

## Making the Bear



The taxidermy for the bear was donated by members of the United Taxidermist Association. Four taxidermists from Montana and one from Pennsylvania donated their skills and artistic talent. Widespread publicity and interest in the bear created a unique educational opportunity so the taxidermy work was performed at the Lincoln Community Center and was open to the public.

### Grizzly Bear Facts

- Average Weight: Males 500 lbs  
Females 300 lbs
- Oldest bear recorded in MT: 35-36 years
- Diet: Mostly plants and fruit
- Roaming: Males 600-1000 sq.mi.  
Females 100 sq. miles
- Grizzlies can run up to 35 mph.

## Contributions



### Taxidermist (from left to right)

Dan Snyder - Hunt Of A Lifetime Foundation,  
Inc., Greenville, PA

Shawn Dawson - Timberland Taxidermy  
Great Falls, MT

Terry Sears - Ulm, MT

Jay Roberson - JR's Taxidermy  
Lincoln, MT

Steve Faechner - Academy of Realistic Taxidermy,  
Havre, MT

### Tanning of hide

Ben and Jacob Emrich - Montana Rocky  
Mountain Fur Dressers, Great Falls, MT

### Meals/Lodging

A special thank you to the community of Lincoln for their generosity in donating meals and lodging to the taxidermists and their families who worked on the bear.

## The Lincoln Grizzly

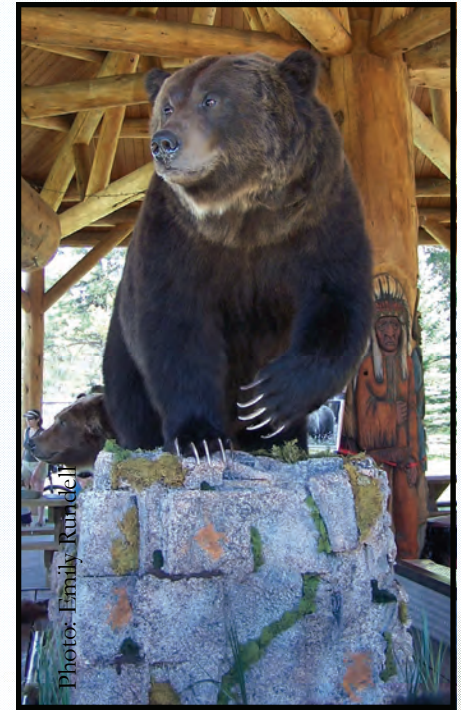


Photo: Emily Kunderl

Before dawn on October 17, 2007, a pick-up truck hit this grizzly bear on Hwy 200 five miles west of Lincoln, fracturing his skull and killing him instantly.

The driver of the truck was not injured, but the vehicle sustained \$7,500 worth of damage in spite of having a heavy duty bumper and grill guard.

The bear was a healthy 12-year-old male, weighing 830 lbs, and would have stood approximately 8' tall.



# History

This bear was born during hibernation in 1995. In July 1996, he was captured, tattooed, and radio-collared near Choteau, MT, along the Rocky Mountain Front. When captured, this bear and his sibling brother were feeding on livestock grain on a ranch near Choteau. To avoid potential conflicts, both were captured and relocated to separate locations.

Being relocated 33 miles away does not stop a bear from returning to a known food source! Only 13 days later this bear was back at the same ranch looking for more grain. This time, the grain was removed and he moved on.

In October 1996, he was hit by a vehicle west of Choteau. Biologists who were able to locate and observe him were concerned he might not survive his injuries. He survived that accident, and his last radio collar location was recorded in 1998 along the Rocky Mountain Front.

In 2004, hair samples collected as part of a DNA research study identified him at several locations between Lincoln and Seeley Lake. This DNA evidence and possible sightings suggest he lived in the Blackfoot river drainage for at least three to four years.

for proper nutrition. Human attractants such as livestock feed, pet food, and garbage are readily detected by a bear's keen sense of smell and may cause them to abandon natural foods for human foods and garbage. They readily become conditioned to these artificial food sources which may lead to human conflicts. Unfortunately, a fed bear is so often a dead bear.



**Be Bear Aware!**

Shortly before the death of this bear he was photographed with a motion sensing camera in the middle of the night, a short distance from where he was killed. He had learned that human residences often provided an easy meal. Bears rely on natural foods such as grasses, forbs, berries, roots, grubs, and other animals



In the weeks after the big bear's death, there was considerable state-wide interest in where he should be displayed—the University of Montana, as a symbol of the school mascot or the community of Lincoln.

School children from the area wrote heartfelt letters and essays on where the bear should be displayed. The residents, communities, and children in the Upper Blackfoot valley are pleased the decision was made for the grizzly to come back to Lincoln.

