

# FRUIT GLEANING IN THE MISSION VALLEY

WHAT IS **FRUIT GLEANING** AND HOW DOES IT REDUCE  
HUMAN – BEAR CONFLICTS?



Fruit trees in the Mission Valley are enjoyed by both bears and humans. This juicy treat can entice bears into close proximity to homes and yards when fruit is not harvested from trees and orchards near living structures.

## Fall 'Hyperphagia'

In the fall, bears enter a state known as 'hyperphagia', a period of time where they consume as many calories as possible to put on weight for hibernation. **Fruit trees** can provide them with the calories they need to store up reserves for these winter months, and they often seek them out for food.

## @MissionValleyFruitGleaning

Our main Mission is to reduce apples and other fruit throughout the reservation in order to reduce conflicts with black and grizzly bears. To do this, we have created a Mission Valley Fruit Gleaning Program to connect people that have fruit trees with those in the community who would like to pick apples for canning/preserving/pressing/baking.

## To get involved, visit our CSKT Fruit Gleaning of the Flathead Reservation Facebook Page



### Benefits of Fruit Gleaning:

- 1) Community service to help those who cannot pick their fruit trees.
- 2) Feeds the community. Food banks will take freshly picked fruit!
- 3) Cider pressing, baking, and you save money on fruit!
- 4) Mitigates human-bear conflict in the valley. Picking fruit keeps people safe and bears out of trouble.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissionValleyFruitGleaning>

**Fruit gleaning** refers to the act of gathering or harvesting fruit bit by bit. There are many new and old fruit trees in the Mission Valley, each of which has the potential to attract wildlife like deer, raccoons and bears.



If you are interested in harvesting apples yourself, look on our Facebook Page and reach out to those in our communities with the fruit trees you are looking for! We have large boxes and fruit picking equipment available for public to borrow at designated drop off locations in Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius. You can also drop off any excess apples (good or bruised) at these locations and they will be distributed throughout the community to food banks and farmers with pigs and chickens

## Join the Harvest Today!

If you are interested in opening up your tree for volunteers in the community to come and harvest, feel free to create a post on the page, and we will do our best to connect you with community members interested in harvesting apples.

**Learn ways to preserve fruit by visiting  
<https://store.msuextension.org>**

## WHERE CAN I BORROW EQUIPMENT OR DROP OFF EXCESS APPLES??

406 6<sup>TH</sup> Ave East  
Polson MT



12 Terrace Lake  
Road  
Ronan MT



240 Mountain View Drive  
St. Ignatius MT

If you are having wildlife issues or conflicts with reoccurring, problem bears even after you've protected your trees with electrified fencing or removed all of your fruit, be sure to call the Wildlife Conflict Call line to report this activity.

**406-275-2774**

We receive many calls each fall about bears in yards, next to homes in fruit trees. They can also damage and cause harm to the fruit trees by climbing in them. You can minimize this behavior by having your fruit trees picked.