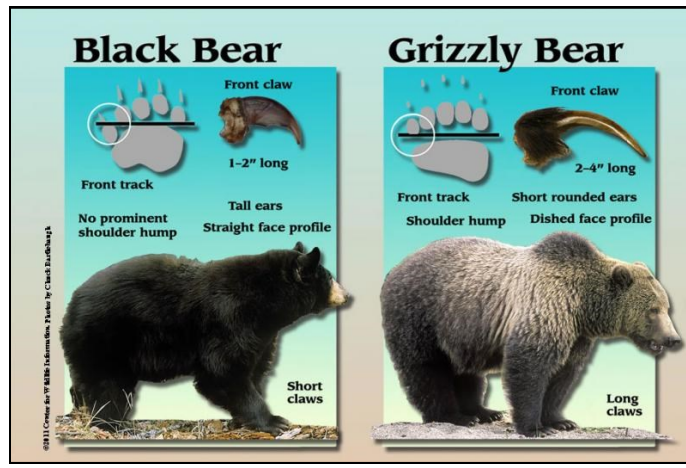


Montana is home to both black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*).



<http://www.bearsmart.com/about-bears/know-the-difference/>

A well-known fact to beekeepers and bears alike is that honey is simply irresistible. While bees consider it a vital part of their livelihood, for bears, it's a delectable dessert filled with protein-rich larvae waiting to be savored. However, bears lack the human nature to extract honey in a careful, efficient manner, so once a black bear or grizzly catches wind of the sweet scent, with their keen noses leading the way, everyone is at risk.

With time, grizzly bears and black bears can associate humans with food. Beehives become an easy and enticing target, setting the stage for confrontations that are not only unpleasant but also hazardous for bears, humans, and property alike. What was once a peaceful apiary can swiftly transform into a battleground, with bears driven by the desire for their sweet reward, beekeepers defending their livelihoods, and bees fiercely protecting their homes.

Enter the hero of our story: electric fencing. This effective tool stands as the guardian of your hives. Depending on the number of hives and hive locations you may consider either permanent or temporary fences. Explore resources on bear-exclusion fencing and installation tips to fortify your apiary:

- [Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Electric Fencing Guide](#)
- [Defenders of Wildlife Electric Fence Incentive Form](#)
- [How to Build an Electric Fence Video provided by Conservation Media and Defenders of Wildlife](#)
- [FWP Bear Aware YouTube Playlist](#)
- [Montana Bear Managers' Contact Information](#)

*Information provided by MT Fish Wildlife & Parks. Please contact FWP with any inquiries about tools for managing bears near apiaries.*



**Danielle Oyler: Wildlife Stewardship Outreach Specialist**  
**MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Communications & Education Division**

**Danielle.Oyler@mt.gov**

**Office: 406-577-7872**

