



Living With Grizzlies ~in the~ North Cascades



On April 25, 2024, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service released a Record of Decision to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades!

Fun Facts: Grizzly Bear-Style!

- For thousands of years, grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) were a key part of the North Cascades ecosystem!
- The last known sighting of a grizzly bear in the North Cascades was in 1996
- Grizzly bears can range in color from blonde to nearly black!
- Grizzly bears are protected in the 48 contiguous states; it is illegal to harm a bear, unless in self-defense



"Bear Aware": Tip #1

Store Your Food!



Grizzlies are incredibly opportunistic and may not hesitate to sample your food!

You can minimize this risk by properly storing your food in secure, inaccessible containers away from your tent.

"Bear Aware": Tip #2

Keep Your Distance!



If you encounter a grizzly bear, make sure to keep as much space between yourself and the bear as possible.

If a grizzly approaches you, make yourself as tall as possible, yell, and wave your arms to let the bear know that you are not worth checking out!

"Bear Aware": Tip #3

Go as a Group!



At the end of the day, grizzly bears want to stay away from you just as much as you want to stay away from them.

There's safety in numbers; the bigger and louder the group, the more intimidating you are to a bear!

What is my audience? I am targeting a lay audience of perspective hikers and campers in the North Cascades in Washington state. I want to ensure that my informational pamphlet can be read and understood by both children and adults, so I omitted any overly technical or scientific words and phrases. Through accessible language, I hope to convey my purpose quickly to anyone looking to recreate in this area.

What is my scientific purpose? The purpose of my pamphlet is to provide campers and hikers with some simple methods of keeping themselves safe in the North Cascades now that grizzly bears will be reintroduced to this area. The decision to reestablish grizzly bear populations has been controversial in this area, mainly due to concerns over human and livestock safety. I want to convey the message that coexisting with grizzly bears doesn't have to be difficult or cause for concern as long as people keep their distance and understand the risks associated with being in a bear's habitat.

Bibliography:

- NCE Grizzly Bear Team. 2024. Agencies announce decision to restore grizzly bears to North Cascades. National Park Service; [accessed 2025 Jan 20]. <https://www.nps.gov/noca/learn/news/agencies-announce-decision-to-restore-grizzly-bears-to-north-cascades.htm>.
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