her cubs and struck her; both of her cubs were never found.**
 - ▶ **In Spokane, one female was lethally removed.**
 - ▶ **In all instances, habituation to human food and garbage was the problem.**

BearWise Hazard Assessments

- ▶ *I worked with WDFW and the National Parks Conservation Association*
- ▶ *We identified two legislative champions, Sharon Shewmake of Whatcom County and Clyde Shavers of Skagit County*
- ▶ *We obtained \$224,000 in the operating budget for four BearWise hazard assessments in Washington.*
- ▶ *Hazard assessments pinpoint conflict locations and offer solutions that address driving factors that result in human-bear conflict and community needs.*

Black Bear Reports/Calls and Lethal Removals

Statewide Black Bear Reports/calls:

* These stats include everything from someone emailing us a photo or to report a sighting as an FYI, to WDFW dispatch providing education and advice, and to WDFW officers responding either over the phone or in person.

- ▶ 2021: 1051
- ▶ 2022: 2014
- ▶ 2023: 1900

▶ Chelan County:

- ▶ 2021: 34
- ▶ 2022: 112
- ▶ 2023: 71

▶ Black Bear Lethal Removals Statewide:

- ▶ 2021: 6
- ▶ 2022: 23
- ▶ 2023: 16

▶ Black Bear Lethal Removals in Chelan County:

- ▶ 2021: 1
- ▶ 2022: 2
- ▶ 2023: 6



The first step of a BearWise program is to conduct hazard assessments.

BearWise assessments may include the following:

- *Identifying areas where species are commonly found*
- *Mapping attractants like garbage, bird feeders, and fruit trees*
- *Mapping areas where humans and bears may overlap*
- *Mapping historical patterns of conflict*
- *Identifying sites that have a history of conflict, or may have conflict in the future*
- *Determining the level of risk in the area*
- *Educating people on how to stay safe around bears*
- *Recommending ways to make the area safer for people and bears, such as installing bear-resistant bins or fencing livestock*

Four Hazard Assessments conducted by WDFW

- ▶ *The hazard assessments began on July 1 on the South Lakeshore Road and other parts of Chelan, North Bend/South King County, Whatcom and Skagit County, and North Spokane County.*
- ▶ *Leavenworth and the Methow already have completed hazard assessments.*
- ▶ *Photo: MorningAgClips*





A detailed report from WDFW is due to the legislature by December 31st, 2024. Once we have the assessment data, we need to secure state funding for WDFW to implement BearWise programs in the target areas, and to expand to other areas of the state that experience human-bear conflict. Photo: HSUS

Many bears die each year in Washington due to habituation to human food and garbage

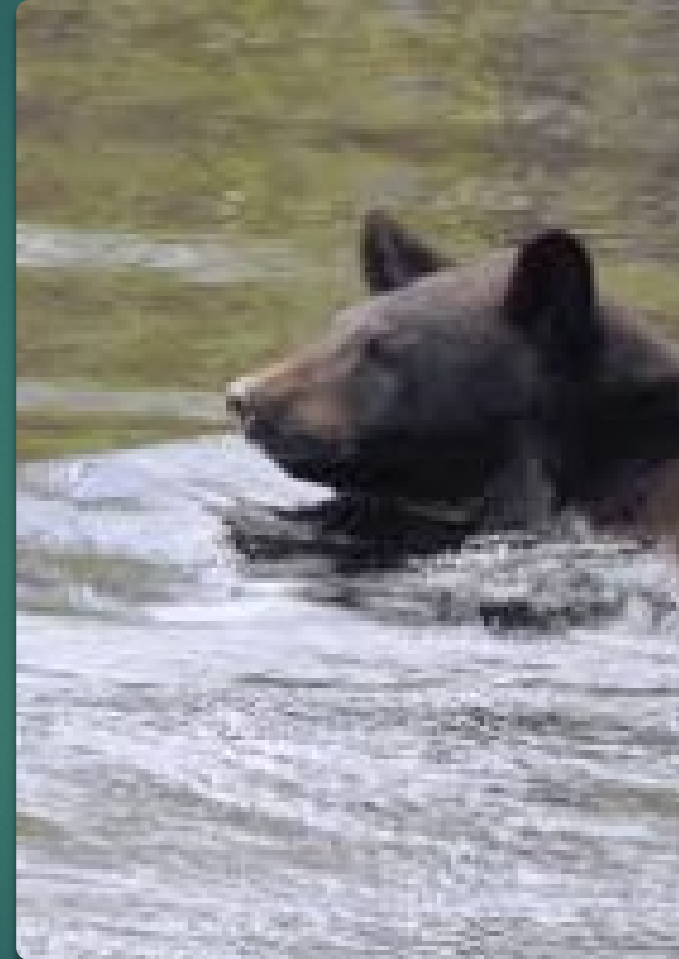


- ▶ *BearWise funding can support human behaviors that reduce habituation to human food and garbage, support our local communities, and save bears and bear cubs.*
- ▶ *Often the bears killed are lactating females or females with cubs.*
- ▶ *Photo: Outdoor Life*

Successful BearWise programs in Other States

- Colorado struggled with similar challenges and created a human-bear conflict reduction grant program to reduce human-bear conflict.
- They have invested 1 million per year and issue grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000 to NGOs, HOAs, community groups, businesses, tribes, universities, and individuals who are all eligible to receive funding.
- They are having success reducing human-bear conflict by making sure communities have the resources to educate people and provide tools that reduce conflict.

Photo: BearWise Boulder Colorado



You can help to secure BearWise funding by contacting your legislators in February and making sure the monies are appropriated in the operating budget.

Photo: BearWise.org



Special Thanks to...

- ▶ **WDFW: Nate Pamplin and Fenner Yarborough, and all of the hard-working staff who are completing the hazard assessments.**
- ▶ **Representative Clyde Shavers and Senator Sharon Shewmake for championing the hazard assessments in the state operating budget.**
- ▶ **Commissioner Tiffany Gering and Natural Resources Director Mike Kaputa**
- ▶ **Leavenworth mayor Carl Flores and his dedicated staff**
- ▶ **Community members like you who are willing to accommodate bears!**