



## Living with Bears and Our Responsibilities



There has been an increase in bear activity in Snoqualmie over the past year. The City of Snoqualmie Police Department is taking measures to help the community learn to prevent bear activity in local neighborhoods and suggest how to “live with bears.”



### **Bears Like to Eat Garbage!**

Black bears sleep during the winter, but in the early spring months through late fall they are on a mission to gain as much weight for the following winter hibernation. Although there are other sources of food in the Cascade foothills, garbage and other foods that humans have been inadvertently providing to the local bears are higher in fats and proteins and a quicker way for the bears to fatten up for winter. We need to actively change our habits to assist the bears in changing their habits.



### **Manage Your Garbage for Prevention and Safety**

Garbage cans have become a main food source for our local bears. Black bears will travel in a six-mile radius to find the best and easiest source of food. Through poor garbage management, residents are actually feeding the local bears and increasing the chances of bear/human contact and property damage. Bird feeders have also been a problem and need to be put away until winter months.



Guarantee that bears don't have access to your garbage containers prior to the morning of your garbage collection day by keeping containers stored in garages. For those residents unable to store garbage in garages, wildlife-resistant garbage containers are available free-of-charge from Waste Management and collection service is provided for just \$3.13 per month.



### **A New Law – Don't Feed the Bears**

The Washington State Legislature has approved a new law effective July 1, 2012 to enforce not feeding wildlife. Although it is not the goal of the City of Snoqualmie to fine or arrest persons breaking this law, if a resident does not take steps to eliminate the access bears have to food and garbage, first they will be warned, then issued an infraction, and, if the problem continues, an arrest could be made. This can lead to a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. [RCW 77.15 Section 38 Unintentional Feeding (infraction) and Section 39 Intentional Feeding (misdemeanor)].



Snoqualmie Police, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, are intent on keeping our citizens safe and providing safety education. When necessary, the police will enforce the laws of Washington – but only as a last resort.

### **More Information and Resources**

Snoqualmie Police Department: 425-888-3333 or 9-1-1

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov), click “Living with Wildlife”

Waste Management: 1-800-592-9995 or [www.wmnorthwest.com/snoqualmie](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/snoqualmie)

