

From: Tawna Wilsey [tawna@cadence.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2008 1:13 PM
To: homeowners@weatherbystates.org
Cc: boardmembers@weatherbystates.org; acc@weatherbystates.org
Subject: Wildlife sightings in Weatherby....

Dear Weatherby Homeowners,

It has come to our attention that there have been a couple of black bear sightings reported in our area recently. Like some of us, they are probably out foraging for the wonderful berries in our nearby woods. Since we do live in a rural wooded area, encounters with wildlife are inevitable. While this is not cause for immediate alarm, please consider the following safety measures:

- * Store pet food in the house.
- * Store garbage cans in your garage, and do not set cans out until the morning of garbage pick up.
- * Be aware that bird feeders attract bears.
- * When out in the brush picking berries, travel in groups and make lots of noise (Alert the bears -- they don't want to run into you any more than you want to run into them!)
Keep children and pets close and don't let them wander off.

At the request of a homeowner, I called the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to ask how they handle bear sightings. The WDFW does not respond to reports of bears unless they are aggressive and there have been no reports of aggressive bears here in our area. This is an excellent opportunity to educate our children and community about the variety of wildlife here and how to be safe and wildlife-wise. They recommended their website:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

For more information on Bears, Coyotes, Cougars, and Raccoons (and other animals, too!):

[Living with Wildlife - Cougars](#)

[Living with Wildlife - Black Bears](#)

[Living with Wildlife - Coyotes](#)

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/raccoons.htm>

To see reports of cougar sightings in Washington state:

<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/enf/danger/reporting/>

Best regards,

Tawna Wilsey