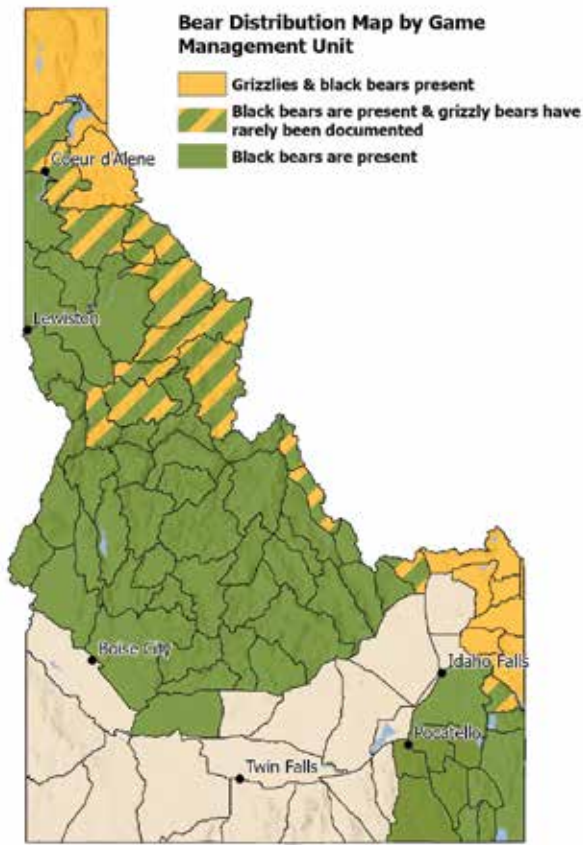




Historically, grizzly bears were found throughout much of Idaho. Hunting increases the likelihood of human-grizzly bear encounters. Knowing where grizzly bears may occur in Idaho can help hunters prevent unwanted encounters and be prepared if an encounter occurs.



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IDAHO FISH AND GAME OFFICES

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Clearwater Region (208) 799-5010
3316 16th Street, Lewiston, ID 83501

Upper Snake Region (208) 525-7290
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Salmon Region (208) 756-2271
9 Highway 93 N, Salmon, ID 83467

For safety tips while hunting in grizzly bear country, and reporting grizzly bear observations, please visit the Fish and Game grizzly bear webpage at:

idfg.idaho.gov/conservation/grizzly-bear



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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How to Hunt Safely In GRIZZLY BEAR COUNTRY



BE PREPARED

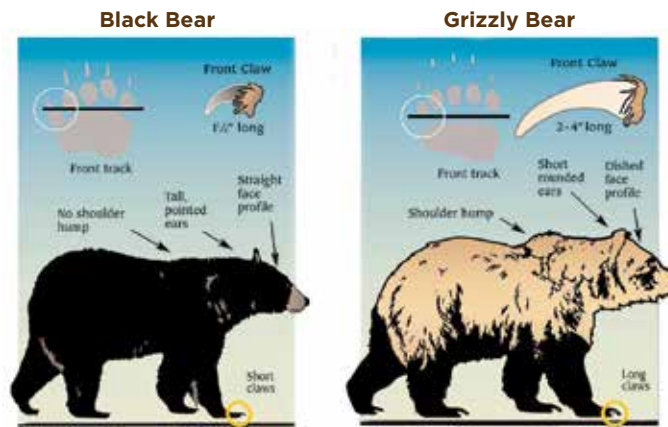
Photo: CC-BY hans veth 385489 at unsplash.com

What to be aware of if you hunt in grizzly country

- Grizzlies are primarily found in two areas of Idaho: the Panhandle in big game units 1, 4, and 4A; and the Yellowstone ecosystem in big game units 60, 61, 62, 62A, 64, 65, and 67. Grizzly bears have rarely been documented in units 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21A, 30, and 66.
- Grizzlies remain protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act in Idaho. It is illegal to harm, harass, kill grizzly bears, except in self-defense or the defense of others.
- Be aware that common hunting practices (moving stealthily, hiking in low-light conditions, attempts to remain hidden) increases your chance of encountering grizzlies in these areas.
- Hunt with partners in grizzly country and make each other aware of your plans. Traveling in groups can decrease the likelihood of a dangerous bear encounter.
- While hunting in grizzly country, pay attention to fresh grizzly bear sign especially where visibility and hearing is limited (near streams, brushy areas, timber). Look for tracks, scats, digs, concentration of foods, or a carcass. Let your partners know if you've seen grizzly bear sign.
- Be sure to correctly identify your target before shooting.**
- Grizzly bear attacks can be prompted by inadvertently surprising a bear at close range, when bears are defending a food source or when females are protecting young.



Graphics and Photos Courtesy of Chuck Bartlebaugh-CW



For safety tips while hunting in grizzly bear country, and reporting grizzly bear observations, please visit the Fish and Game grizzly bear webpage at:

idfg.idaho.gov/conservation/grizzly-bear

Safeguards for retrieving game in bear country

- When hunting in grizzly bear country, the golden rule is "get the meat out of the area as quickly as possible." The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground or within reach of a bear, the more likely a grizzly will discover it.
- Avoid field dressing the carcass at dusk or night and try not to leave your carcass in the field overnight.
- If you cannot get the meat out immediately use special caution. Put as much distance between gut pile and carcass as possible. Ideally quarter and hang game meat that must be left overnight.
- Hang meat, food, and garbage at least 200 yards from camp, and make sure it is at least ten feet off the ground and four feet from the vertical support or kept in bear resistant containers.
- When returning, approach the carcass carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. Study the scene with binoculars from the observation point with a clear line-of-site to the carcass and look for sign of a bear. Do not try to scare a bear off a carcass. If the meat is not retrievable, report the incident to IDFG.

What to do if you encounter a bear

- When hunting in grizzly country, we recommend that every hunter carry bear spray and know how to use it. Keep the spray easily accessible and within reach.
- Bear spray is most effective when used as an airborne deterrent sprayed as a cloud at an aggressive animal.
- The mere presence of a bear does not always pose a risk. Most bears will leave an area when they become aware of human presence. If you do encounter a bear, assess the situation, and stay calm: DO NOT RUN, running may trigger a chase response from the bear.
- Decide if the bear is aware of you and threatening, or if it is fleeing or unaware. If the bear is unaware of your presence keep the bear in sight, ready your deterrent, back away and leave the area.
- If the bear is aware of your presence and/or threatening remain calm, ready deterrent, stand your ground, and keep the bear in sight. Speak in a calm manner until the bears moves away
- If a grizzly bear charges, stand your ground and use bear spray if necessary.
- As a last resort, if attacked, play dead until the bear is gone. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your arms. This technique has proven successful in reducing injuries during an attack. Never play dead in an encounter with a black bear, fight back until the attack ends.
- If a grizzly bear shows predatory or curious behavior (follows you, or slowly, purposefully, or methodically approaches you), ready your deterrent, stand your ground, aggressively wave your arms and shout, and fight back if contact is made.
- If a bear enters or reaches into your tent, use bear spray and fight back.

BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

If you encounter a grizzly bear please report it on our Fish and Game website:

idfg.idaho.gov/species/observations