



FIVE GENERAL TYPES OF BEAR AGGRESSION

Behaviour Type	Grizzly Bear	Black Bear
<p>Defensive / Aggressive (bear is usually surprised by your presence and is deciding fight or flight)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Main behavioural characteristic for Grizzlies. ➤ Challenges intruders by ferocious bluffing and if necessary making contact and immobilizing the threat then retreating quickly. ➤ Sometimes this defensive / aggressive behaviour shifts to predatorial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will make the same aggressive displays as grizzlies when they feel threatened but are much less likely to make contact
<p>Cub Defence Aggression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grizzly Sows defend their young by having them retreat in the opposite direction of the threat while she stands guard to cover their escape (if the threat can be located). ➤ IF the Sow does not immediately attack she will most likely embrace a Defensive / Aggressive Behaviour to scare you from pursuing her cubs. If she attacks she will most likely do so immediately upon becoming aware of your presence. ➤ The ferocity and willingness to suffer injury or death gives a Sow Grizzly the ability to effectively defend her cubs against males twice her size (usually); ➤ When a sow grizzly is standing in open ground and must defend her cubs she must convince the intruder that even though she may lose the battle she will inflict significant damage; ➤ Cub defence behaviour is EXPLOSIVE – this behaviour does not necessarily mean that contact will be made =- much of it is designed to scare the hell out of the intruder – and it usually does! ➤ 2 Year old cubs may assist the sow grizzly in the attack. This is a dangerous state for intruders when the sow is almost ready to reject the cubs. The cubs are now sub-adults and no longer feel the need to run and hide at the Sow’s instruction to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sows defend their cubs by sending them up a tree (if available) then usually stands at the base growling and popping her teeth; ➤ If the threat does not back off and leave the Sow will either attack or also climb the tree (most likely); ➤ Generally Black Bears are much more cowardly than Grizzly Bears but they are also extremely unpredictable.



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<p>Predatory Aggression</p> <p>Both Grizzly & Black bears are omnivores and must devote a very significant portion of their life to securing plant foods as a basic survival strategy. HOWEVER – animal tissue has a significantly higher food value and in some circumstances will bring their predatorial behaviour forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grizzlies do occasionally kill people for food but most attacks start off as Defensive / Aggressive behaviour; ➤ Most people killed by a predatory Grizzly are when they are camping at night; ➤ Most Grizzly predatory attacks are from food conditioned habituated bears; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The most serious injuries and deaths caused by Black Bears are predatory in nature – that is, the bear is trying to kill the person for food. ➤ Statistics show that Black Bears are more predacious towards people for food than grizzly bears; ➤ Most People killed by predatory black bears are people doing various activities during the day (especially small children); ➤ Most predatory attacks are from wild black bears or bears only slightly habituated to humans

Grizzly & Black Bear

<p>Home Range Aggression (Bear to People)</p> <p><i>Applies to both bear species</i></p> <p>Includes Carcass Defence. Hunters beware. The Bear will likely attack if you are in between the bear and the animal you just shot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Threat & Appeasement Behaviour is likely to be observed ➤ These gestures are a warning not to come any closer or a warning that you are already too close and had better back up; ➤ Signs of this Aggression type are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You are usually within 75m of the bear ○ Dropping of the head, turning sideways or turning to face you with a direct stare ○ The bear may stomp it's feet, blow, growl, pop it's teeth or swat the ground; ○ Bear is in fight or flight state of mind (the grass it is eating may be the only high-value food presently in its home range that is not dominated by a more powerful bear) ○ If you moved closer you would probably see the bear's ears go back, spinal hair stand on end. ○ It may turn 45° towards you, go stiff legged and bounce several times towards you giving blowing and growling sounds with each bounce. The bear will likely come to a screeching halt and watch your reaction.
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Behaviour Type	Grizzly & Black Bear
<p>Home Range Aggression (Bear to Bear) <i>Applies to both bear species</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bears are Semi-Territorial; ➤ Often their home ranges over-lap; ➤ Bears use and defend high-value areas depending on their position in the hierarchy of power; ➤ Bears usually have some form home range established by the time they are at least 3 years of age; ➤ Size of range varies from 50 to 300 square miles and depends on the species, sex and age; ➤ When young bears start to establish their home ranges they are subjected to considerable aggression from other bears in the same vicinity. They often receive fatal injuries during encounters <p>Quite often young bears are denied access to high value food areas. If they have not built up sufficient fat reserves by denning time they do not survive the winter.</p>
<p>Competitiveness Aggression (Bear to Bear) <i>Applies to both bear species</i> Bears competing against each other for food, cover, dens, breeding privileges.</p> <p>Male Bear Cub Killing Aggression. Removal of future breeding competition and range protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bears jockey their way higher in the hierarchy all of the time; ➤ Bears have evolved a complicated system of threat-and-appeasement signals that reduce the potential danger in some situations; ➤ Competitive Aggression usually focuses on young males and towards females with cubs that are not yet identifiable for sex and by smell. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This behaviour is common in nature and is not only prevalent to bears ➤ Males will killing the offspring of other males ➤ Sometimes the male will kill the sow as well as the cubs ➤ Males often remember females they have bred with recently (scent based) and usually let them go unharmed. The reciprocal behaviour of this are Sows displaying very aggressive tendencies when in proximity to an intruder. ➤ Sub Adult males are attacked and if not killed outright often permanently maimed.