Due to an increase in close and serious bear encounters on the District, the Nantahala Ranger District is strongly recommending that all overnight campers use bear proof containers for all food and scented items to store those items in the trunk of their vehicles.

“At this time of year before trees have produced a mast crop and as berries dry up, bears quickly learn that a good food source is available at campsites where people have not properly stored their food and trash. So we recommend no overnight camping without bear proof containers in the Back Country, “Said District Ranger Mike Wilkins. “This will help reduce bear encounters until acorns and other nuts appear in the fall.”

Nantahala Ranger District Recommendation: Use of Bear proof Canisters or keeping food in vehicle’s trunk while camping.