

GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BEAR WISE FUNDING

GULFAIRE PILOT PROGRAM

Gulf County, in cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Waste Pro, has developed a plan to install bear resistant clips to existing trash receptacles, in order to reduce human-bear conflicts. The following information is available on this pilot program:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Gulf County will purchase a kit (set of 2 metal gate hasps and installation hardware) to be installed on either side of a regular 96-gallon tote, which will be attached to both the lid and the can. Residents can obtain the kits as follows:

1. Residents can pick them up at Public Works at 1001 10th Street, Port St. Joe, Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., E.T.
2. St. Joe Beaches Volunteer Fire Dept., will also have a few of the kits available, for installation for those residents that are not able to install themselves, such as the elderly or special needs residents.
3. Each resident will be required to fill out a form stating their name, address and the number of kits received, along with their signature verifying their correct information and receipt of the product. (Application attached)
4. Applications must be returned to Gulf County BOCC, Administration, Attention: Lynn Lanier, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr., Blvd., Room 302, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. (850) 229-6106, Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., E.T.
5. Residents are responsible for installing the equipment on the cans, unless item #2 above applies. The procedure on trash day will be that the resident will unlock the can(s) on the morning of trash pick-up. This program will only work if everyone works together in order to create a smooth transition.

If the pilot program is successful, the County will proceed with other areas conducive to human-bear conflicts on a community basis. Each community will be determined by the number of bear related calls received, prioritized by the highest number of calls. The County will advertise the availability of kits once per month, for period of 6 months and will list the community being served at that time. The information will also be listed on the County website at: www.gulfcounty-fl.gov and look for Gulf County Bear Wise Funding Plan.