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# Bears in Los Alamos - Update

By James Robinson

# Issues Review

- ▶ Several bear related trash events that lead to the euthanization of several bears.
  - ▶ Videos and photos spread across social media and online publications. Some seen as far away as New Zealand.
- ▶ Several bear - human related encounters, one leading to the attack of Karen Williams and the euthanization of a mother bear, orphaning two cubs.

# Bears are Back



Print recently found by LEWF co-founder and Open Space employee, Ty Horak.

Estimated 350 pound bear.

# Opportunities

- ▶ Los Alamos County Environmental Services has partnered with New Mexico Game and Fish to purchase bear resistant dumpsters for several locations across Los Alamos.
  - ▶ Environmental Services has sent letters encouraging local businesses to invest in bear resistant dumpsters.
- ▶ Los Alamos County Environmental Services has begun looking into changing local codes to prevent trash from being set out on the curb too early to prevent bear encounters.
- ▶ Los Alamos County Environmental Services has been offering the installation of a bear resistant contraption for current roll carts.

# Upcoming Initiatives

# BEAR BUFFET and BEAR FEST

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Bear Buffet



May 13<sup>th</sup> - Bear Fest



# Bear Buffet

- ▶ Participants will be introduced to all the different sources of food for bears.
  - ▶ There will be salmon, salad, log cake, gummy worms, candy mushrooms, candy egg corns, beehive shaped corn bread, and many other goodies.
- ▶ There will be a great talk from Karen Williams, Dr. Ramsay and NM Game and Fish about the encounter last year, and the rescue and rehabilitation of the two bear cubs.
- ▶ Seating is limited to 60 people, and you can sign up on PEEC's website.

# Bear Fest

- ▶ Hosted at PEEC on May 13th
- ▶ There will be several bear related activities for all ages.
  - ▶ Making a bear print.
  - ▶ Finding the hidden bear.
  - ▶ How to put a bear bag up.
  - ▶ Mock bear Den
- ▶ Several local and governmental agencies will be in attendance.
  - ▶ US Forest Service
  - ▶ NM Game and Fish
  - ▶ Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation
  - ▶ PEEC
  - ▶ LANL
  - ▶ Los Alamos Environmental Services?

# Bear Month Proclamation – May 2nd

**WHEREAS:** Los Alamos is blessed with an abundance of wildlife, and healthy wildlife populations have a positive impact on the Los Alamos community; and

**WHEREAS:** Our community is notably home to the American Black Bear, which occur over most of the forested areas in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS:** Five key bear-safety practices should be added to our daily routines and recreational activities. When out in the wilderness, make noise so that a bear is not surprised by human presence, stay alert and actively look for signs of bears; never approach or crowd bears; keep food, garbage, and other attractants out of reach of bears; and stay calm during a bear encounter, and do not run; and

**WHEREAS:** Humans can also reduce the likelihood of bear encounters around the home by removing bird feeders, securing garbage in bear-resistant containers, not feed bears, planting gardens away from game trails, and frequently turning compost;

**WHEREAS:** It is important to remember that a person's behavior often dictates a bear's behavior. As many bears emerge from dens in early spring, May is a good time to remind the citizen of Los Alamos about bears, their behavior, and how we can live responsibly and safely in bear country.

**WHEREAS:** The Los Alamos Nature Center, the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation, and many other local and state agencies will present many different bear education events throughout the month of May, including hosting New Mexico's first ever Bear Festival on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** on behalf of the Council of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, I do hereby designate May 2017 as:

## **“BEAR MONTH”**

and urge our citizens to participate in this event by learning about bear safety and responsibility coexistence with these remarkable animals so that they can continue to thrive across our county and state for generations to come.

**FURTHERMORE,** I ask our citizens to rededicate themselves to finding ways they can assist in protecting and preserving our environment, such as reusing and recycling materials that they purchase.

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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David Izraelevitz, Chair  
Los Alamos County Council

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Questions?