

Black Bears and Garbage in Issaquah Highlands

- Garbage cans stored outside or placed out side Thursday evening before garbage pick-up lures black bears into Issaquah Highlands.
- Bears that associate people with food with no negative consequences are no longer afraid of people. The bears are now HABITUATED.
- Bears are opportunistic feeders with excellent memories. Week after week bears will return for an easy high calorie meal. Now the bears are FOOD CONDITIONED and may become nuisance bears.
- NUISANCE bears usually cause property damage in their search for food or may become aggressive towards people. In most cases, the nuisance bears will be killed or relocated.
- With the nuisance bears killed/removed, other bears will move into Issaquah Highlands lured by the smell of garbage, and the cycle continues.