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Bowlby and the Bears: Insights from Attachment Theory for Grizzly Bear Conflict Deterrence, Rehabilitation, and Conservation

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Who we are and who we become depend on relationships. Social and environmental experiences that shape mind and brain endure and transmit across generations. Recent findings from neuroscience bring a new perspective to how bear psychology and human-bear interactions are perceived and framed conceptually. Drawing from theory and empirical studies, we discuss how relational models of attachment and neuroethology can be used to design effective tools for deterring and diffusing human-bear conflict and aid in rehabilitation strategies. We discuss research foundations and illustrate these findings in practice with field results from case studies and analyses.