

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND PROTOCOL**

The woods and waters that we love to explore are where wildlife of all kinds calls home. Being aware of that fact is the first step towards having positive encounters with whatever critters you may run into while out on your outdoor adventures.

Wildlife is a wonderful part of our camp, and being able to observe and encounter it is awesome. However, doing so in a safe way is important for both you and the wildlife you may come across. Safety training will be a part of annual training and reviewed again at the beginning of each session.

### **CABINS**

1. Food is not allowed in any camper cabins.
2. Bear-resistant trash containers will be provided throughout camp. Do not pile garbage on the outside. If they are full contact Site Manager.

### **WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER ON-SITE**

1. If a bear, mountain lion, wolf or moose is spotted, do not approach the animal. Gather campers and anyone else you can safely notify to get inside the nearest building.
2. Alert leadership staff of the wildlife sighting.
3. Leadership staff will alert the remainder of staff via radio and by blowing the whistles. Nobody may leave the buildings until a campus wide clearance has been issued by the Program Manager or Site Manager.
4. If a bear or mountain lion is encountered, stay calm. Do not run. Stand tall and slowly back away facing the animal. Speak calmly and regularly.
5. Do not approach any wildlife, including but not limited to deer, elk, foxes and coyotes.

### **WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER OFF-SITE**

1. Bear spray will be carried on the belt by the volunteer leader of any group that goes hiking or mountain biking. Training on how to use the bear spray will be provided at the beginning of each camp session. While bears are interesting to observe from a safe distance and a secure location, surprising one at close range is the last thing you want to do. That holds especially true if said bear is a mother with cubs.
2. Make noise. Periodically shout or make a loud noise which allows any nearby predators to be aware of your presence and vacate the area.
3. Do not harass or stress a wild animal in any way. This includes trying to get close to a creature, snapping too many photos as it tries to go about its day, or attempting to feed wild animals. All of these things are harmful to wild animals.
4. If you ever come across an injured animal (or a baby animal that appears to be alone or orphaned), leave the animal alone and alert the appropriate authorities.

### **GENERAL PROPERTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

1. Do not feed wildlife.
2. No pets may reside on site. If domestic animals are visiting the property, they shall be kept under direct control at all times.
3. Beavers are prevalent on portions of the property. Therefore, beaver management is learning to coexist with the beavers, including conservation of riparian areas and established beaver lodges. Beavers may fell a wide variety of trees, though they tend to cut and fell deciduous trees. Most, but not all, cutting occurs within 50 feet of the water. In areas where trees are wished to be protected, prevention methods such as wrapping the base of trees 3 feet high may be effective.
4. Seasonal wildlife such as elk and deer frequent the area. No harassment of any kind is allowed. Wildlife shall be allowed to migrate through the property.
5. To allow wildlife to migrate through the property, all perimeter fencing on Camp Rainbow Gold property shall be "wildlife friendly". This fencing shall have a top rail no higher than 40", a

minimum of 18" between the bottom rail and the ground, and at least 18" between rails. A drop rail for wildlife passage shall be provided approximately every 100'.

6. "No Trespassing" (or similar language) or 100 square inches of high visibility orange paint shall be posted every 660 feet or at all reasonable access points.
7. All outdoor garbage containers and dumpsters shall be bear-resistant.
8. Access on ponds within riparian areas shall not occur during bird nesting seasons.
9. Although not specific to wildlife, follow all U.S. Forest Service and BLM guidelines and restrictions that may be in effect for outdoor camp fires. All camp fire activities shall be supervised by camp staff. Portable fire extinguishing equipment shall be readily available.