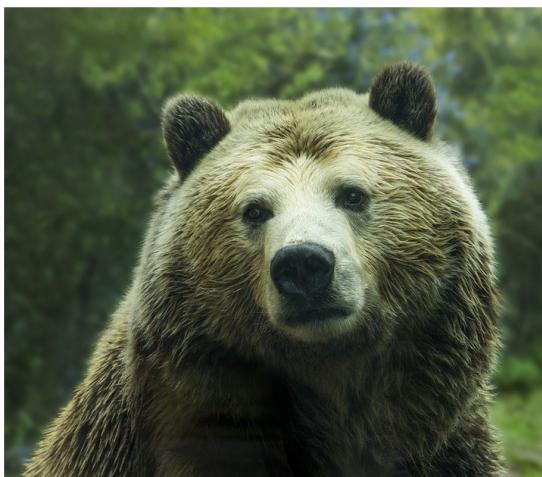


If you encounter a bear on the trail:

- Never try to outrun the bear!
- Stop, get off your bike, and stand your ground. Keep your bike between you and the bear.
- Get your bear spray out and spray any threatening bear within 25 feet.

For more information on bear encounters and behavior visit:
<http://igbconline.org/>



Don't think "it won't happen to me". Biking in bear country requires riders to carefully weigh risk and reward.

These precautions will help you to keep safe, enjoy your sport, and reduce impacts on bears.

Be smart. Be safe.

Share the trail.

This brochure incorporates recommendations compiled by wildlife professionals from various government agencies and universities who have reviewed mountain bike-bear encounters and incidents.

For more information about bear safety, trail conditions, food storage regulations, and access, contact your local Forest Service, State, or National Park Service Office.



BIKING IN BEAR COUNTRY



Mountain bikers face a disproportionately high risk of surprise bear encounters while recreating.

With more bears on the landscape than ever before...

Do you know how to prevent or respond to an encounter with a bear while biking?



Grizzlies are expanding their range to new areas in Montana. Expect a grizzly or black bear to be present anytime, anywhere on mountain biking trails.

KNOW THE RISK

There is a long record of conflicts associated with mountain biking in bear habitat. Bikers face an increased risk of surprising a bear and being injured for the following reasons:

- Bikers often move quickly and quietly, giving bears little warning of their approach
- Increased speed reduces bikers' ability to see what's around them and their reaction time
- High-speed movement may trigger a bear's natural chase response

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

1. **CARRY BEAR SPRAY** - Bear spray is the most effective tool for stopping aggressive bear behavior during a surprise encounter. Keep it on your person in an accessible location, not on your bike or in your pack. Before your ride, practice grabbing the can from its holster to improve your response time and be familiar with how to disengage the safety.
2. **BE VIGILANT** - Be alert for bears and bear sign while you ride. Avoid areas where bears may be feeding, including areas with ripe berry bushes and animal carcasses. Check trailheads for information on recent bear activity.
3. **SLOW DOWN** - High-speed can result in surprise, close encounters. Bears react more aggressively to fast-moving threats and may instinctively chase you. Decrease your speed when approaching a blind curve, thick vegetation, or other areas where sight distances are reduced.
4. **MAKE NOISE** - Making noise is an effective way to alert bears to your presence, thereby giving them a chance to move away before you get too close. Shout when approaching areas with thick cover, blind curves, or other factors affecting a bear's ability to hear or see you.
5. **AVOID RIDING ALONE** - Riding in groups of three or more and staying together on the trail can greatly reduce the risk of a bear attack. Larger groups are more intimidating to bears.
6. **AVOID RIDING AT NIGHT, DAWN, OR DUSK** - Bears can be out anytime, but are more active at night, dawn, and dusk especially if the weather is hot. Your ability to recognize bear activity and sign is also greatly reduced in low light and darkness.