

AIM TO KEEP  
WILDLIFE  
SAFE



SHOOT  
TO CARE

RESPONSIBLE  
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

[www.ShootToCare.org](http://www.ShootToCare.org)



## **FOCUS ON THE SAFE SHOT**

We all want to experience an animal in the wild without disrupting its behavior. Whether hiking or watching from your car window, a wildlife encounter is a treasured moment. Remember, the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem is fragile. Tread gently and “leave no trace”.

**No photograph is worth causing harm to your subjects or their habitat.**

# WHY ETHICAL BEHAVIOR?

**No wildlife photograph is ever worth causing any harm to your subjects or their habitat.**

**As responsible, ethical photographers:**

- We respect animals and their habitat.
- We do not crowd or corner wildlife.
- We do not approach adult wildlife with young.
- If an animal shows signs of stress, we move back or leave the area.
- We believe the welfare of the animal always comes first.
- We do not approach a carcass or other food source.
- We do not disturb dens, nests, or other animal habitat.
- We never harass, disturb, chase, or attempt to move wildlife.
- We respect and obey local laws and regulations for the protection of wildlife.
- We show respect for our fellow photographers and other visitors.
- We will inform visitors about inappropriate or potentially harmful behavior.
- We will be role models for others showing our respect for the environment.
- We believe that no species should suffer as a result of our photography.

**With every shot, Shoot To Care**

# WILDLIFE AND SCENIC PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

- Always park safely off the road.
- Maintain a safe distance from wildlife .
- Speak softly, move slowly.
- Use your vehicle, trees, or shrubbery as a barrier between you and the animal.
- Use a telephoto lens to capture the animal's eyes in sharp focus.
- Use a tripod or other stabilization to avoid camera shake and blurring.
- Shoot aperture priority or manual mode to control your depth of field.
- Increase ISO to keep shutter speed greater than  $1/\text{effective focal length}$  of your lens.
- Frame the animal in its environment and try to isolate it in texture, form or background color.
- Use leading lines and natural frames to move your viewer's eyes to your subject.
- Shoot scenery in the 'golden hours' near dawn and dusk for the best light.
- Use a circular polarizing filter to cut glare on water or foliage.
- Consider a graduated neutral density filter to decrease the brightness of the sky relative to your subject.

**Be aware that more people and more activity increases stress on wildlife and the environment.**

# CARE FOR THE WILDLIFE

- Respect and animal welfare comes first. Harassment of wildlife is illegal.
- View wildlife from a safe, respectful distance for both you and them.
- Know the signs of animal stress:
  - Change in animal's activity
  - Change in expression
  - Change in vocalization
- Adhere to minimum distance limits for approaching wildlife in National Parks (100 yards for bears and wolves; 25 yards for all other wildlife). Observe these distances in non-Park areas.
- Exercise restraint when observing or photographing wildlife by respecting the basic needs of animals to eat, rest, raise young, seek shelter, nest, or escape.
- Never feed or leave food (bait) for wildlife. This includes birds and small critters.
- Don't sneak up on or otherwise surprise a wild animal.
- Don't surround, crowd, corner, chase, or follow wildlife.
- Don't block an animal's path or ability to cross a road or trail.
- Don't attempt to move wildlife or nests.
- Don't approach or disturb newborn or young, or adult wildlife with young, nests or dens.
- Don't approach a carcass or other food source.

# CARE FOR THE HABITAT

**Following these simple steps will make a big difference**

- Park safely off the roadway, with the flow of traffic
- Keep your tires off plant life
- Observe closure signs
- Stay on public roads, trails, boardwalks, and raised platforms where they exist.
- Don't break, cut or remove parts of a plant to get a better background.
- Don't blaze new trails.

**Use good judgment – be a good guest by being respectful of wildlife, plants, and habitat**



# OUR WILDLIFE ARE THREATENED



**Help protect our national treasures  
by minimizing your impact on  
wildlife and their environment.  
With every shot, Shoot To Care.**

The Teton Photography Group was founded in 2013 by local photographers for the purpose of sharing the joy of photography with others in the greater Teton area through education, networking, and promoting discussion that improves the art of photography.

**SHOOT  
TO CARE**

Teton Photography Group

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# SHOOT TO CARE



## RESPONSIBLE WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Be a responsible wildlife photographer and let the world know!**

Simply make the commitment to Shoot To Care and we'll give you this custom Shoot To Care pro camera strap.



Made of high quality neoprene, top grade leather and nylon webbing to give you a simple, yet super comfortable strap.

**YES, I will Shoot To Care!**

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City \_\_\_\_\_

ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

To get your strap, tear off this panel and drop it off at the Jackson Hole Visitors Center, 532 N. Cache St, Jackson or mail to Shoot To Care, PO Box 1248, Jackson, WY 83001