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## BERRY PICKER HAS HARROWING ENCOUNTER WITH SOW GRIZ AT LION LAKE

July 11, 2017 at 8:08 pm | By LILY CULLEN Hungry Horse News

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A grizzly sow and her cubs feed in a patch of huckleberries in Glacier National Park in the Swiftcurrent Valley in this file photo. A bear like this one charged a huckleberry picker near Lion Lake Tuesday.

Hunter Dana, 17, had a nerve-wracking encounter with a grizzly bear sow and three cubs at Lion Lake Tuesday morning.

Dana of Columbia Falls hiked up to his family's usual huckleberry-picking spot near Hungry Horse and sat down to pick. Dana's mother, Jennifer Wheat-Dana, said that her son reported "something didn't feel right."

One of Dana's empty gallon jugs clanked against another jug and the sow came flying out of the woods.

"She kept coming after him," Wheat-Dana said. "He would spray her, get away, and she was coming again. She followed him clear around the lake."

At one point, the sow charged Dana, he sprayed her, and her nail caught his pant leg and tripped him. The spray had subdued her enough for him to get up and get moving, she said.

Dana is scratched from the underbrush and hit the ground hard but is uninjured. He lost his voice from screaming at the bear.

Dana's father was on the phone with him during the attack, and simultaneously called 911 with a co-worker's phone.

When Wheat-Dana arrived, Flathead County Sheriff's deputies and a game warden had already arrived. Dana was picked up at the south end of the lake.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks wildlife manager Neil Anderson said the agency will not be removing the sow or cubs.

"We have no intention from my standpoint. It was just a bear protecting her cubs. No one was injured," Anderson said.

But recreationists and berry-pickers should plan to avoid the area.

"She's a pissed-off momma bear so I highly recommend staying out of the area," Wheat-Dana said, and confirmed that the bear spray had saved her son's life. "Imagine if he had a gun, if he only injured her. He wouldn't be here."

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**Ann Stone Swain** · Principal Consultant / Owner at Avenues of Aging LLC  
Jennifer I'm so glad you said the bear spray vs gun was the best. And I'm so so thankful your son is safe. I'm sure he had the scare of his life.  
Like · Reply · 1 hr

**Karen Enterline Tyler** · Receptionist at Touchmark  
So glad you are ok  
Like · Reply · 2 hrs

**Pamela Thomas- Mapes** · Owner at Thomas Home Companion  
Thank God he is Ok! Smart thinking boy!  
Like · Reply · 1 · 4 hrs

**Jennifer Wheat-Dana** · Owner at Jen's Montana Made Soap  
Please stay away for awhile. I will post an update of the area tomorrow. I always took my younger children out there. Always thought we were safe until today. I truly don't want anyone else going through this. Once I found out my son was ok, I posted a warning right after. It's absolutely heart breaking thinking "what if". Please please don't go in this area.  
Like · Reply · 13 · 11 hrs

**Holly Wadsworth** · Columbia Falls, Montana  
These bears have been in the Lion Lake area for at least a few weeks. Hope officials put some signs up to prevent this from happening again.  
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