

Tahoe bears foraging for food early this year

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

The Lake Tahoe-area bears are up early, and they're ravenous.

"They feel the warmth and come out of their dens, but there's no natural food for them yet," said Ann Bryant, executive director of the BEAR League, a Tahoe-area group that educates residents on coexisting with bears.

"The grasses, herbs and roots they like are still covered with snow, and there will be more storms," she said. "So they're looking for garbage, pet food and bird food – those are the biggest lures – and empty cabins with food in them."

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