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Wildlife officials kill black bear, cub

Associated Press
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SIERRA VISTA - A female black bear and her cub were killed by an Arizona Department of Game and Fish officer after they refused to retreat from an area hotel.

The bears were shot and killed after weeks of problems in the area around the Ramsey Canyon Inn Bed and Breakfast, said Gerry Perry, the regional game and fish supervisor.

Officers were called to Ramsey Canyon, about 10 miles south of Sierra Vista, Tuesday morning and tried to scare the pair using rubber bullets. The effort killed the 40-pound cub, Perry said, and the mother left.

But she soon returned, and the officer had to shoot the animal, Perry said. Officers are allowed to shoot bears when they show no fear of humans and their behavior is considered a public threat.

Black bears are not endangered, and the state has an annual hunting season. Perry said he suspects they were drawn into the area by ripening fruit trees in the canyons.

The bears were killed the day after officials killed a mountain lion that had been threatening people in the Prescott National Forest.

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