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Ralph Obenberger
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 8, 2014

RE: Bear Activity throughout the community of Crowley Lake

Spring is making its way into the Eastern Sierra and the communities of Mono County. Springtime means local roads are opening, fishing season has begun, wildflowers are in bloom, and local wildlife are starting to come out of hibernation looking for food.

This is the mountains and bears do share our space. There have been a few reports in the community of Crowley Lake of a local bear snacking on bird feeders and bird seed. Where many of us try to help feed local wildlife, like the birds, please remember this also attracts other wildlife, such as bears. Due to the current drought conditions, it is anticipated that bears may be forced to seek out food other than their native diet. Please remember some simple tips to lessen the likelihood of a bear encounter: to avoid vehicle break-ins, do not leave food, wrappers, ice chests, lunch boxes, etc. in your vehicle; do not leave outdoor trash cans open, unattended and unsecured; use proper bear proof food storage containers; do not leave out any type of food including pet food and bird seed; make sure all BBQ's and outdoor cooking areas are kept clean to prevent problems with bears; and, if you accidentally come "face to face" with a bear, slowly step back and make as much noise as possible to alert the bear of your presence. Please do not take matters into your own hands. These simple tips are for your safety and the safety of our local bears.

If these simple tips do not work, and your safety is still at risk, please do not hesitate to call the Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7 for non-emergencies, or 911 for emergencies, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Please be safe and cognizant of wildlife in all communities throughout Mono County!

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer