



BEAR-PROOFING CABIN INFORMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW) AND THE TAHOE INTERAGENCY BEAR TEAM (TIBT), WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH TIPS TO BETTER BEAR PROOF YOUR CABINS:

- **Remove food and toiletries from cabins seasonally:** The most important thing about bear proofing your cabin is to take out all food and toiletries when you leave for the season. This includes dry goods and cans such as oil, spices, flour, and pasta, as well as toothpaste, scented soaps and shampoos. Taking food and other scented items out before bears start their fall feeding frenzy is ideal, so consider removing food in September. Habituated bears in the area already recognize the caloric reward a sealed can of food will supply. When any food or scented toiletry has been left for a bear to find in one cabin, the Bears come to associate all cabins with food rewards and will start breaking into any cabin, whether or not food is available inside. Other Bear Wise basics can be seen on the attached Bear Wise At Home Basics Flyer.

- **Clean all cooking appliances:** Be sure to clean all grease and food debris from barbeques, stoves and ovens after use. From the exterior of the cabin, bears can pinpoint by smell where the kitchen oven/stove is located and have torn the siding off of cabin walls directly behind these appliances to access the scent.

- **Use bear resistant shutters to secure cabin effectively:** Shutters can be a great tool to protect your seasonal cabin from bears if designed and implemented properly. To maintain compliance with Forest Service policy and protect the heritage status of the cabins, shutters should not be designed to be permanently attached, unless these were included as part of the original design of the cabin. If the cabin has no shutters, new window protections should be

designed using hardware that allows you to remove them easily when you are present. This is considered a temporary attachment and will not impact the heritage status of the cabin.

When building bear window protections please consider:

- Using at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood
- Mount shutter as flush to the wall as possible
- Inset shutters inside the window frame
- Make them easy to take on and off so you can have protection whenever you are not present

Cover doors with bear resistant covers. To maintain compliance with Forest Service and State Historic policy and protect the heritage status of the cabins, door covers such as metal screens, cannot be designed to be permanently attached to the cabin. Door protection should use minimal hardware and be designed as a temporary cover that is removed when you are present at the cabin so that they will not impact your heritage status. These should be as visually unobtrusive as possible, preferably using natural materials such as wood. When building bear resistant doors please consider:

- Door should open out, not in
- If door opens in, design a way for it to be reinforced and prevent it from being pushed in
- Door handles with knobs are harder for bears to open than doors with lever handles.



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Please see the next pages “Protecting your Cabin from Bear Damage” for further information on protecting your cabins.

Pictures and comments are provided from Alaska Fish and Game document. It shows great examples of the best ways to effectively create shutter and door covers for seasonal cabins.

Employ electrical deterrents: Electrical mats and fencing are a great way to secure your cabin from bears when you are not physical there. Here are the companies who service the greater Tahoe area, along with a list of companies that sell portable electric fencing (there are more companies beyond this list). Please note that for all historically eligible or potentially historically eligible cabins, and in particular the Echo Lakes cabins where electrical utilities are not available, these systems must be attached to a solar battery system and NOT to the public utility system as required by Federal and State Cultural and Heritage policies. Also, the fences must be placed along the side of the cabin, as to not be deploying fences on public land.

<https://beariersolutions.com/>

<https://www.tahoebearbusters.com/>

<https://www.tahoebearfences.com/>

[Bear I EagleSafety.net](http://BearIEagleSafety.net)

[UDAP Pepper Power](#)

[Livestock Fencing & Fencing Supplies - KVSupply.com](#)

[Electric Fencing – Margo Supplies](#)

Again please see the attached flyer, “Keeping Bears out of Cabins” for further information on electric fencing and mats.

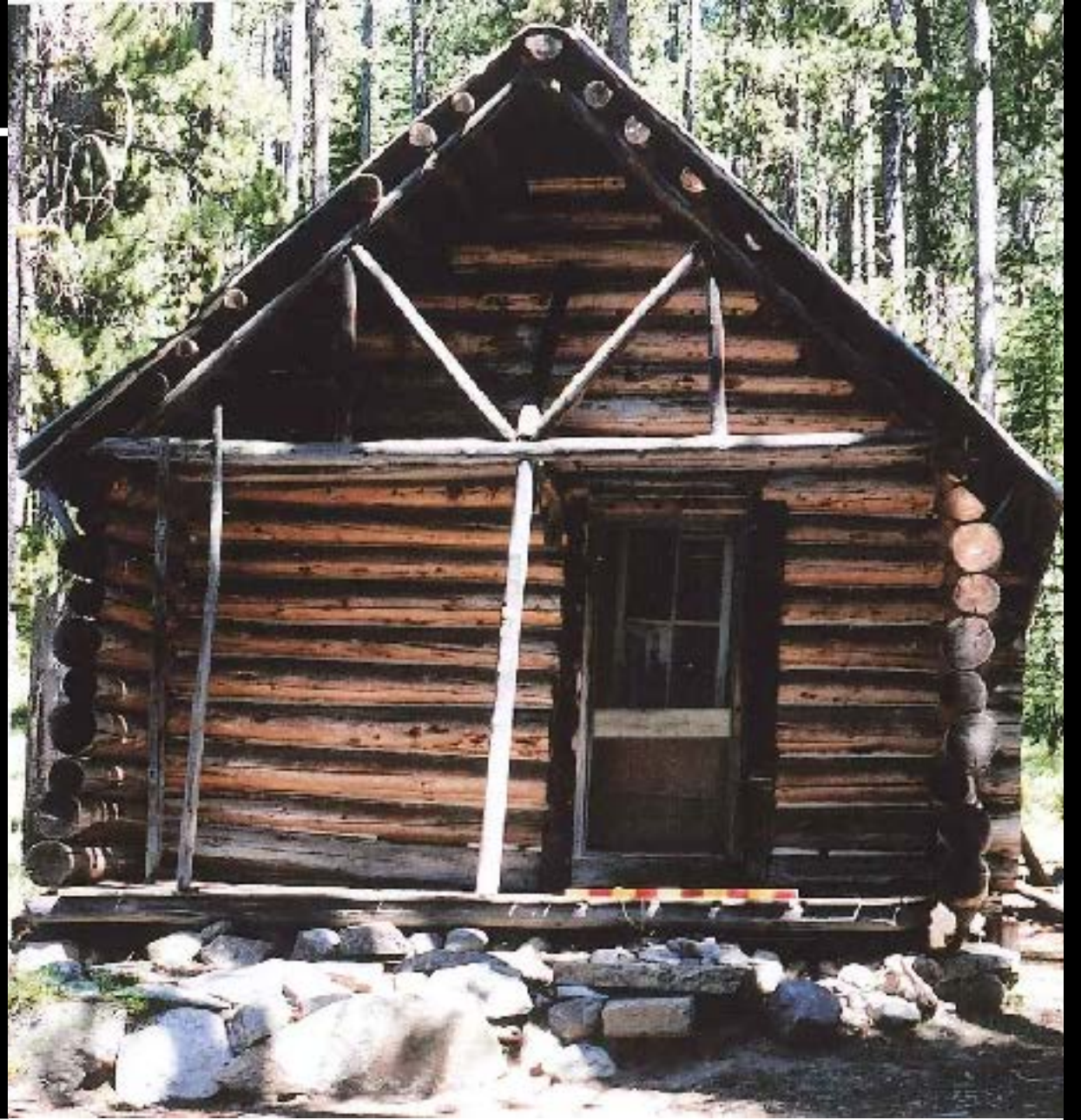
Hazing bears when you see them: When you see a bear near your cabin please use an [airhorn](#) to haze the bear. This is an opportunity to provide a negative association with humans and habituated behavior.

Lastly, to report human wildlife conflict or any wildlife incident you may reach the CDFW hotline at (916) 358-2917 or report online using the Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) system at <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir>



PROTECTING YOUR CABIN FROM BEAR DAMAGE

PRESENTED BY:
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE & TAHOE INTERAGENCY BEAR TEAM



BUILDING BEAR BARRIERS

- Shutters
- Doors
- Electric Fences
- Electric Mats



Shutters:

- Use at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood
- Mount shutters as flush to the wall as possible
- Inset shutters inside the window frame
- Use fully threaded hanger bolt screws
- Make bear barriers easy to put up and take off
- Simple is good!

**Hanger bolts and thumb screws make
it easy to take shutters on and off.**



Photo by Brian Okonek



Photo by Wayne Weller

INSET SHUTTER SECURED WITH BARREL BOLTS



ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP SHUTTERS OR DOORS FROM BEING PULLED OPEN





DOORS

- Ideally a door should open out.
 - If your door opens inward, design a way to keep it from being pushed in.
 - Put an eye bolt through the door and chain the door to the outer wall.
 - Build a bracket that will allow you to insert a 2 x 4 across the door.
 - Block a 2nd door from the inside with a 2x4 brackets lag screwed into the wall.
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THIS CONSTRUCTION WILL ALLOW A BEAR
TO EASILY ENTER
YOUR CABIN





3/4 inch plywood attached with hanger bolts and thumb screws and mounted flush with door jam.

Photo by Brian O'Connell

STEEL BRACKETS MADE TO PREVENT A DOOR FROM BEING PUSHED INWARD



**Eye bolt through the door
with a chain back-up so the
door cannot be pushed in.**

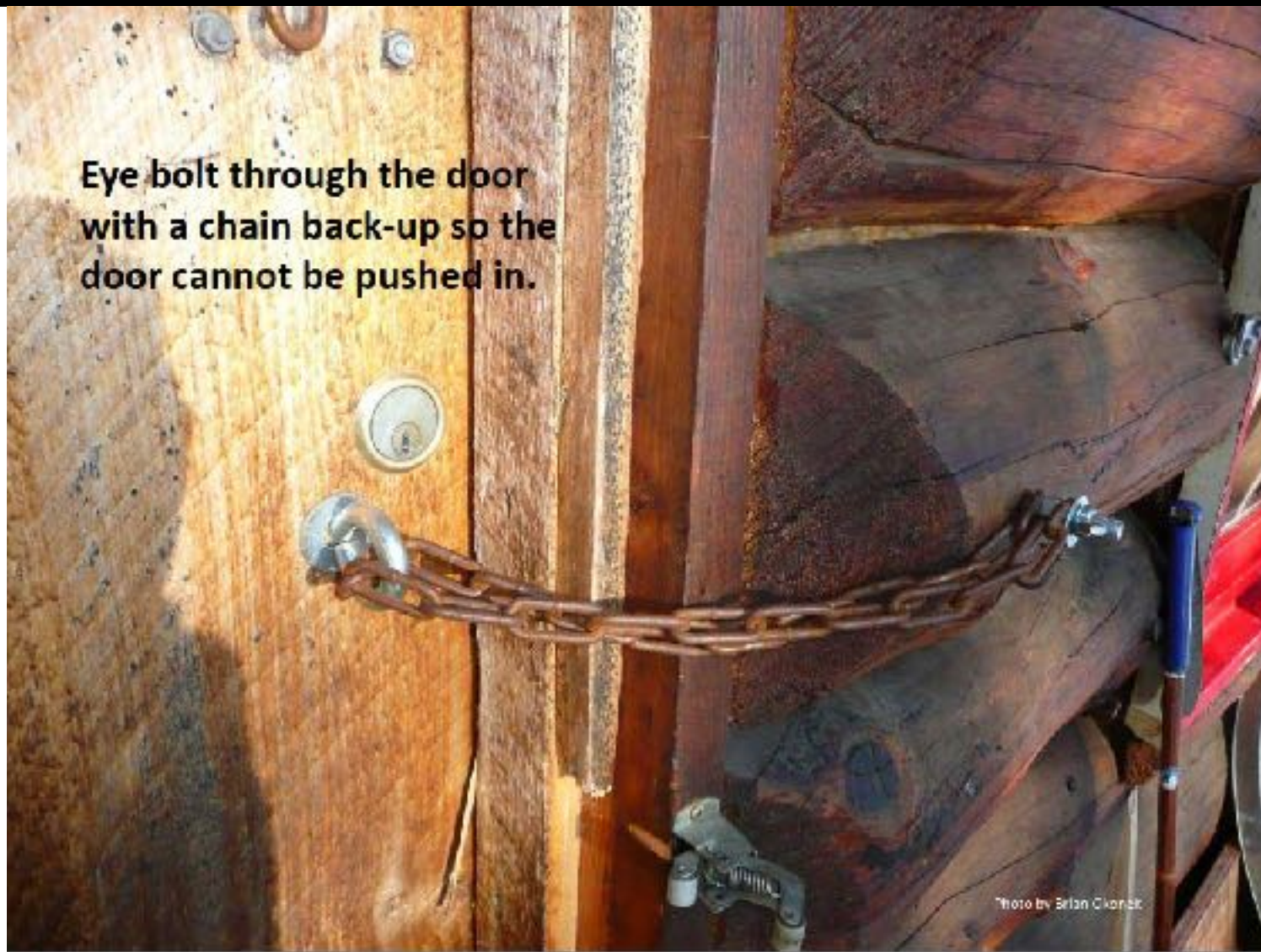


Photo by Brian Clonick



If you have a second door that opens in, you can secure it with brackets and 2x4 from inside the cabin.



ELECTRIC FENCES AND MATS

MATS

- <https://beariersolutions.com/>
- <https://www.tahoebearbusters.com/>
- <https://www.tahoebearfences.com/>



Cabins off the grid or on Forest Service property must use solar battery.



ELECTRIC FENCES

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- [Bear | EagleSafety.net](#)
- [UDAP Pepper Power](#)
- [Livestock Fencing & Fencing Supplies - KVSupply.com](#)
- [Electric Fencing – Margo Supplies](#)
 - All cabins off the grid or on Forest Service property must use solar battery.
 - Fences on Forest Service cannot be permanent.
 - Forest Service cabins cannot have fences away from structure. Must be alongside structure.
 - This is small list of companies that supply portable electric fencing, there are many more.



TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AND KEEP BEARS WILD BE
CREATIVE AND OUTSMART THEM

