



---

---

---

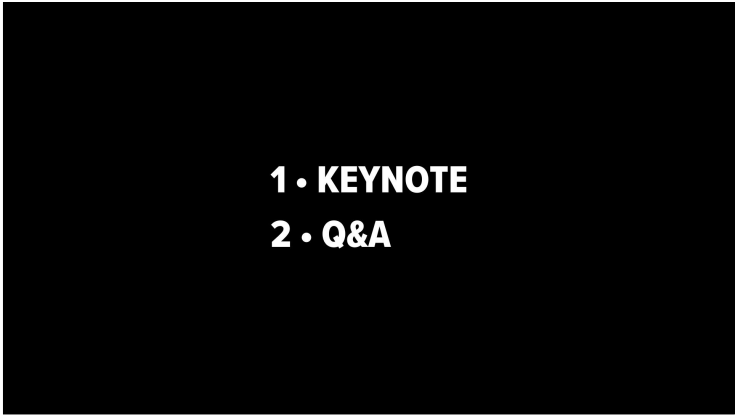
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

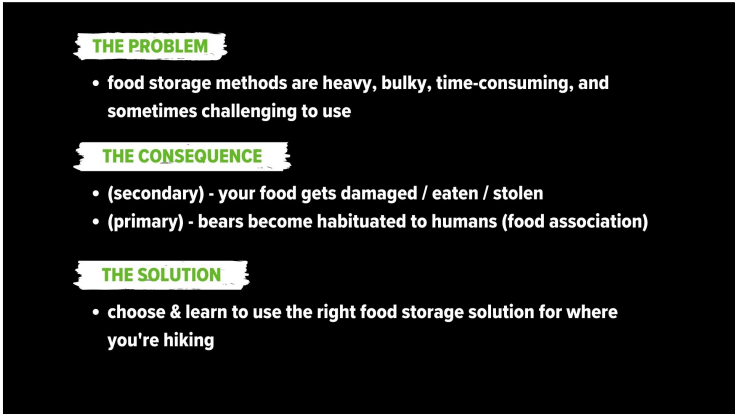
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

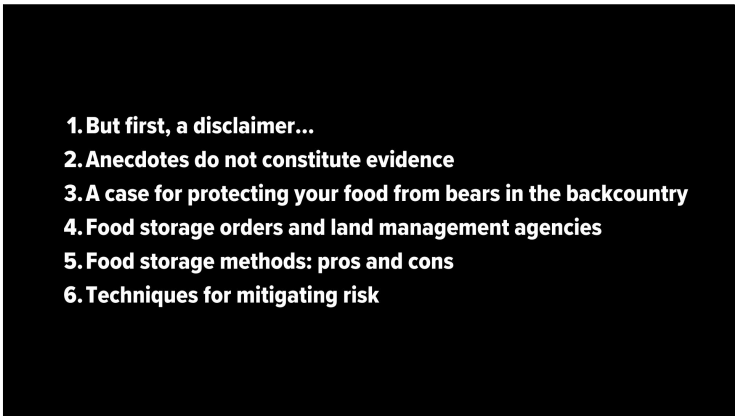
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Myth

The goal of an effective food storage method is to prevent backcountry users from losing their food or having it destroyed, which could put THEM at risk.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Myth

The goal of an effective food storage method is to minimize inconvenience, pack weight, cost, and bulk for the backcountry user.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Myth

It's up to the hiker's best judgment to use a reasonable method of food storage based on their perceived skills and abilities, their past experiences, or how they feel.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

("Keeping your food safe" - not the main thing.)  
("Hiker convenience" - not the main thing.)  
("Hiker judgment" - not the main thing.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**KEY CONCEPT:** Effective food storage protects the bear, keeps it wild, and prevents killing the bear.

**Food storage won't prevent a bear from attempting to get your food, but it will protect them from getting a reward (habituation).**

**KEY CONCEPT:** Effective food storage minimizes the chance of unsafe human-bear conflicts.

**Food storage won't prevent a bear from attempting to get your food, but it will minimize the need for you to defend your food.**

## **Food storage orders and land management agencies**

**How food storage orders are written:**

- **Probability of human-bear encounters**
  - depends on population of humans and population of bears
- **Nature of existing bear habituation & disease**
- **Consequence of human-bear interactions**





# Bear lockers



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

	Bear Hang	PCT Hang	Counterbalance	Ursack	Canister	Pole	Locker
gear weight	light	lightest	moderate	moderate	high	light	n/a
gear bulk	low	low	low	moderate	high	low	n/a
skill	medium	medium	high	medium	low	medium	low
trees	high	high	high	medium	n/a	n/a	n/a
cost	low	low	low	medium	high	low	low
food security	low	moderate	moderate	moderate	high	moderate	high
infrastructure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	moderate	high

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Modes of Failure:

### Bear Bag Hang

- User skills; poor tree configuration that results in a bear being able to reach the food bag; habituated bears "solving" the problem

### Ursack

- Lack of security in knots/securing to a tree; mangled food; odors from food debris seeping through the bag; time is on the side of the bear; poor odor-proofing

### Canisters

- Poorly-secured lids; canisters rolling off cliffs and breaking; poor odor-proofing; overflow food not in canisters; hardware breakage

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## MITIGATING RISK: MYTHS

- "The bear population in this area is low."
- "There's no bear sign (scat, tracks, digs)."
- "I camp away from berry patches."
- "I camp above treeline."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## MITIGATING RISK: FACTS

- **Camp away from established campsites when possible to avoid visits from bears returning to known reward sites.**
- **Minimize odoriferous foods.**
- **Use durable odor-resistant packaging.**
- **Keep food 100 yards+ away from camp in grizzly country.**
- **No food in tent/sleeping area unless bears are hibernating.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## BE CAREFUL OF CLICKBAIT

Ad · <https://www.outsideonline.com/> ⓘ

### **Bear Bags Are Ineffective - Outside Online**

Don't Miss Out On All Outside+ Has To Offer - \$3.99/mo For A Limited Time Only! Outside+ Has Everything You Need And More To Prepare You For Your Next Adventure.

[Advanced Search](#) · [Join Now](#)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PARTING THOUGHTS ABOUT NIGHTTIME BEAR ATTACKS ON HUMANS:

**Predation is the likely motivator, not food in tent.**

**A predatory bear wants to eat you, not your food.**

This is **not** the same as a bear entering your sleeping area or shelter seeking a food reward. They want your food, but they don't want you.

**Protecting your food will not prevent a predatory attack.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Q&A

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---