



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

U.S./Romania Human-Bear Conflict Exchange Workshop

Seeley Lake, Montana (USA)
September 17-21, 2018

Why this workshop?

- **There is a rise in conflicts with the ~7,000 brown bears living in the Romanian Carpathians. This accounts for nearly 40% of the European brown bear population (excluding Russia)**
- **Romania lacks a national brown bear management plan and tolerance for these animals is on the decline with the increase of human-bear conflict**
- **In Montana, also a brown bear habitat, certain communities have done an excellent job promoting coexistence with bears and mitigating human-bear conflict**

Romania's main factors driving conflicts with brown bears to be addressed

- **Directly baiting/feeding sites for brown bears and other wild animals**
- **A dangerous proximity of some feeding sites to humans' habitat**
- **Lack of financial and political support from Romania's government, EU institutions and other stakeholders**
- **Unsecured garbage and other human-food attractants**
- **General lack of Romanians' education and awareness**
- **Deficient maintenance of some tools installed to prevent human-wildlife conflicts**

Romanian participants

- President of the Harghita County Council
- Harghita County biologist and analyst
- Environmental Advisor of the Covasna County Environmental Protection Agency
- Representative of the Brasov County Forest Guard
- Romanian NGO representatives
- Director-General of non-hazardous waste collection company based in Covasna County
- Expert consultant to Rapporteur of the Committee of the Region




Goals and achievements



1) Create an exchange of expertise in human-bear conflict mitigation

Exchanges focused on:

- The main factors driving conflicts with brown bears in Romania and in the U.S: similarities and differences
- Strategies effectively implemented by non-governmental organizations in two communities: the Blackfoot Challenge and the Swan Valley Bear Resources, which could be adapted for Romania

A photograph showing three men standing in a field. They are wearing plaid shirts and jeans. In the background, there are several large piles of brown mulch or compost. The setting appears to be a rural or farm area with trees and a clear sky.

2) Visit onsite examples of coexistence solutions

- **Bear-resistant trash receptacles**
- **Livestock carcass pickup program and compost site**
- **Farm with electric fencing around beehives and calving grounds**



3) Identify viable projects of human-bear conflict management plan to be implemented in Covasna and Harghita counties in Romania

4) Benefit from a bear safety education training



**Potential
Conflict
Mitigation
Strategies
to be Adapted
in Romania**



Garbage can loaner program



this is **BEAR COUNTRY**



Proper Food Storage Required

When you are not at your camp or picnic site, store ALL food, canned beverages, garbage, stock and pet food:

- In a hard-sided camper, vehicle trunk or cab, or enclosed horse trailer.



- In an approved bear resistant container. Coolers and plastic storage boxes are NOT bear resistant.



- Suspended 10 feet up and 4 feet out from a vertical support, like a tree.

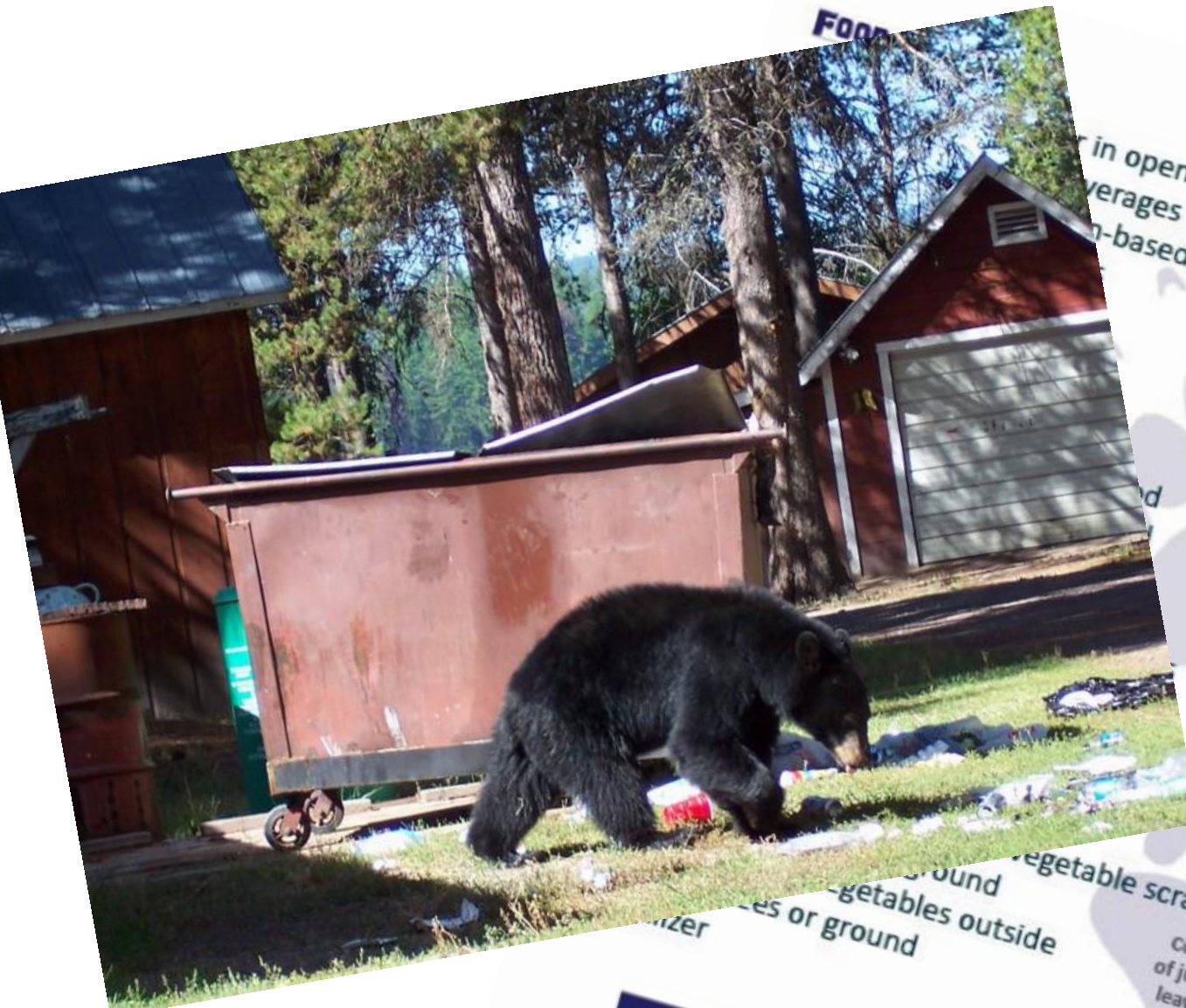


Violance is in violation of 36 CFR 261.58(c)
Violations punishable by a fine of up to \$5000 or imprisonment
of not more than 6 months, or both.



Electric fence
installation program

General property consultation



KNOW YOUR BEAR ATTRACTANTS

PET & LIVESTOCK FEED

- Dog, cat, rabbit or other pet food
- Grain and chicken feed
- Bird feeders, seed and suet
- Hummingbird feeders
- Fish food for fish in outdoor ponds
- Molasses and animal supplement blocks
- Game blocks
- Blood, raw meat or guts
- Untanned animal hides
- Livestock carcasses and bone yards

Saunas

- Soap & shower gel
- Essential oils
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste

AUTO & SHOP

- Motor oil
- Antifreeze

Be aware that empty garbage cans, freezers, refrigerators, and coolers can attract bears due to residual food odors.

Bird feeders should come DOWN AFTER BACK UP Dec.

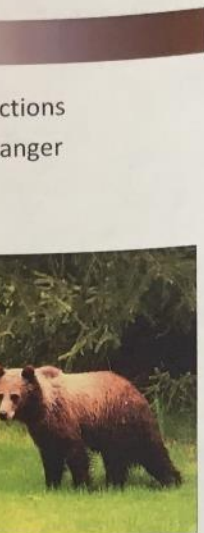
Compost piles of just grass and leaves are OK.

FOOD

in open buildings
beverages
non-based beverages

ground
vegetable scraps
vegetables outside
freezer
es or ground

Outreach materials



A grizzly bear testing a bear-resistant garbage container.
Photo by Derek Reich/Zooprax Productions.

Contact Us

Swan Valley Bear Resources

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Swan Valley Bear Ranger

Rick Yates
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Using community resources
to promote human-bear
coexistence

Partners:
Swan Valley Connections (SVC)
US Forest Service (USFS)

In cooperation with:
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

Stay Safe Keep Bears Wild

- Pick ripe fruit from trees/bushes promptly, and keep ground clear of fallen fruit.
- Keep trash in a secure building.
- Take trash out the morning of pickup not the night before.
- Feed pets and store pet food inside.
- Store stock feed in a secure building or bear-resistant container.
- Use bird feeders November 1 thru March 15 while bears are denning.
- Let barbecue burn for 5 minutes after use to remove grease and odor.

Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Coordinating Committee
U.S. Forest Service
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Center for Wildlife Information
www.BeBearAware.org
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Organization of social events






Guidelines on engaging in effective and positive communication

Trash Collection



A brown bear is walking towards the camera in a field of green grass and small white flowers. The bear has thick brown fur and is looking directly at the viewer. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the field and some trees in the distance.

Next steps to
be taken in
Romania

Conduct a SWOT analysis on two potential sites for the implementation of pilot projects in cooperation with local experts, Romanian authorities, and local stakeholders

THANK YOU!

