

Submitted on Tue, 02/25/2025 - 9:16 AM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Sebastian

Last Name

Moon

Question/Comment

Hello! My name is Sebastian Moon, and I am doing a project for school. My project is addressing our bear problem in a nonlethal and permanent matter (that does not include relocation because bears have insane natural GPSs and relocation of bears does not work). I have many ideas, ones that I am fully willing to step up and support if need be, including

A) Initiative to encourage residents and tourists to not feed bears. I read about a campaign in Mammoth, California that was basically just helping residents and tourists to not feed the bears ("Don't Feed Our Bears"), and it was a hugely successful step in addressing the town's bear problem, as most issues are caused by humans. By feeding bears, we have slowly taught them not to be scared of humans. When we stop or scale back the feeding of bears, they lose that need to be friendly to humans. Win-win!

B) Bear-proof dumpsters and cans. Bears primarily eat from dumps, dumpsters, and trash cans. By disallowing access to such things, bears are forced to return to their natural diet.

C). Non-lethal scare tactics. Non-lethal ammo is everywhere, and bears are highly intelligent animals. They can be trained, so by using non-lethal scare tactics, we can instill a bear's natural fear of humans. Such tactics include shouting really loud, cherry bombs, rubber bullets, bats (to bang on trees or dumpsters), firecrackers, etc., etc.

These all sound very far-fetched, but seem to work extremely well.

D). A well-trained wildlife specialist. We are a town full of wildlife. It makes sense to have someone on the scene who knows more than just 'shoot it'. Is that a little over-generalizing and crass? Yes. Is it true? Absolutely. Police are trained to deal with real dangers, dangers that happen to be people. They are clueless when it comes to anything else. That is not their fault, but the fault of their training. Yet, the issue could be solved with two or three on-call wildlife specialists who know exactly what to do in a situation. Be it a bear broken into a cabin on Schweitzer, or a deer hit by a truck.

There are many other ways to deal with our 'problem bears'. Yes, maybe it may be more expensive than just shooting them, but bears procreate few and far-between. A return to natural diets, and a newfound fear of humans will help so much more in the long run. In

the end, there is not an ounce of fault laying on the bear's shoulders, but rather upon the people's who taught the bear what was acceptable and what wasn't.

kindest regards,

-Sebastian Moon.

From: sebastian

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:33 PM

Subject: Re: School Project re: Bears

Hello again! Sorry for the sudden email change. I go to Forrest Bird Charter School, and I'm in ninth grade. My project aims to persuade the city of Sandpoint to do more about the issues we have with bears in an effective and long term manner. I emailed the Waste Management department because I wanted to discuss what could be done for the bears regarding our garbage disposal. Our garbage cans and dumpsters make it far too easy for a bear to open and pig out on our trash. I have a few ideas on how to help this issue, though, and addressing the feeding of bears is the first step in my process, which will culminate in a better situation for us and our bear population. I'm very sorry if I was unclear. Either way, I'd love to discuss my ideas and the practical ways they can be implemented. Other helpful information would be things such as,

- What is the Waste Management Department already doing to address the problem of bears and trash?
- What would be the cost to the city and the residents to replace every single city-issued garbage can, dumpster, and other trash receptacle?
- How many tons of garbage does the city of Sandpoint throw away daily/weekly/monthly/yearly? How much of that is food garbage (if known)?

Thank you again!

-Sebastian Moon.