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BEAR SIGHTINGS IN PARK CITY AND SUMMIT COUNTY

Park City, Utah – May 7, 2015: Over the past week there have been multiple bear sightings within Park City and Summit County. Due to the increase in activity in residential areas, residents are asked to report any bear sightings within City limits to local authorities at **435-615-5500**. Information regarding bear safety is provided below. Additional information can be found on the Division of Wildlife Resources website at <http://wildlife.utah.gov/learn-more/bear-safety.html>.

If a bear enters your yard, give it an obvious escape route — do not corner it. Black bears can quickly inflict thousands of dollars in property damage. You can reduce or eliminate visits from bears if you:

Dispose of trash carefully

- Store trash in a secure location or bear-safe container.
- Put your trash out for pick-up in the morning, rather than the previous night.
- Clean your trash container regularly.
- Clean up BBQ grills.
- Remove hummingbird feeders.
- Don't leave scraps of food outside.

If you encounter a bear:

- **Stand your ground.** Never back up, lie down, or play dead. Stay calm and give the bear a chance to leave. Prepare to use your bear spray or another deterrent.
- **Don't run away or climb a tree.** Black bears are excellent climbers and can run up to 35 mph — you cannot outclimb or outrun them.
- **Know bear behavior.** If a bear stands up, grunts, moans or makes other sounds, it's not being aggressive. These are the ways a bear gets a better look or smell and expresses its interest.

Trail users are asked to be aware of the increased bear activity. Take the following precautions while hiking: Stay alert at dawn and dusk, when bears are more active.

- Go with a group, if possible.
- Make noise as you travel through dense cover.
- Stay away from animal carcasses.
- Store food, trash, and scented items (such as sunscreen) in airtight plastic bags.
- Keep children in the center of the group.

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