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Well we're here on the southern end of the Blackfoot valley wilderness and we're in just some prime grizzly bear habitat. Grizzlies have always been back in the Blackfoot valley wilderness. In the last ten years or so they've been starting to come out here on the south end, and a lot of this is private land, land that hasn't had grizzly bear activity in the last 20, 30 years. It's really some prime bear habitat. And just this morning we had a bear here on the ranch walk down the road. They love to use the main roads for travel routes. But this is a very large scat probably from a big male grizzly that we have radio collared.

You can see the diameter is pretty big. It's a good two inches and if you look very closely you can see all the hawthorn berries and the little seeds. He's also been eating what we call horsetail. They love to gobble that up. There's also an oat field over here about a mile. And a lot of the bears are coming down to eat some of the oats in the grain field.

I could take you over here and show you some nice hawthorn berries. Hawthorn is one of our more dependable berries here in the Blackfoot valley. They are sweet, got a lot of seeds. They make pretty good jelly but what these bears do is they actually do exactly what I'm doing. They try to avoid these little thorns but they just rake the berries toward their face and gobble them up — so all night we probably had 10 or 12 different bears here on the ranch gobbling up hawthorns.

And a lot of the black bears and grizzly bears on the ranch are doing just exactly what I'm doing right now. They reach up, grab these nice lush berries and just eat them up and they eat them by the gallon. The berries are just one of the many bear foods on the on this particular ranch. Over here we have a large ponderosa pine that historically has had a lot of wasp activity. And it's just covered with bear scratches and just about every month any bear walking down the road here will check out this ponderosa pine to see if there's any hornet activity in there. In the early morning the hornets are cold and not moving very well so that's when these bears climb the tree and dish them out and gobble them up.

Okay here is the tree. There are quite a few different trees that the black bears have climbed and a few grizzlies have gone up here as well. The wasp nest is up about 40 feet or so and they dig in through a limb that's broken and dish out the wasps. Here you can see the scratch marks. And then here is a bite mark and what the bears will do is they will turn their heads sideways and bite the tree and they'll leave nice grooves like this in the tree. That's sort of a marking behavior you'll see in both black bears and grizzlies. A lot of people think that bears reach up and scratch but biting is what they are doing when they are marking and rubbing.

And the scratch marks that you see way up there that you think are like a 20 foot tall grizzly, are black bears coming back down a tree and rappelling downward with hind claws. Pretty good size bear to be biting right there. Probably 6 and a half feet right there and turning his head so he's a little taller than that. He's big, male probably 15 years old or so. The bite mark is right here. You can see the canine grooves, which is just a form of marking behavior.

The bite mark is right here. You can see the canine grooves. This a form of marking behavior that lets other bears know that he likes to travel through this country and they should watch out cause he's the boss.

There's a lot going on in the bear world that we don't understand and there's a lot of communication out there and a lot of it revolves around these marking trees. Just about every black bear and every grizzly will visit these trees and bite them and rub up them, rub against them and rub their cheeks on them and they'll get multiple bears over the course of a week. This is the tree they have been climbing and you can see a few faint scratches in here. Some on the back but if you look on this side there are some excellent scratches up higher and then the bite marks are here.

If you are living in an area and you have grizzly bears, lions, wolves, lots of deer and elk, you're in an area that's still really healthy. You know a lot of these urban areas, you just have a lot of white tailed deer and a lot of coyotes and foxes but if you still have grizzly bears and lions and wolves passing through your property then you're in some very prime very wild habitat — and that's exactly what we have here in the Blackfoot valley.

Oh and here we have a nice bite mark, probably from this grizzly that just walked by this morning. That's very fresh. They turn their heads sideways and just give her a good clomp so these are two different canine bites, probably from the same side. And here we have some scratches, these are a little older, probably a bear this spring climbing up the tree to see if there is any wasp activity up there.

We have a large male grizzly, male #107, that's on the ranch right now. He was captured up by Condon and was administered with an Argos GPS caller. He was captured I think in June about 40 miles from here. He came down here about a month ago just because it was a good place to come if you're a bear and he's very close and his signal is just booming in. He's definitely down here and it's a steady beat so be my guess he's in his day bed. I don't hear any mode changes so he's probably sleeping for the day.

Oh, we're getting a little closer. This scat here is very fresh. It isn't dried out at all. It's probably just a few hours old. And you can see it's just chock full of hawthorn. I don't see any other vegetation feeding in there. This bear is just eating hawthorn berries. As I said earlier this is just some prime bear habitat and we have multiple bears on this ranch at this time.

And you can see this bear has been walking mostly on the hard surface but every so often he hits some of this powdered dust and you can see a good hind foot here, a partial front and then a hind. And he's a pretty good-sized bear. You know his hind foot is about that long so I'm guessing that it probably is our male that we have a radio collar on. A few cows have walked right over the top of his tracks. This bear is feeding on hawthorn amongst quite a large cow calf herd. Knock on wood he's just minding his Ps and Qs and feeding on the natural foods.

Here is the rug tree. You will find rug trees like this right at the junction of where a bunch of roads and little ridges and meadows come together. It's got some fresh bear hair on it, some old scratch marks and a few bite marks. It looks like we've had a bear or two come down the road this morning and I believe one of them rubbed on the tree.

It looks like a female with young — at least one — and probably a yearling. I still see a bigger set of tracks too. And they're all going that a way, and they're all from this morning and last night so we've got lots of bear activity.