

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

BEARS

Their Survival Depends on You

Black bears are widespread in Olympic National Park. They require wild habitat and freedom from human contact to survive as a species. Bears are opportunistic, and based on one successful pilfering of food can develop behavior leading to their eventual removal. It is important, therefore, for park visitors to manage their food storage, dirty dishes and garbage so as to not encourage a bear to seek them out as alternate food sources. Please assure a natural and wild population of bears by observing the following:

- *Store all foodstuffs in the trunk of your car when you leave your vehicle.* If you don't have a trunk, store unopened food containers covered with a blanket on the floor. Leave the windows closed.
- *Do not leave food unattended at your campsite.* At drive-in sites, store food in your vehicle. In the backcountry, use bear wires or other food storing devices where provided. Otherwise, store food by counterbalancing as shown on the reverse side of this handout.
- *In the backcountry, or when garbage cans are not provided, treat your garbage and leftovers as you would your food - hanging it or storing in your vehicle.* Pack out all food scraps. Soap, toothpaste and other sweet-smelling toiletries may also attract bears and should be stored with food. Avoid odor-tainting your backpack by carrying food and garbage in plastic bags.

- *Keep a clean camp.* Wash your dishes directly after a meal. Clean up spilled food. Avoid cooking or eating in tents.
- *If a bear does come into your camp, knock pots and pans together and make noise to discourage any further exploration.* Double-check and remove any smelly food or garbage attractants.

Respect wildlife and enjoy bears at a distance.

Don't Make A Good Bear Go Bad!

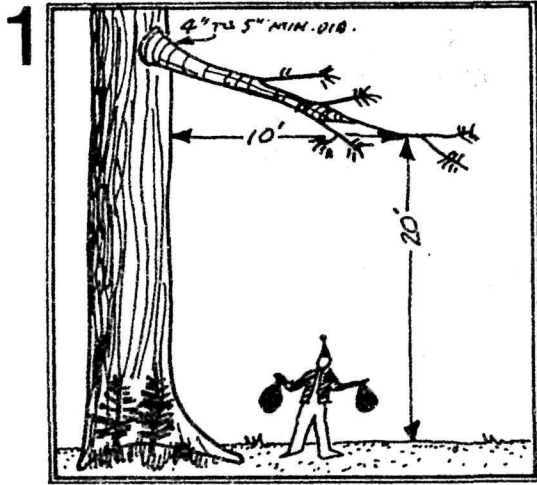


REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

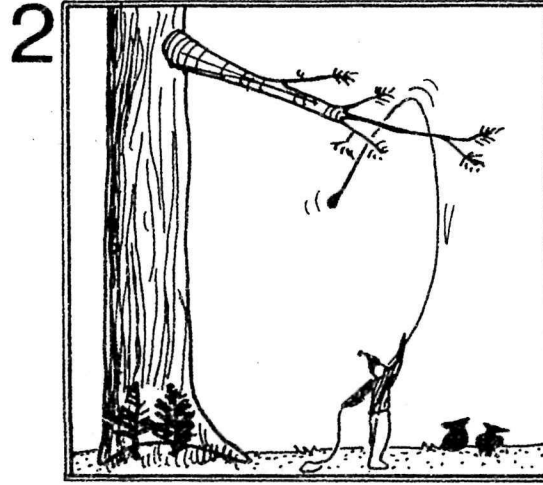
BACKPACKERS BEWARE! BEARS WANT YOUR FOOD, TOO!

BACKCOUNTRY FOOD STORAGE

use of counter-balance technique



1 Find a tree with a "live" branch 4" to 5" in diameter that has a down slope to it, and nothing below it that could support a bear. Balance food-sacks, with no more than 10 pounds per sack.



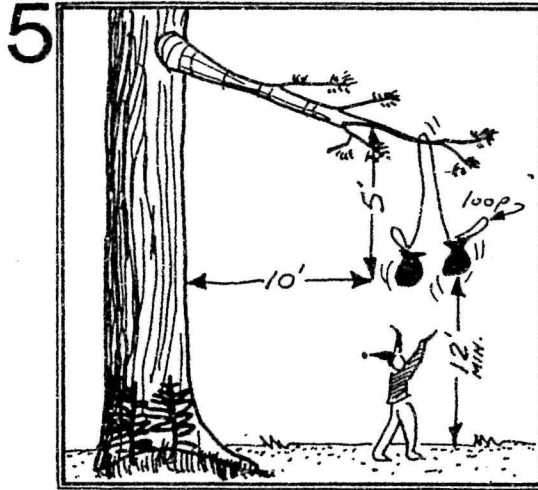
2 Tie a weight to the end of a piece of rope and toss it over the end of the branch.



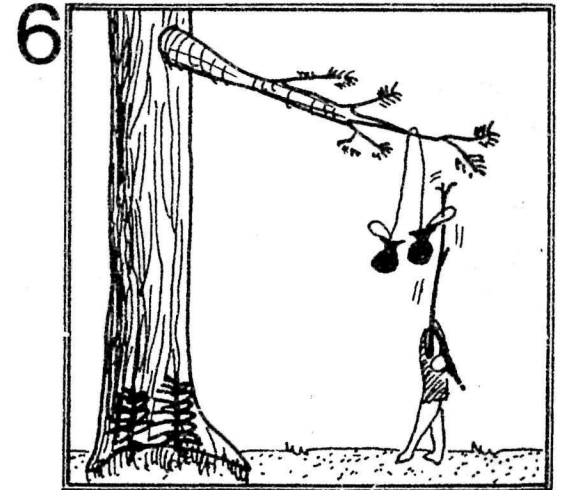
3 Move the rope as far out on the branch as possible so that it will support the weight of the food-sacks but not a bear.



4 Tie a secure loop in the rope near one sack and pull it up. Next tie another secure loop near the second sack and put excess rope inside the sack.



5 Toss this second sack upward so that the food-sacks are evenly balanced over the end of the branch.



6 To retrieve the sacks, hook either loop on either sack with a long stick and pull downward.

GOOD COUNTER-BALANCING TAKES PRACTICE / HANG GARBAGE LIKE FOOD.....