



Produced October 2, 2026 by Mountain View BearSmart Society

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## **BEAR ACTIVITY: September 4 to October 1, 2026 in Mountain View County and Clearwater County, Alberta**

Mountain View BearSmart provides a weekly summary of bear and cougar sightings from Mountain View County (MVC) and Clearwater County (CC) in Alberta during March/April to October/November (the months that bears are active outside their winter dens). This summary is based upon a compilation of information provided by government agencies and unconfirmed sightings reported by the public each week. It is intended to make the public aware of where bears, cougars, or other wildlife have been seen in the two counties. It is not intended to be used as a real time, complete record of where bears and other wildlife are located.

### **BEARS CAN BE ENCOUNTERED ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!**

**If the presence of a bear or other wildlife is a human safety concern or causing damage to property or livestock,**  
call the 24 hour toll-free Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800.  
If the situation is a public safety emergency, call 9-1-1.

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 29, 2026** In the mid-afternoon on September 29, a black bear was seen on the road to Mitchell Lake. (info from motorist)

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**Black Bear Sighting – Red Deer County September 27, 2026** Just after midnight on the morning of September 27, a black bear was seen near a residence E of Red Lodge Provincial Park. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 27, 2026** On September 26, a bear broke through the electric fence and destroyed 2 beehives E of Camp Evergreen. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – CC September 26, 2026** After midnight on the morning of September 26, a grizzly bear was photographed by a trail camera S of Strubel Lake. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 27, 2026** Late in the evening on September 25, 4 young bears were in the yard of a residence NE of Bergen. Barking dogs and flashlights were enough to scare the bears away. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – Red Deer County September 25, 2026** Before dawn on September 25, a black bear was seen on the front lawn of a residence E of Red Lodge Provincial Park. Bear scat has been seen in the pastures and on the front lawn a few times in the past week. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – MVC September 29, 2026** After midnight on the morning of September 24, a grizzly bear was photographed by a trail camera W of Bearberry. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – CC September 24, 2026** Before dawn on September 23, a cougar was photographed by a trail camera S of Strubel lake. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC September 27, 2026** In the evening on September 22, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 25, 2026** In the evening on September 22, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera E of the James River Bridge Store. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 22, 2026** During the night on September 20, a bear broke into bee hives SE of Harmattan. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 22, 2026** In the evening on September 20, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera NW of Burnstick Lake. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – CC September 19, 2026** After midnight on September 19, a bear was photographed by a trail camera NW of Burnstick Lake. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – MVC September 18, 2026** On September 18, a grizzly bear was seen on a property SE of Sundre. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – MVC September 27, 2026** In the evening on September 17, a grizzly bear was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC September 15, 2026** A black bear with 3 cubs was seen SE of the junction of Highway 22 and Westcott Road.

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 15, 2026** In the evening on September 14, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera NE of Cow Lake. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – Rocky View County September 14, 2026** In the early evening on September 14, a cougar was seen crossing a road N of Dartique Hall. (info from motorist)

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 14, 2026** Before dawn on September 14, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera outside a residence in a subdivision W of Sundre on the Coal Camp Road. The bear has been photographed by other cameras in the past 4 days. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – CC September 15, 2026** Just after midnight on the morning of September 14, a cougar was photographed by a trail camera W of the Clearwater Store. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – MVC September 12, 2026** In the morning on September 12, a cougar was seen near a facility N of Bergen Road & just W of Highway 22. (info from industry personnel)

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**Black Bear Sighting – CC September 12, 2026** Before dawn on September 12, a black bear was seen wandering through a property W of Garrington Bridge on Highway 587. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – MVC September 20, 2026** Just before midnight on September 11, a cougar was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – CC September 10, 2026** In the evening on September 10, a cougar was seen crossing the gravel road in the Burnstick Lake area. (info from motorist)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 10, 2026** In the early afternoon on September 10, a young, reddish-coloured bear was seen along a road in the Winchell Lake area. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 10, 2026** On September 9, two bears demolished a bee yard SW of Harmattan. Unfortunately, the electric fence was not working. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – CC September 10, 2026** In the early evening on September 9, 2 grizzly bears were photographed by a trail camera S of Strubel Lake. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – CC September 9, 2026** On September 9, footprints of a grizzly bear were seen in the yard of a residence in the Everdell area just W of Highway 22 – the bear ate all the apples off the trees. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC September 7, 2026** During the night on September 5, a black bear broke thru an electric fence and damaged bee hives E of Bergen. The hives were cleaned up and moved but the black bear was photographed by a trail camera at the site the evening of September 6. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – Red Deer County September 6, 2026** On September 5, bear scat was seen in a pasture E of Red Lodge Provincial Park. In the morning on September 6, a black bear was seen on the driveway of the residence. A bear banger

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was discharged to scare the bear away. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sightings – MVC September 5, 2026** A brown-coloured black bear has been seen a number of times in the Winchell Lake area. (info from land owner)

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Alberta is bear country so no matter where you live or spend your leisure time in this province, even in some urban areas, you will be near bears or bear habitat. You need to **Be Bear Smart**: Know how to reduce the likelihood of an encounter and be prepared should an encounter take place; Hike in groups; Make enough noise that wildlife will hear you coming and move away; Carry bear spray and know how to use it; Give all wildlife plenty of space to move away from you; Always be aware of your surroundings - pay attention to signs of bear activity such as scats, tracks, and digging; Keep a clean campsite - do not leave food, drinks or garbage out unattended or overnight. Food, drinks, toiletries, toothpaste, pet food, and garbage should be put in odour proof containers and stored in your vehicle. Never abandon, burn, or bury food scraps. Pack out your garbage.

Mountain View County and Clearwater County are situated between the wilderness of the national parks and provincial forest reserves to the west and the extensively cultivated agricultural lands to the east. County residents share their land with numerous species of wildlife and human-wildlife conflicts will arise, particularly with bears and cougars. The prime focus for wildlife is the search for food. Bears, cougars and other wildlife use the valley bottoms and river corridors to move, feed, and sustain their populations. Since the same habitat is also coveted by humans, this creates a potential for conflict. You can do your part to ensure humans and wildlife can coexist - with a few changes around your home, you can minimize the possibility of conflict with wildlife. **Be Bear Smart at home:** Remove attractants in your yard such as garbage, bird feeders, pet food, and compost piles; Clean the BBQ; Do not plant trees, shrubs or plants that produce fruit or berries. If you already have such plants, pick fruit and berries as soon as they ripen so they do not draw the bear into your yard; On agricultural lands, be aware that livestock carcasses, cereal and green feed crops, and grain storage can attract bears. Electric fence can keep bears out of these areas. **Be Cougar Smart at home:** Do not feed or otherwise attract deer into your yard as this could draw in cougars which prey on them; Be aware of your surroundings especially at dawn and dusk and near the edges of bushy and forested areas; Cougars may perceive small children and pets as prey.

For information on bear spray and other deterrents (noisemakers, bear bangers, etc):

<https://www.alberta.ca/deterrants-bear-spray-and-noisemakers>

and a video on how to use bear spray:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR708efjTKU>

If you want to report a bear, cougar or other wildlife sighting in your area for us to post on our website and in our weekly activity report, email it to: [sightings@mountainviewbearsmart.com](mailto:sightings@mountainviewbearsmart.com)

(Your personal information and land location is kept confidential and not posted to the website)

As a courtesy, please let your closest neighbours know of the sighting by phone, text, Facebook, etc.

For more information on Alberta BearSmart and about bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, etc, please check out these Government of Alberta websites at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-bearsmart-program-overview>

<https://www.alberta.ca/living-with-wildlife>

Other BearSmart communities in Alberta that provide information or sightings:

1. Canmore, Bow Valley, Kananaskis, MD of Bighorn: <https://www.biosphereinstitute.org/wildsmart>
2. Bragg Creek: [www.braggcreekwild.ca/](http://www.braggcreekwild.ca/)
3. MDs of Pincher Ck, Willow Ck, Ranchland, & Cardston County: <https://www.watertonbiosphere.com>
4. Crowsnest Pass: <http://www.crowsnestconservation.ca/being-bearsmart.html>

For information on safety advisories (including bears and cougars) in all Alberta Provincial Parks:

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/advisories-public-safety/>

For bear and other information from Banff National Park:

<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/bulletins>

(this site also has links for Yoho, Kootenay, Jasper, and Mount Revelstoke/Glacier National Parks)

Recent AEP reports on bears, cougars, predation, etc relating to our two counties:

1. Foothills Research Institute – 2018 Estimate of Grizzly Bear Population for BMA4 Summary: [https://firesearch.ca/sites/default/files/GBP\\_2021\\_03\\_BMA%204%20and%207%20summary%20materials.pdf](https://firesearch.ca/sites/default/files/GBP_2021_03_BMA%204%20and%207%20summary%20materials.pdf)
2. Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan 2020: [Alberta grizzly bear recovery plan - Open Government](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/grizzly-bear-recovery-plan-open-government)
3. Grizzly Bear Occurrence Summary BMA4 – 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/grizzly-bear-occurrence-summary-bma-4>

4. Grizzly Bear Mortality Summary 2009-2020  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/grizzly-bear-mortality-summary>
5. Human-Cougar Occurrence Summary 2015-2018  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/human-cougar-occurrence-summary-human-cougar-coexistence-in-the-south-saskatchewan-region>
6. Predator Compensation 2015-2020  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/predator-compensation-south-saskatchewan-region>

## **2026 BEAR ACTIVITY in Mountain View County and Clearwater County, Alberta**

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**Black Bear Capture – MVC September 5, 2026** On September 3, a bear got thru the electric fence and damaged bee hives E of Camp Evergreen. (info from land owner) Fish & Wildlife set a trap and captured a black bear on September 4.

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**Cougar Sighting – CC September 4, 2026** In the early evening on September 3, a cougar was seen at a residence N of the Ricinus cemetery. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC September 3, 2026** In the early evening on September 3, a black bear was seen in the Winchell Lake area. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC September 3, 2026** In the late evening on September 2, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting – MVC September 1, 2026** Footprints of a grizzly bear were seen in the mud E of Camp Evergreen. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sighting MVC – September 12, 2026** Just after dawn on August 30, a grizzly bear with 3 large cubs was photographed by a trail camera NE of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Black Bear Sighting – Rockyview County August 27, 2026** In the late afternoon on August 27, a black bear was seen crossing Highway 22 at Westbrook School. (info from motorist)

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**Black Bear Sighting – Red Deer County August 27, 2026** Just before noon on August 27, a black bear was seen in the yard of a residence E of Red Lodge Provincial Park. The bear was scared away with a bear banger. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – MVC September 3, 2026** Just before midnight on August 26, a bear was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Grizzly Bear Sightings – MVC August 26, 2026** Before dawn on August 25 and again late the same evening, a grizzly bear was photographed by a trail camera E of Bergen. (info from land owner)

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**Cougar Sighting – MVC August 26, 2026** Before dawn on August 25, a cougar was seen in the Winchell Lake area. (info from land owner)

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**Bear Sighting – Red Deer County August 25, 2026** In the evening on August 24, a bear was seen crossing the road into Red Lodge Provincial Park. (info from motorist)

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**Black Bear Sighting – MVC August 24, 2026** In the evening on August 24, a black bear was photographed by a trail camera N of Highway 27 in the Westward Ho area. (info from land owner)

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(Sightings prior to August 24<sup>th</sup> are still available on the website)

If you wish to unsubscribe from our weekly report, please email us at:  
[info@mountainviewbearsmart.com](mailto:info@mountainviewbearsmart.com)