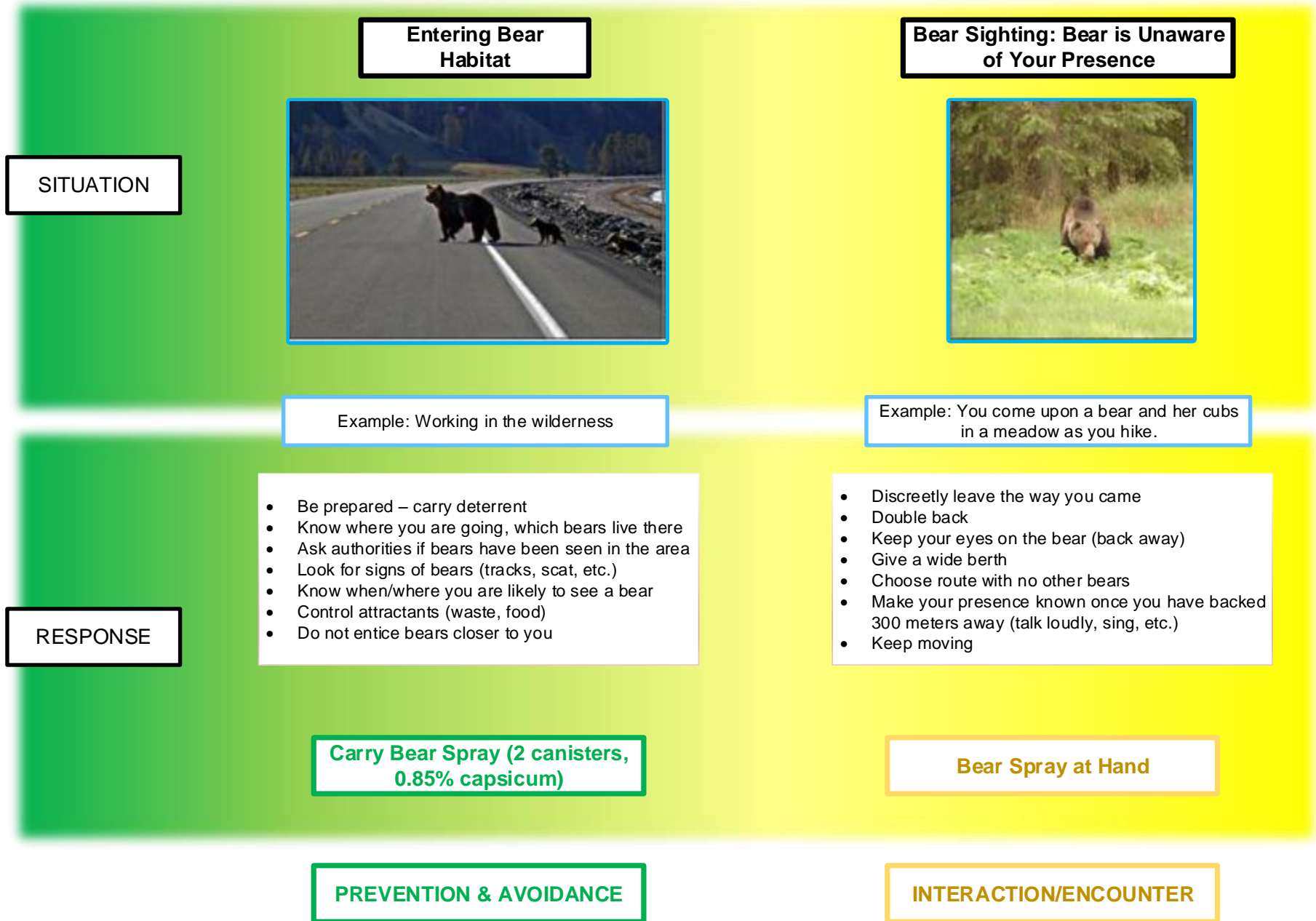


# Spectrum of Bear Engagement – Field



# Spectrum of Bear Engagement – Field

## Interaction: Bear is Aware of Your Presence



Bears rely on smell; they might stand up and sniff the air to see who you are

Example: The bear in the meadow turns around and notices you.

- STOP, stay calm, assess the situation
- Determine your distance from the bear
- DO NOT run or turn around
- Use soft, low voice
- Avoid rapid movements
- Appear non-threatening
- Keep eyes on bear without direct eye contact
- Assess surroundings
- Leave escape route for the bear
- Have deterrent ready
- Determine what the bear is doing (food nearby? Young nearby?)

**Deterrent Ready**

## Incident: Defensive Attack



**Stress signs** include:  
yawning, salivating,  
huffing, hair up on neck,  
bluff charge, stomping  
ground, swatting trees

Example: The bear feels threatened by your presence and initiates a defensive attack to protect her cubs, which are nearby,

- You need to recognize stress signs
- Attack will occur quickly and end when the bear sees threat as gone
- Do not shout or escalate the situation further
- If the attack escalates, fight back

**If the bear bluff charges: STAND YOUR GROUND**

**Deploy Bear Spray**

## Predatory Attack



Characterized by:  
Stalking you, watching  
you intently, approaching,  
no sign of fear or stress

Example: You are taking water samples when you turn and see a bear stalking you.

- DO NOT be submissive
- Face the bear
- Act aggressively
- DO NOT run
- Scan for cover i.e. tree and move there
- Remove pack and use as distraction
- Prepare and use deterrent
- Make yourself large
- Raise arms and stomp feet
- Stand on something
- Use rapid arm/leg movements
- **Fight back – DO NOT play dead**
- Attack eyes, nose & face

**Deploy Bear Spray**

**INTERACTION/ENCOUNTER**

**ATTACK**