



Eagle Bend West Community Association, Inc.

In the greater Harbor Village community- a great place to live!

To: Members, Eagle Bend West Community Association, Inc.

Date: July 13, 2020

Subject: Memo to Members: Bear Update with Videos and Photos

Our visiting grizzly bear is now a resident of the Spotted Bear Drainage east of us.

On Tuesday morning, July 7, our neighbors just north of EBW once again spotted the bear that had recently visited our neighborhood, eating bird seed and running to the river between a couple of our homes on Harbor Drive.

This time, the bear was sauntering just outside Marc and Kay Malpeli's fenced backyard along a canal entering the Flathead River. As Marc's video at the [link](#) below shows, she (yes, it turned out to be a female) eventually went into the river and swam upstream.

We notified Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks since its personnel had been trying to trap the bear for removal to a new home away from people. We then helped identify and find contact information for the owners of property along Hanging Rock Drive where FWP thought trapping might be successful. The owner agreed to trap placement, and at around 9:30 Tuesday evening the high-tech trap alerted FWP that the door had been triggered.

The next day a number of EBW residents got to see the trap and the bear who seemed to be taking everything pretty much in stride. All were impressed. FWP's grizzly specialist Tim Manley explained how the bear would be examined and then released.

The bear turned out to be 4-5 years old, weighing 352 pounds. FWP determined that she had become habituated (comfortable around human developments) and food-conditioned (seeking out unnatural foods like garbage and bird seed).

She was taken some 35 miles east of Bigfork and released on Thursday, July 9, adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. As you'll also see in a video at the link, she only needed a little encouragement to lope off toward a new home.

The bear video and photo Drop Box Link is [here](#), or paste the URL below into a browser: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hsapy8fjmk40jw/AADdUt_20vgiWUe225pVYXwwa?dl=0
(Don't paste into a search engine like Google or Bing, but rather a browser itself.)

We remind residents that we do live in bear country. And there are increasing bear encounters around the north shore of Flathead Lake. So please follow the reminders we published in a previous bear newsletter article. Also, we suggest residents and out-of-state guests check the FWP Be Bear Aware [website](#) section for good practices.

If you would like more information on the bear, its sightings and eventual trapping and relocation, feel free to call Bill Whitsitt at 406.309.0890.