

WHO ENFORCES

this regulation, and what is the penalty?

The planning and zoning enforcement officer of Teton County and the Town of Jackson Police are in charge of enforcement. Failure to comply with regulations will result in referral of the matter to the County Attorney for prosecution, with the maximum penalty of \$750 per day. Each day is considered a separate offense.

WHAT SHOULD I DO

if I suspect a violation?

Provide this information to the person who may be feeding wildlife, or report it to the Teton County Planning and Zoning Enforcement Officer (733-3959) or the Town of Jackson Police through Law Enforcement Dispatch (733-2331).

FOR MORE

information:

- Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. 733-2321
- Teton County Planning Dept. 733-3959
- Teton County Weed & Pest 733-8419
- Town of Jackson 733-3932
- Law Enforcement Dispatch 733-2331
- Jackson Hole Land Trust 733-4707
- Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation 739-0968
- Teton County web site -www.tetonwyo/org
- Town of Jackson web site - www.townofjackson.com
- Living With Wildlife Foundation (406) 754-0010 – www.lwwf.org
- The Murie Center 739-2246 (new neighbor information seminars)

WHY NOT

Feed Wildlife?

Photo Credit: Wyoming Game & Fish Department



For the safety of people and the welfare of wildlife. Many people who love wildlife assume that feeding helps them to survive harsh winters. Instead, these efforts put the animals at risk of dying or being killed. Animals that are fed grow accustomed to human activity and lose their fear of people. These wild animals may become bold and aggressive, or even dangerous to people and pets.



The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1993 by concerned citizens to help protect our valley's wildlife. Problems have surfaced that affect wildlife movements, their ability to forage, to safely cross roads and their overall ability to survive. Challenges to wildlife include fencing, electrical power lines, high mortality on our roads, private feeding of wildlife, and winter range closure violations. Many of these human-caused situations are unintentional on our part, and can be remedied by removing obstacles and providing information to the community. Our organization draws upon the knowledge and experience of wildlife experts to help solve these complex problems. Ultimately, lasting changes occur when people are able to live compatibly with wildlife.



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This brochure was produced by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
Special thanks to the following contributors who made this brochure possible:
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Community Foundation of Jackson Hole

WHY NOT

Feed Us ?





Even though people may feed high quality food, some animals' digestive systems cannot tolerate supplemental feeding.

"We've hauled off a lot of dead animals with a full belly!"
(Bernie Holz, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Supervisor, JH News and Guide, June 25, 2003)

Feeding unnaturally concentrates animals, leading to the spread of wildlife disease, increased mortality of animals on roads, damage to surrounding vegetation, and disruption of seasonal migrations.



In 2001, Wyoming Game and Fish officers euthanized an unprecedented 30 bears in the Jackson/Pinedale region alone. The majority were killed because they associated people with food or had received food rewards. In June 2004 a young black bear was euthanized after getting into bird feeders and garbage.



"Unfortunately, bears often become habituated to human food simply because people don't make the effort to keep their property free of attractants....this landowner had already been warned about their bird feeders being too low to the ground." Eric Shorma, Bear Management Officer, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Each year, the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WY G&F Dept.) responds to numerous such incidents and the number has increased steadily over the years.

Concentrations of deer or elk have attracted predators such as mountain lions into residential areas.

"While attacks by cougars on people in Teton County have not occurred, we will assuredly invite one by bringing lions into more contact with people by feeding deer." Dr. Joel Berger, Ph.D., Wildlife Conservation Society Teton Field Office.

FEEDING IS AGAINST TOWN AND COUNTY REGULATIONS

Regulations state: No person shall knowingly or intentionally provide supplemental feed attractants to the following animals, unless specifically authorized by an agency of either the State of Wyoming or the United States of America:

- antelope
- bighorn sheep
- deer
- elk
- moose
- mountain lions
- mountain goats
- bobcats
- black bears
- grizzly bears
- raccoons
- foxes
- lynx
- wild bison
- wolves
- coyotes

Supplemental attractants are defined as any human food, pet food, hay, forage product or supplement, grain, seed or birdseed, garbage, or other attractant made available to the animals mentioned above. It is important to note that this regulation permits the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to authorize feeding if department biologists determine such is advisable. Visit www.tetonwyo.org for a copy of the full amendment.



HOW CAN I HELP?

Educate friends and neighbors about the negative impacts of wildlife feeding.

Plant for wildlife you would like to attract; numerous plants attract animals ranging from big game to hummingbirds. If you would like to discourage browsing on your landscaping, there are trees and other plants that are unattractive to wildlife. WY G&F Dept. has recommendations in their publications.

Leave old growth and snags for cavity nesting birds.

Rid your property of noxious weeds that replace natural forage.

If you have a fence, make it wildlife friendly; information is available from the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation at 739-0968.

If you have an old barbed wire fence, contact the Wildlife Foundation for help with its removal.

An excellent resource for more information is Charlie Craighead's book, Who Ate the Backyard, available at the Greater Yellowstone Area Visitor Center, local bookstores and the Teton County Library. Also recommended is *Feeding Wildlife...Just Say No!*, a booklet available through the Wildlife Management Institute (202) 371-1808 or visit www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org



WHAT ABOUT feeding birds?

The regulations do not prohibit bird feeders, but it is important that bird feeders be placed where bears and deer cannot reach them. WY G&F Dept. recommends a minimum height of 10 feet from any natural or artificial elevation. Feeders also must be 4 feet out from anything that a bear can climb or stand on to get to your bird feeder. A long pole with a hook makes it easier to clean and refill your feeder. Contact WY G&F Dept. for more info.



WHAT IF a bear raids my garbage?

If you live in an area where any wild animal might find its way into your garbage, please invest in bear-resistant garbage containers or be sure to secure garbage cans, dog food, and other attractants so that bears can't get into them. Visit *Living with Wildlife Foundation* at www.lwwf to find bear resistance containers or contact WY G&F Dept. or the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

WHAT IF moose and elk are attracted to my livestock feed?

If feed meant for livestock attracts wildlife, a representative from the Town, County, or WY G&F Dept. might visit the property owner and make recommendations for securing feed out of reach of wildlife. A violation only occurs if there is evident intent on the part of the property owner to feed wildlife. Agricultural operations taxed as such are exempt from the regulations.