

## **Durango Bear-Proofing Experiment**

The City of Durango is partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CWP) to conduct a three year study on effective methods for reducing bear-human conflicts. As part of the study, approximately 900 city residents will receive new wildlife-resistant garbage containers free of charge. Containers will be distributed to residents during spring 2013 (March–May). The study, which commenced in 2011, will continue through November of 2015. Residents who are included in two designated treatment areas will retain the wildlife-resistant containers throughout the duration of the experiment.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Summerlee Foundation are funding the study. The wildlife-resistant containers purchased for the project will be donated to the City after the research is complete. This collaborative partnership, between the City and CPW, aims to reduce the number of bear-human conflicts within our community through evaluating and implementing effective waste management practices. This is the first study of its kind to rigorously, scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of wide-scale urban bear-proofing.

Residents who are included in the study should review the following guidelines for utilizing the wildlife-resistant containers:

- 1. Unlock your wildlife-resistant container the morning of collection; containers should remain locked at all other times.**
- 2. Place your wildlife-resistant container out for collection by 8:00 am on your collection day.**
- 3. If your wildlife-resistant container isn't unlocked, your trash won't be picked up.**
- 4. As you refill your container, be sure to lock it every time.**

Residents who live in the identified treatment areas (see image below) will receive wildlife-resistant garbage containers as part of the study. The designated neighborhoods were determined during pre-treatment monitoring, which took place during the summers of 2011 and 2012. In addition, as part of the experiment, Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers will encourage residents in the treatment areas to remove any other food items outside of secure structures that may attract bears (birdfeeders, pet food, etc). For more information on the study or for helpful hints regarding living in bear country please visit, [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us).

### **Durango Bear-Proofing Experiment Treatment Areas**

