

Bear Bag Hanging

There is one simple golden rule when camping in the back country:

NO SMELLABLES IN OR NEAR YOUR TENT

This will help prevent bears, chipmunks (aka mini-bears), squirrels, raccoons, skunks, etc. from ruining your backpacking trip. Animals have a keen sense of smell and are not deterred by the thickness of your tent wall or zippered pack pockets. Animals can also smell items that are in their original packaging.

What exactly are smellables. A smellable is anything that has a scent. Here is a list of some smellables:

- Candy
- Cookies
- Chapstick
- Sun tan lotion
- Duct Tape
- Band-Aids
- Your Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Any Water bottle that has EVER contained anything other than water

This list can go on and on, but the only thing that goes in your tent is you and your sleeping bag.

One of the keys to preventing back country critters from becoming a nuisance is to put smellables in a bear bag/opps bag¹. There are a number of methods to hang a bear bag.

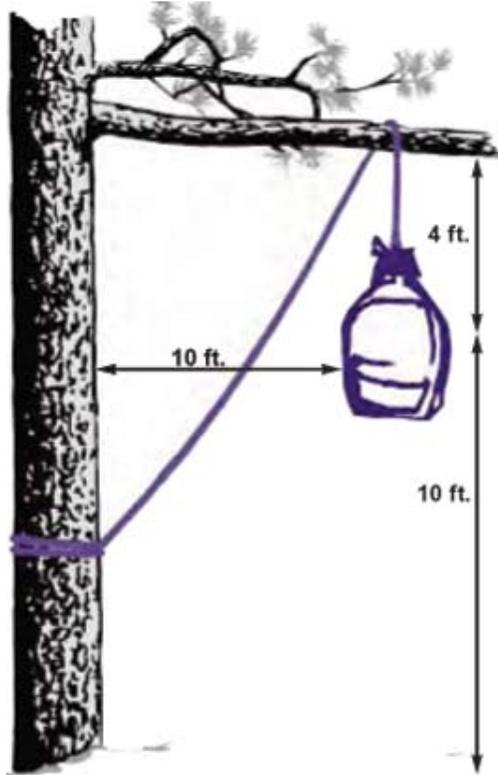
Simple, Counter Balance, and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)	Marrison Haul	Pulley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple and quick • Difficult hoist because of friction of rope on tree branch. • Need long and robust branch • Easier target for critters due to closeness to tree trunk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively simple • Decreases friction for easier hoist. • Still need long and robust branch • Easier target for critters due to closeness to tree trunk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No friction pulling load over tree bark. • Leave No Trace – much less stressful for trees. • Cuts the weight of the pack in half thanks to the use of pulleys • Lifts the pack higher in the air because the pulling force is horizontal, not vertical. You're pulling across instead of down. • Centers smellables well away from tree trunk.

¹ Opps bag contains last minute items like sun screen, first aid kit, bug spray, trash from dinner, etc.

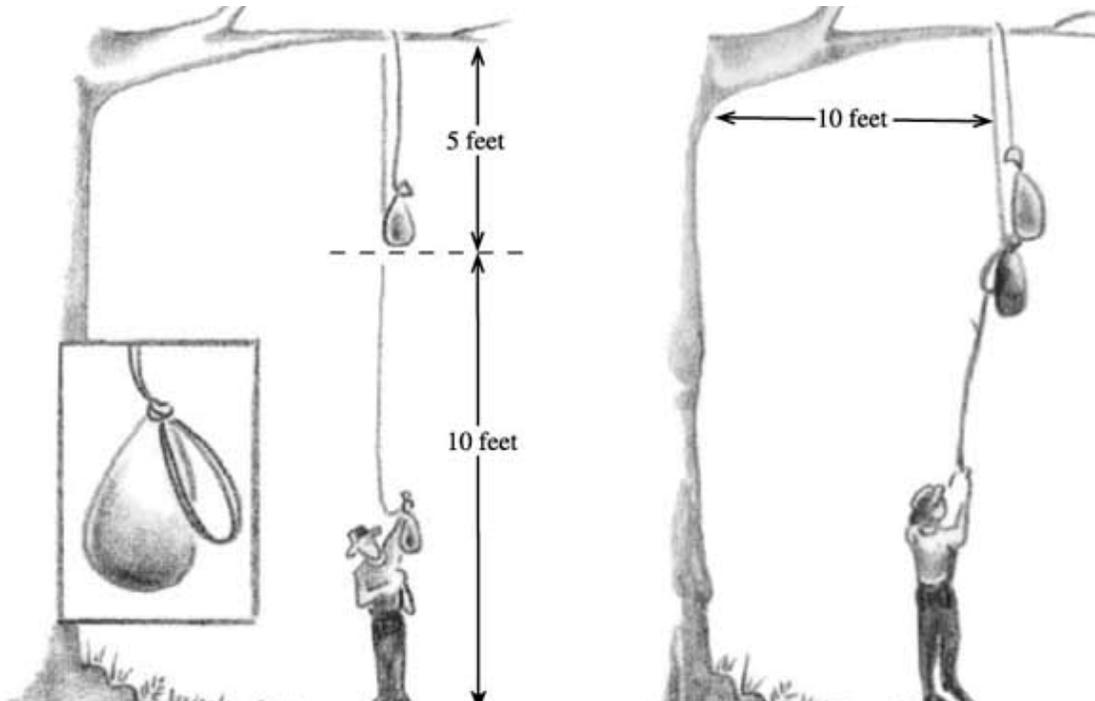


Bear Bag Hanging

Simple Method



Counter Balance



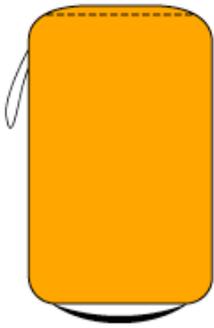


Bear Bag Hanging

PCT Method

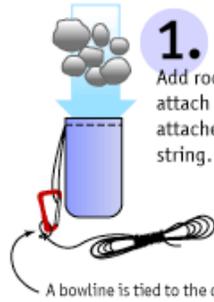
Hanging A Bear Bag

The PCT Method



EQUIPMENT

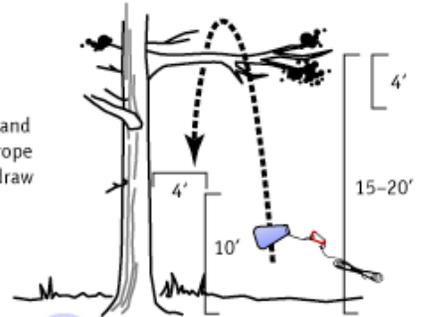
- Bear Bag (9" x 20")
- 40' Rope
- Throw/Rope Bag
- Carabiner
- Small twig



1.

Add rocks to throw bag and attach carabiner (with rope attached) to the bag's draw string.

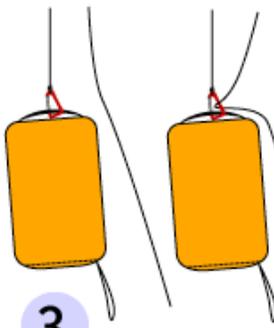
A bowline is tied to the carabiner.



2.

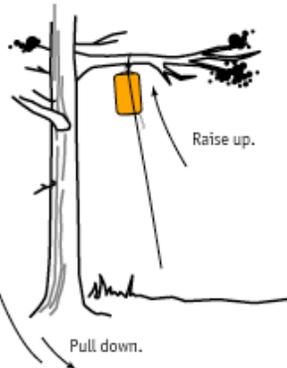
Hold throw bag in hand and toss over branch that is 15-20' above the ground. When properly hung, the bear bag should hang at least 10' above the ground and 4-8' away from the branch and tree trunk.

The PCT Method uses a toggle to keep the bear bag above the ground and away from the tree. By **not** tying the loose end to a tree (another common method), the bear (or other critter) cannot claw or chew through the rope to lower the bag.



3.

Unclip throw bag from carabiner. Clip carabiner to bear bag. Feed loose end of the rope through carabiner and pull loose end to raise the bear bag to the top of the tree branch.



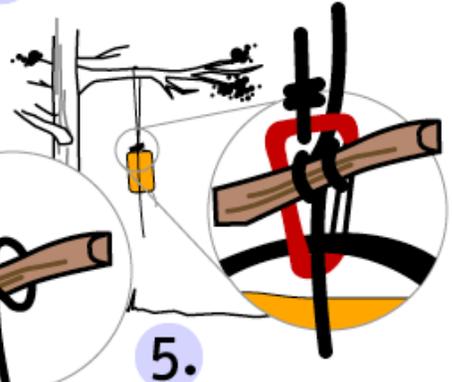
Raise up.

Pull down.



4.

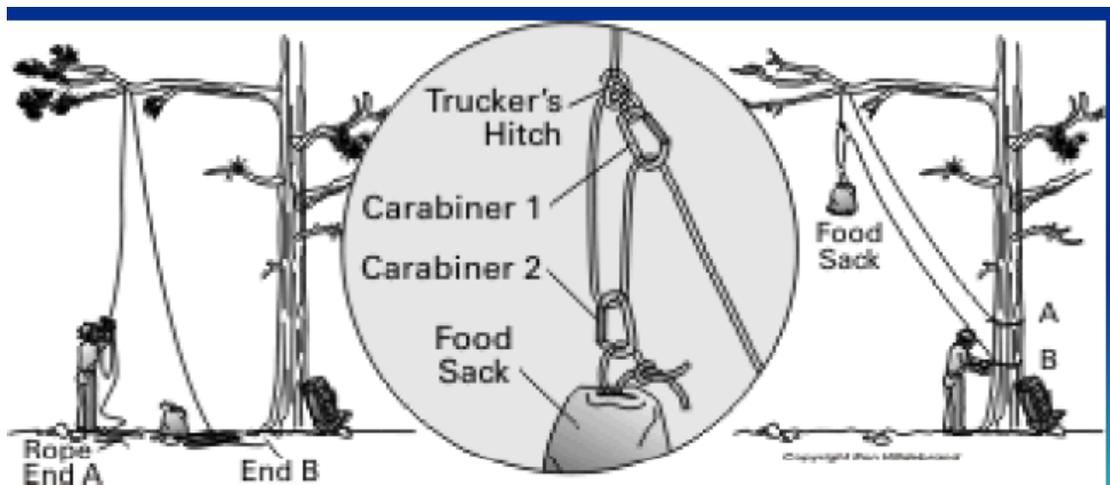
Reach as high as you can and tie a clove hitch around a small twig on the loose end of the rope, creating a toggle.



5.

Release the loose end of the rope. The bear bag will stop at the toggle. The loose end hangs above the ground suspending the bear bag at least 10' from the ground.

Marrison Haul





Bear Bag Hanging

Pulley System

