

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS “J”

MODEL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

- 1) Homeowners must be aware of the potential for vegetation damage by wildlife, particularly from deer feeding on green lawns, gardens, flowers, ornamental shrubs and trees in this subdivision. Homeowners are encouraged to plant non-palatable vegetation or protect their vegetation by using fencing, netting, repellents, etc. in order to avoid problems. Landscape plantings of certain species of native vegetation are less likely to suffer extensive feeding damage by deer. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife in Parks can provide a list of deer resistant plants and other resources.
- 2) Fruit bearing trees and shrubs are prohibited in this subdivision because they can regularly attract bears in the late summer and fall. Garden produce shall be picked and kept from accumulating on the ground.
- 3) Garbage shall be stored either in secure bear-resistant containers or indoors to avoid attracting wildlife such as bears. If stored indoors, garbage cans may not be set out until the morning of garbage pickup and must be brought in that same evening. When homes are occupied seasonally and when the occupants are away for 7 days or more, garbage from the home, other buildings or containers must be removed from the property prior to their departure.
- 4) Wildlife shall not be fed or offered supplements (such as salt or mineral blocks), attractants, or bait. Feeding wildlife results in unnatural concentrations of animals that can lead to overuse of vegetation, disease transmission and other adverse effects. Such actions unnecessarily accustom wild animals to humans, which can be dangerous for both. It is against state law (Montana Code Annotated 87-3-130) to purposely or knowingly attract bears with supplemental food attractants (any food, garbage or other attractant for game animals) or to provide supplemental feed attractants in a manner that results in “an artificial concentration of game animals that may potentially contribute to the transmission of disease or that constitutes a threat to public safety.” Also homeowners should be aware that deer might attract mountain lions.
- 5) Birdseed is an attractant to bears and deer. Use of bird feeders is not recommended from April 1st through November 30th. If used, bird feeders must: a) be suspended a minimum of 10 feet above ground level (measured from the bottom catch plate), b) be at least 4 feet from any support poles or points, and c) designed with a catch plate located below the feeder and fixed such that it collects the seed knocked off the feeder by feeding birds. Hummingbird feeders shall follow the same criteria.
- 6) Pets shall be confined to the house, in a fenced yard, or in an outdoor kennel area when not under the immediate control of the owner, and not allowed to roam as they can chase and kill big game and small birds and mammals. Under Montana Code Annotated 87-3-124 it is illegal for dogs to chase hoofed game animals. Cats shall be fitted with a bell on the collar. Dog kennels shall be constructed with a secure roof in known mountain lion habitat.
- 7) Pet food shall be stored indoors, in closed buildings, or in bear-resistant containers in order to avoid attracting wildlife such as bears, mountain lions, skunks and other wildlife. Pets shall be fed indoors or inside kennels.

- 8) Barbeque grills shall be stored indoors, and permanent outdoor barbeque grills are prohibited. Barbeque grills shall be kept clean as food spills and smells on and near the grill can attract bears and other wildlife.
- 9) The use of privacy fencing, chain link fencing and other restrictive access fencing is limited to the immediate area surrounding the home and garden. Fencing outside of the immediate residential area shall be of solid rail or wire with a maximum height of 40" and bottom rail or wire height of 18". Fencing of lot boundaries is discouraged.
- 10) Compost piles can attract bears and skunks and are prohibited.
- 11) Beehives can attract bears and are prohibited.
- 12) Livestock or domestic animals such as horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and geese and llamas can attract bears, mountain lions, coyotes and wolves and are prohibited.
- 13) These "living with wildlife" provisions cannot be altered or eliminated without the consent of the Lake County Board of Commissioners and only when the (Name of Subdivision) Homeowners Association provides a financial mechanism to defray the costs associated with dealing with wildlife conflict by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- 14) No lot in the (Name of Subdivision) shall be further divided.
- 15) Construction shall not take place within ¼ mile of a bald eagle nest or within 150 feet of an owl, hawk, or other raptor nest from February 1 to August 15 when the nest is in use.