

Bear euthanized after foraging in Mammoth Lakes cabins for foods

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MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif.—State authorities euthanized Monday a black bear that had become brazen about searching for food in occupied cabins after being fed by a local resident, officials said.

The female bear broke into 14 cabins since June in the Mammoth Lakes resort area of the Eastern Sierra and foraged in refrigerators and cupboards, according to state Department of Fish and Game officials. Nine of the cabins were occupied, though no one was hurt.

Authorities captured the 175-pound bear, believed to be between 2 and 3 years old, in a baited trap on Monday morning before she was sedated with a tranquilizer dart, put in a cage and euthanized.

As officials took the animal away, a local woman came forward to say she had been feeding the bear since it was orphaned years ago, department spokesman Steve Martarano said.

"This was the most blatant cause and effect," Martarano said. "People are irresponsible, and the bears end up being the ones that suffer."

It is illegal to feed any of the state's 35,000 black bears, which return evermore aggressively to convenient food sources, Martarano said.

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