



## **Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)**

Black bears can be seen throughout the Superior National Forest. Their color ranges from light brown to solid black. (If you see a brown-colored bear, don't panic—it's still a black bear. There are no grizzlies east of the Rockies or south of Yellowstone.)

About the black bear's eating habits, the Minnesota DNR

writes: "The black bear is omnivorous, eating anything that resembles food in looks, smell, or taste." Anything that even smells like food—be it food-scented clothes, toothpaste or candy bars—is seen as fair game by a bear. So if you go camping, make sure all such items are away from your tent, locked up or hung from a tree branch. Although they will visit campsites if food seems easily available there, bears generally avoid human contact and stick to remote forests and swamps. Their primary diet consists of plant matter such as nuts, berries and grasses. They also eat animal matter, from insects to fish, small mammals and carrion, but this makes up less than 10% of their diet. Bears hibernate during the food-scarce winter months.