Wilderness bear – Bears in wilderness make for inspiring photos, and may be used to promote the protection of wild areas. However, bears can also thrive in many human-dominated habitats as long as human-related mortality is low. Read the article written by the BSG Co-chairs on page 32.
# Table of Contents

**IBN**  
3 International Bear News, ISSN #1064-1564

**IBA Council News**  
4 From the President

**IBA Grants Program News**  
5 New Development Director for the Bear Conservation Fund  
6 A Letter of Introduction from Dr. Julia Bevins  
7 Research & Conservation Grants  
9 Bear Conservation Fund Tops $73,000 in 2013  
10 Experience and Exchange Grants  
11 Applications for Experience & Exchange Grants Due in November

**IBA Officers & Council**  
11 IBA Elections 2013  
12 Nominees for President  
13 Nominees for Vice-President Americas  
14 Nominee for Secretary  
14 Nominee for Treasurer  
15 Council Members

**Eurasia**  
19 Status of the Brown Bear Population in the Central Alps (Trentino-Italy)

**Americas**  
21 19 Year-old Female Black Bear, Former Study Animal, Killed by Vehicle in Florida  
22 A Six-toed Paw Print  
23 An IBA Experience and Exchange Grant Helps Facilitate International Cooperation to Reduce Human/Bear Conflicts  
24 The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Has a New Look!  
25 California Searching for New Methods to Monitor its Bears  
26 A Mixed Methods Analysis Examining the Conflicts Arising in Human-Black Bear Encounters

**Conservation Outreach News**  
28 Spectacled Bear Museum Exhibit in Ecuador

**Student Forum**  
28 Truman’s List Serve

**IBA Member News**  
29 Pioneering Grizzly Bear Researcher, Kate Kendall, Retires After 35 Years

**Bears in Culture**  
30 Bears in Scotland

**Bear Specialist Group**  
32 Do Bears Need Wilderness? Are They a “Symbol of the Wilderness”?  
33 Distribution and food resources of Asiatic black bears (Ursus thibetanus) and human-bear conflict in the Panchase Protected Forest of Nepal  
35 Conditions of Captive Brown Bears in Ukraine  
37 Rescued Moon bear given life-saving brain surgery in Lao PDR

**Publications**  
39 Book Review: American Bears – Selections from the Writings of Theodore Roosevelt, by Paul Schullery  
39 Recent Bear Literature

**Events**  
41 IBA 2013 in Provo, UT—September 15-20

**IBA & BSG Contacts**  
42 IBA Officers and Council  
43 BSG Coordinating Committee

**IBA**  
44 IBA Mission Statement
Welcome to International Bear News, the quarterly newsletter of the International Association for Bear Research and Management. In this issue, we feature articles about the biology, conservation, and management of the world's eight bear species. Whether you are a professional researcher or an interested layperson, there is something for everyone in this edition. Enjoy!
From the President

Frank T. van Manen
U.S. Geological Survey
Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center
Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team
2327 University Way, Suite 2
Bozeman, Montana 59715
Email: vanmanen@utk.edu

Only the lure of an alpine hike tomorrow and a traditional cappuccino (to feed my espresso addiction) has convinced me it’s a good idea to start writing my column on this beautiful, sunny day in Bozeman, Montana. Summer has arrived in the mountains here and the alpine flowers are at their peak. Grizzly bears (and black bears) are out in full force and preliminary indications are we have a good ‘crop’ of cubs. The responsibilities of the grizzly bear research program keep me on my toes but, believe it or not, it’s nice to be distracted by IBA business.

IBA Grants Program

I have always argued that our IBA’s Grants Program is one of the most important activities we are involved in. We have provided seed money and full funding for critical projects throughout the world as this issue of the newsletter shows. First, we have reports regarding the grants awarded as part of the Research and Conservation and Experience and Exchange grants. A total of $73,401 was distributed this spring, in line with the grant amounts we have been able to provide over the last few years. Research and Conservation projects range from studies regarding the impacts of landscape fragmentation on sun bears in Borneo to the status of Asiatic black bears and brown bears in Pakistan to a project addressing grizzly bear-ranching conflicts in Alberta, Canada. Additionally, three Experience and Exchange projects were funded, involving biologists from Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Slovakia, and the USA.

I warmly welcome Julia Bevins as the new Chair of the Bear Conservation Fund and look forward to her great contributions. Interestingly, we have now come full circle because IBA’s Grant Program started with contributions from the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Foundation (see Julia’s article). Julia has served for a long time on the IBA Grant Review committee and knows how many excellent proposals are submitted each year and the tremendous need for funding needed to fund all those proposals. I know her as a most passionate bear conservationist and we look forward to her ideas to expand the capabilities of the Bear Conservation Fund. Please take the time to read Julia’s letter of introduction in this issue to learn more about the history of our grants program.

22nd International Bear Conference in Provo, Utah

The next IBA conference is already right around the corner and promises to be another great one. This conference, although only 2 years after the conference in Ottawa and less than a year after the India conference, will get us back on our ‘regular’ 3-year schedule between the Americas conferences. Several of you have expressed concerns about the conferences being too close together. While I understand that concern, it is clear from conference participation and submitted abstracts that there is a need to have frequent conferences. There were well over 200 abstracts submitted for the Utah conference, and I interpret that as a clear testimony that the conferences serve an important need to share the latest research and management advances in a timely matter. This is also why we have conferences alternate between different portions of the world as we always have greater participation from folks in the region where we hold our conferences.

The schedule for the conference in Utah is full of exciting technical sessions, workshops, field trips, and other activities. The large number of quality submissions convinced us to have 2 half-day concurrent sessions. We have resisted doing so for quite a while because the success of our conferences can at least be partially attributed to plenary sessions. But we gave it a try at the India conference to accommodate more speakers, and it was a success. The conference website is updated as we get closer to September 15 so please check it out as you plan your trip: http://ce.byu.edu/cw/bear/. Please note that your reservation at the conference hotel helps the conference organizers to keep cost down for the conference facilities.

Management Committee

One of the latest initiatives of IBA Council was to establish a Management Committee to address concerns that IBA may have become less relevant to those members that once were considered a core segment of the IBA: bear managers and practitioners. This was of particular concern in North America so we formed this committee and found an effective chair in Rich Beausoleil, who is a bear and mountain lion manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Management Committee developed a manager’s survey to get a better understanding of how bear managers in North America relate to IBA and where we, as a professional organization, can improve our effectiveness. The committee provided excel-
lent recommendations to Council based on that survey and together we identified 6 immediate steps to enhance manager participation in IBA and vice versa. You will hear more about this at the Utah IBA conference. The concept of a Management Committee focused on North America has worked well and as we transition to the next Council, one recommendation I will make is to consider whether a similar construct is helpful for other regions in the world.

Elections

We have announced our elections quite early this year and there is an important reason for that. There will be quite a turnover in Council (4 Officer positions [President, Vice-President Americas, Secretary, Treasurer] and 3 Council member positions are open). With the help of our Nominations Committee chaired by Jon Swenson, we have an excellent slate of candidates, whose candidacy statements are provided in this newsletter and online (http://www.bearbiology.com/index.php?id=71). We provide these candidate statements early to give those of you attending the Utah conference in September a chance to interact with the candidates. Also, the 2 candidates for President will be given a time slot during the IBA members meeting at the Utah conference to present how they would lead IBA and how they envision the future role of IBA as the international leader for bear research and management. I urge you to take an active part in this election by familiarizing yourself with the candidates and voting this fall, after all, this is your IBA!

IBA Grants Program News

New Development Director for the Bear Conservation Fund

Karen Noyce
Chair, Bear Conservation Fund

Over the summer, I will be stepping down as Chair of the Bear Conservation Fund. I am extremely pleased to announce that Julia Bevins has agreed to take over the helm, with a new title of Development Director. Julia's history with IBA goes way back – it is, in fact, due to Julia's foresight, generosity, and vision, in turning personal tragedy into a legacy for the future, that IBA's grants programs exist today. In 2001, she and Sterling Miller, then Secretary-Treasurer of IBA, together built the framework for IBA’s first grants, the John Bevins Memorial Grants, envisioned to help support young bear researchers in developing countries. Julia's passion for the IBA and enthusiasm for the work we do as an organization is infectious. As you read her letter of introduction below, I am sure that you will agree that Julia will be the perfect spokesperson to further our goals in the future.

Julia is being joined at the BCF by Brian Scheick, long-time IBA member and consummate behind-the-scenes volunteer. Brian will bring his organized and level-headed approach to accomplishing the many annual tasks it takes for the BCF to function well. Thank you both, Julia and Brian.

As I leave the position of Chair, I want to acknowledge a few additional people who have been key in bringing the BCF to where it is today. First of those is Bernie Peyton who, in 2001, at the Jackson, Wyoming, IBA Council meeting, introduced the idea that IBA should make it a goal to provide funding for implementing the recommendations outlined in the newly released report “Bears: status survey and conservation action plan”, prepared and published by the IUCN Bear Specialist Group in 1999. Bernie was confident that there were willing donors to be found who cared passionately about wildlife conservation and would enthusiastically support the science-based approach to conservation and management that the IBA embodies. Bernie suggested that IBA had nothing to lose and everything to gain by going out and finding them. An exploratory committee was formed as a result of that Council meeting, consisting of Bernie, Bruce McLellan, Harry Reynolds, and myself, culminating in the official launching of the BCF in 2004.

I also want to specially thank Harry Reynolds and John Hechtel, whose work on behalf of the BCF has brought generous and loyal donors to our program. And of course, I must thank the donors, many of whom wish to remain anonymous, who have placed their trust in IBA to use their money efficiently and effectively in pursuing better understanding of bears and implementing practices for their conservation.
A Letter of Introduction from Dr. Julia Bevins

Dear IBA Constituents,

I’m delighted to serve the IBA as development director for the Bear Conservation Fund. My association with the IBA goes back approximately 23 years, when in October of 1990, my husband John Bevins, along with another biologist and pilot, disappeared while radio-tracking polar bears over the Arctic Ocean. John loved the world of bears and had studied all three species of North American bears. As a lasting legacy to John, I established the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Foundation from the insurance settlement I received. The foundation makes annual distributions to both the Alaska Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the IBA.

At the time of my husband’s death, I was a graduate student at the Institute of Arctic Biology in Fairbanks. There was an exchange student at the Institute, a young Russian man, Mikhail Kretchmar, who had been invited by Harry Reynolds to study brown bears, who confided that his monthly salary was equivalent to about US $100. I remember that I was eating a banana when he told me this. I looked down at that banana and I realized his monthly salary had the purchasing power of a large bunch of bananas. He said he had a family to support and that his decision to be a bear biologist came at huge personal sacrifice.

At the time of John’s death, Sterling Miller, the IBA Secretary Treasurer, had been speaking to Steve Amstrup about fundraising for the IBA for a grants program. Steve was a friend of mine, and suggested that Sterling contact me. I asked Sterling if we could use the distributions from the newly formed John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Foundation to fund graduate students working on bears in developing countries where there was little money for bear research. Sterling said that was a fabulous idea and drafted the grants review process.

Erich Follman, one of John’s graduate advisors, served as chair of the IBA grants review committee until 2001. The success of the grants program was, I believe, attributable to the efforts of Erich, Sterling and other committee members in those early years because they were able to be markedly effective with very little money.

I was asked to join the grants review committee in 2004. This was at the height of stock market returns and excellent financial oversight of the Foundation by Sam Skaggs of Skaggs Investments in Juneau and we were beginning to give out some substantial grants. It has been a pleasure to serve on that committee for nine years, and so gratifying to see the evolution of the Bear Conservation Fund. Now the Bevins Foundation only provides a small portion of the monies utilized in the annual granting process, and there has been ever greater sophistication and care in how the funds are utilized for bear conservation and research.

After 22 years of grant distributions, I am happy to report that the Bevins Foundation has now given out more in grants than its original value.

The grants review process is being overseen with great diligence and care by Fred Dean. We are fortunate to have such a gifted and open-minded individual in charge. I want to assure all applicants that their proposals are welcomed and thoroughly evaluated.

Karen Noyce asked me for a short bio, so I will briefly say that I have a veterinary degree from the University of Queensland, Australia. As a vet student I was able to work in three different zoos and engage in humpback whale migration research. I really wanted to study wildlife and so after the degree was completed, I moved to Alaska and began a PhD at the Institute of Arctic Biology with an emphasis on the study of wildlife diseases. It was there I met John Bevins and we married.

Since John’s death I’ve engaged in postdoctoral research with bison at Texas A&M, spent three years as an ecotour business owner and two years following that as volunteer fundraiser for the Alaska chapter of the Nature Conservancy. I currently live in Anchorage with my husband and 14 year old daughter. I have some background in marketing. I was active in marketing my family’s business as well as my own ecotour business and I have also served four years on a marketing committee for my daughter’s school. I plan to further my knowledge of professional fundraising so that the Bear Conservation Fund can do even more and meet success on a larger scale!

I love the IBA. The biologists in this organization have a lot of integrity and a great sense of fun. I know that John Bevins would have loved what has been accomplished in his name and what we have all done together. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. See you in Utah!

Julia Bevins
Research & Conservation Grants

Fred Dean

This year we awarded nine grants that totaled $65,680. There is a brief summary of information about the grants in the table below; more details will be included on the IBA Website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Project Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorresteijn, Ine</td>
<td>$4,135</td>
<td>Maintaining coexistence in a rapidly changing system</td>
<td>Transylvania, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guharajan, Roshan</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>How sun bears survive in fragmented landscape</td>
<td>Borneo, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hameed, Shoaib</td>
<td>$9,400</td>
<td>Status of black and brown bears in Musk Deer National Park</td>
<td>Kashmir, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Heather</td>
<td>$9,900</td>
<td>Experimental Test of Wide-Scale Urban Bear-proofing</td>
<td>Colorado, U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Krista</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Climate change and novel pathogens in the brown bear</td>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koons, David</td>
<td>$9,400</td>
<td>Changing conditions and interactions between polar bears and snow geese</td>
<td>Hudson Bay, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morehouse, Andrea</td>
<td>$7,250</td>
<td>Evaluating the efficacy of intercept feeding in grizzly bear-ranching conflicts</td>
<td>Alberta, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagano, Anthony</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Polar bear energetics: baseline costs and energetic rates</td>
<td>Chukchi &amp; Beaufort Seas, Alaska, U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandrani, Atta-Ulla</td>
<td>$5,595</td>
<td>Status of black bear in Phub Range &amp; begin work on community-based conservation effort.</td>
<td>Balochistan, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The charts on the following page show some interesting aspects of the funding available and the proposals considered to be in the top groups of those submitted. We all appreciate the donations to the Bear Conservation Fund and Karen Noyce’s hard work over many years to develop the fund. Without both the grants program would not be possible.

Each year we do have proposals we would really like to have been able to fund, and the charts below show a bit of information on the “under-funding” of R&C grants. Each and every one of us should keep this in mind and try to find ways to help increase the ability of the BCF to meet the need.
CAUTION: The criteria used for determining the lower boundary of the top (fundable) category vary slightly year to year! Exact “fine-grained” comparisons are not valid.
IBA Grants Program News

Bear Conservation Fund Tops $73,000 in 2013

In March of this year, the Bear Conservation Fund (BCF) delivered $73,401 for IBA’s 2013 grants programs. Funds were split among 4 programs, with $65,466 awarded for Research and Conservation Grants, $4290 for Experience and Exchange Grants, $2145 to the Bear Specialist Group’s Action Fund, and $1500 towards IBA conference travel grants.

Donations to the BCF during the period 1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013 (our funding cycle) continued the pattern of steady growth that we have seen over the past 7 years (Figure 1), excepting a one-year dip in 2009 following the world-wide financial tail-spin of 2008. Significantly, whereas prior to 2009 the BCF received most of its support from the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Fund and the Homer Bear Conservation Fund (a donor-directed endowment of the IBA), since then, income from these sources has declined. Growth in annual receipts to the fund has come from good increases in private donations. Looking forward, we continue to seek to broaden our base of support among private donors, thereby strengthening the BCF’s resilience and placing it in a position to realize maximum benefit as general economic recovery allows rebounds in the principal and yields from the Bevins and Homer Funds.

Special thanks are due this year to the following, for their generous support of IBA’s programs, advancing the scientific understanding of bears and the implementation of science-based bear conservation around the world:

- Homer Bear Conservation Fund
- John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Fund
- Riley and Susan Bechtel
- Harry and Pat Reynolds
- Joan Rog
- Little Rock Zoo
- Allan and Rosa Brody
- Polly Hessing
- Debra Potts
- Buffalo Zoo
- Russ van Horn
- Tony Collonese
- Christ Hacker
- Martin Urquhart
- Lynn Nelson
- Laurie Ferguson Craig

and other generous donors who wish to remain anonymous

Fig. 1. Bear Conservation Fund sources of income, March 2012 – February 2013.
Experience and Exchange Grants

Karen Noyce
Ole-Jakob Sorenson, Chair

2013 Experience and Exchange Grant Recipients

In March, IBA’s Experience and Exchange (E&E) program awarded grants to fund 3 proposals in 2013. Carlos Bautista Leon, of the Institute of Nature Conservation (Polish Academy of Science), received a grant to travel to the Ukraine, where he will be hosted by Maryna Shkvyria, of the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) for 3 weeks of work in Skolevski and Uzhanski National Parks, Ukraine, both of which are inhabited by brown bears. In Uzhanski, Carlos and Maryna will join Inna Kvakovska, a brown bear conservation biologist for the National Park Administration. The team will spend 10 days in each park during September – October and will implement a long-term system for collecting bear damage data in Ukraine. As those are the months when bears normally damage beehives and occasionally prey on livestock, the team hopes to be able to observe and practice assessing brown bear damage to farmsteads in situ. The Ukrainians will benefit from Carlos’s experience in monitoring bears, and Carlos will add to his work exploring how diverse management policies among countries affect the occurrence of bear-human conflict.

The second proposal funded came to IBA as a joint request from Seth Wilson, of People and Carnivores – Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, and 4 Slovenian Biologists. The grant funded a visit from Seth to Slovenia for a week in the spring, and he will, in turn, host the Slovenians in the Blackfoot Valley of Montana, following the Utah IBA conference in September. The goals of the exchange are to share lessons, experiences, and best management practices for resolving human bear conflicts, and to conduct a rapid assessment of the human-bear conflict situation in Slovenia, with the intent of co-developing a long-term plan for reducing human-bear conflicts and bear mortality there. Seth has been involved in efforts to reduce human-bear conflict under a model of partnership among local ranchers, landowners, NGOs, and state and federal wildlife management agencies. Under this partnership, from 2003-2011, verified conflicts with grizzlies were reduced by 96% and human-caused grizzly bear mortality dropped by 80% (Wilson et al., 2012). The intent is to apply this type of model to conflict management in Slovenia and to forge a robust partnership between Montana and Slovenia to support cross-cultural case-study learning for human-bear conflict reduction in mountain-agricultural areas.

The last $750 available for E&E grants was awarded to Gregg Losinski, to spend a week with Robin Rigg, of the Slovakian Wildlife Society, working in situ on the development and installation of bear-proof garbage containers in the Carpathian Mountains. Gregg is the U.S. Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team’s Information and Education chair, and is currently involved in a project to modify the trash containers used in the bulk of the Carpathians so that they can withstand brown bears. The protocols being used are those that have been developed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Container Testing Program.
Applications for Experience & Exchange Grants Due in November

Are you interested in participating in the work of other bear researchers or partnering with biologists in other places to learn more about bear management and conservation outside your region? If you’ve never let yourself consider this possibility because of the expense, think about applying for an IBA Experience & Exchange (E&E) Grant.

The E&E Grants program began in 2006, with the express purpose of helping fund travel for bear biologists wanting more cross-project experience. Young biologists seeking to develop specific technical expertise can benefit from hands-on training with more experienced professionals. Biologists dealing with difficult research questions can benefit from hosting a field visit from another colleague with pertinent experience and knowledge. Mid-career biologists sometimes wish to broaden their global conservation perspective or initiate collaboration with colleagues elsewhere in the world. Despite the mutual benefits of such exchanges, it can be difficult to find financial support for the travel involved.

E&E Grants provide up to $1500 per proposal. Applicants must show that the exchange is a cooperative arrangement between two parties, from which both benefit. Host and visitor must demonstrate their intent to keep costs low: for example, a host or host project might provide living space, local transportation, and/or food, while the visiting party often provides volunteer labor or training in his or her own expertise for the hosts.

E&E grants are meant to encourage people to extend their horizons and create new opportunities for longer term collaboration. They are not generally intended to supplement R&C Grant funds, i.e. covering travel expenses for successful R&C grant recipients, though this can sometimes be appropriate. Grants are awarded each year through a competitive process based on submitted proposals. Priority is given to project visits lasting several weeks to several months in which tangible benefits are identified for both host and visitor.

For more information and application instructions, go to the IBA website at: http://www.bearbiology.com/index.php?id=eg01. Applications are accepted once per year on or before November 30, with decisions announced in March.

IBA Elections 2013

It’s time for the “changing of the guard” for many IBA Officers and Council Members. Below is the list of nominees selected by the Nominations Committee; however, additional nominations can be accepted up to 65 prior to the elections on December 1, 2013.

We will be electing a new President, Vice-President for the Americas, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Council positions. The past-President will maintain a position on Council.

For additional nominations, submit to the IBA Secretary, Diana Doan-Crider, before September 26, 2013. Candidate statements are in alphabetical order under each position on the following pages.

Nominees are:

**President**
Karen Noyce
Chris Servheen

**Vice-President Americas**
Cecily Costello
Mike Proctor

**Secretary**
Jennapher Teunissen van Manen

**Treasurer**
Tabitha Graves

**Council Members**
Mark Bruscino – North America
Marta de Barba – Europe
Nishith Dharaiya – Asia
Mark Edwards – North American
Gabriella Fredriksson – Asia
Kerry Gunther – Paulina Viteri
Alex Kopatz – Europe
Yoshikazu Sato – Asia
Tomaz Skrbinsek – Europe
Gordon Stenhouse – North America
Paulina Viteri – South America
Nominees for President

Karen Noyce

I have been a black bear research biologist for the state of Minnesota, USA, since 1981. As such, I have come to know intimately the complexities of bear ecology, population assessment and management, and the dynamics of bear-human conflict. From the beginning, IBA provided me with a community of colleagues to call upon and primary sources, in its people and publications, for information and inspiration regarding bear research, management, and conservation around the globe. I became involved in IBA's inner workings in 1992, as regional correspondent for International Bear News, and was an associate editor of Ursus from 1998 – 2001. I was elected to Council in 1998 and 2001, then served as Vice-President (Americas), 2004 – 2010. Throughout this period, a key success of Council was to transform IBA into a truly international organization, with real impact on conservation of all bear species. In that spirit, I helped establish the Bear Conservation Fund, which I chaired from 2004 – June 2013, and I oversaw the establishment of the Experience and Exchange Grants program, still serving on that program's selection committee.

IBA’s leadership has always worked to create the kind of open, respectful, and supportive community of colleagues that I believe can best advance our goals of gaining greater understanding of bears and their conservation needs and of implementing science-based solutions to management and conservation problems. My purpose in running for IBA President is to further this vision of IBA as a vibrant community where active discourse catalyzes creative scientific inquiry, partnerships, and effective management and conservation.

Presidential responsibility, as I see it, is dual: first, to lead, by setting the tone for the organization's culture, being its spokesperson, encouraging the engagement of its members, and creatively moving it further towards its goals; second, to be caretaker, by ensuring the effective functioning of committees, safeguarding its integrity, and maintaining fiscal viability. If elected, I will come to the job with specific priorities:

1) Making conferences even more beneficial: assure that young professionals feel welcome and have ready access to networking opportunities; increase recognition for innovative work; explore ways to make conferences less burdensome to host, more affordable to attend, and more accessible to those who cannot attend in person.

2) Increasing IBA’s capacity to have an international voice and impact: increase member input and participation in IBA committees and new initiatives; strengthen ties to zoo and conservation education communities; continue to strengthen coordination with the Bear Specialist Group; increase the visibility of IBA as a resource for sound information.

3) Increasing the capacity of IBA grants programs: continue overall growth in donations to the Bear Conservation Fund; establish new grant category specifically to encourage innovation in management, conservation, and research; explore the idea of a permanent conference travel fund.

4) Following up on recent recommendations from the Management Committee aimed at revitalizing the relevance of IBA and its publications for population managers.

IBA is strong, with an ever stronger and more diverse membership. I look forward to serving, if elected.

Chris Servheen

My experience with bears started in the early 1970s as an undergraduate work study student working for John Craighead. I completed a Ph.D. on grizzly bears in 1981 at the University of Montana and was hired as the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where I have been ever since. As recovery coordinator, I am responsible for coordinating all grizzly research and management in the lower 48 States including coordination with Canadian conservation efforts. During the 32 year collaborative effort to recovery grizzlies, the population has almost doubled its distribution and increased to approximately 1800 bears. I was co-chair of the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group (BSG) for 12 years, and led the development of the IUCN/SSC Bear Conservation Action Plan published in 1999. I have been fortunate to collaborate with many international IBA members on bear conservation in Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, Spain, France, and in Greece where I was a Fulbright Scholar in 1994. Much of my international work has focused on trade in bears and bear parts in Asia for traditional medicine. In 1991, I co-authored the first comprehensive survey of bear trade throughout Asia for WWF. Recently, I have been assisting the development of the US Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan. I am Adjunct Research Associate Professor of Wildlife Conservation in the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences at the University of Montana and I have advised 17 Masters and Ph.D. students. I teach a course each year on International Wildlife Conservation.

I have been an IBA member since 1975 and I have attended and presented at most IBA conferences since 1977 and have authored or co-authored 8 papers in Ursus and/or IBA conference proceedings. I wrote the IBA monograph on the Status and Conservation of the Bears of the World and am a co-author on another IBA monograph. I co-organized one IBA Confer-
ence (1992) and several workshops on critical aspects of bear management including and the 4th International Human-Bear Conflicts workshop in 2012 that was attended by 300 bear specialists from across the US and several foreign countries (http://www.cfc.umt.edu/humanbearconflicts/). I organized a special session on climate change at the 2011 Ottawa IBA conference. I was the co-chair of the Trade in Bear Parts Expert Team until 2012.

Thanks to strong and effective leadership in the past, the IBA is functioning well and achieving its mission. As IBA President, I will maintain and enhance IBA’s effectiveness and use my international experience to help IBA become an even stronger international conservation organization. My leadership strengths involve building partnerships between diverse groups and agencies toward prioritizing, implementing, and achieving actions for bear conservation. I will increase IBA efforts on climate change issues, and enhance coordination and cooperation among IBA members on this important issue. The current BSG leadership has built a strong and vibrant international team that continuously improves world bear conservation. As IBA president, I will work closely with the BSG to make IBA and BSG an effective partnership for world bear conservation.

Nominees for Vice-President Americas

Cecily Costello

I am honored that the Nominating Committee has asked me to run for Vice President (for the Americas) of the IBA, and I accept with confidence that I can live up to their expectations. I am finishing my second term as IBA Treasurer, and feel that I have done my job well. I helped the organization bring our annual budget back into a positive balance, while preserving the benefits to our members. As a Council Member, I have weighed in on a variety of issues and feel that I am pragmatic, economical, and fair in my decisions. I believe the IBA is, first and foremost, a community that allows for exchange and collaboration among professionals and students involved with bear research and conservation. If elected as Vice President for the Americas, I will work toward improving our ability to serve our membership and achieve this central purpose. One area of concern for me is our ability to remain effective in reaching our membership through our International Conferences. These meetings are a cornerstone of the organization, but recent challenges in world-economies and travel restrictions are prohibiting many of our members from attending. I will work to ensure that the conferences are more accessible and affordable for all of our members around the world. I believe that as technology rapidly changes, we need to utilize the many tools that are available for us to reach our members and help equip them for their jobs no matter the remoteness of their location. In many areas and with many species, bear conservation is at a critical turning point. As a professional organization, it is our job to help our members access the best and most current information available to aid in their efforts to secure the persistence of bear species.

I have studied bears for about 25 years in various regions of the United States, primarily American black bears, and I am passionate about them. Currently, I work for the University of Montana as a research assistant collaborating with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, and also for Western Ecosystems Technology as the principal investigator of a black bear-wind power study in southern Vermont. I have been a member of IBA since about 1989, and I am dedicated to the organization. Besides my service as Treasurer, I also organized the 8th Western Black Bear Workshop in 2003, and have been an Associate Editor of Ursus since 2006. I live near Bozeman, Montana, USA with my husband, Mark Haroldson, and my son, Zane.

Thank you for your consideration – I hope to continue serving this great organization.

Mike Proctor

I have been an independent research scientist studying bears since 1995. The most interesting challenge remains the same – finding a pattern in nature. I still do my own field work, analyses, and paper writing, and that combination fosters my understanding of the link between what bears actually do on the ground, research questions, and bear conservation.

I have served twice on council and have been asked to run for Vice President. My 1st term was learning the workings of the IBA. During my 2nd term I began to contribute more fully. I look forward to improving the nature of my contribution if elected.

As a Canadian, my work is focused on threatened brown bear populations along the Canada-US border. I have a decent sense of what issues North American bear biologists and managers face. I also work a bit internationally and with the BSG, and am developing a sense of what bear researchers around the world face.
IBA Officers & Council

Most IBA members are North American. Most bear conservation issues come from other parts of the world. That juxtaposition creates a challenge for the IBA, but to me it is an opportunity. The IBA has become a truly international organization and this is the direction I would like to see the IBA continue, in partnership with the BSG, not at the expense of the attention North America receives, but alongside it. My understanding of bear conservation’s link to research and management has grown exponentially from my involvement with researchers from around the globe. That is the great value of the IBA, it is a forum to integrate problems and research methods, and ultimately quality information and conservation solutions for the variety of bear species we all work on.

Nominee for Secretary

**Jennapher Teunissen van Manen**

I was first introduced to IBA in 2002 when I started co-organizing the 15th conference in San Diego, California (2004). I have attended every conference since. My passion for bears developed while working for California Department of Fish and Game in the large game section but it was through the IBA that I was able to develop and focus my research interests. I attended the University of California Davis during my time at Fish and Game where I received my undergraduate degree in Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology with a focus on Physiological Ecology. I received my Masters degree in Wildlife Science and a minor in Statistics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville studying long-term diet patterns of black bears in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I now live in Bozeman, Montana and am working on a study to examine assimilated diet patterns of black bears in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation Society. I also continue research through the University of Tennessee to study seasonal dietary patterns of black bears in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

I am honored to be nominated for Secretary of the IBA and would appreciate the opportunity to give back to IBA the support that its members have given me getting my career started. Having co-organized the San Diego conference I am very familiar with the organizational structure of the IBA. I now manage the IBA database and am working with the current Secretary, Diana Doan-Crider to structure our membership records so that they are easily maintained using our web application form. I am maintaining and updating all membership information in the database. I am also the layout editor for the IBA/BSG newsletter, serve on the IBA Public Relations Committee, and compile the Recent Bear Literature section of the IBN.

IBA has its roots in North America. As bear conservation and management have changed over time the mission and membership of IBA have become more international. This is a success of the IBA. As a member of Council I would continue facilitating this goal to promote conservation in areas where bear conservation is critical while maintaining support and relevance to North American managers.

Nominee for Treasurer

**Tabitha Graves**

I would like to ask your support for treasurer for the IBA. I am a quantitative spatial ecologist, currently developing sample designs that will decrease the cost of counting bears. I am also a scientist supporting the use of science in management. I am committed to transfer of knowledge to the public, skills development for young and underrepresented biologists, and the use of creative and collaborative problem-solving approaches for challenging conservation questions.

I have been working on bears for 13 years and have been attending IBA meetings since 2000. I began working on spatial questions about grizzly bears while obtaining my Masters at the University of Montana. I worked on connectivity and road ecology of bears on the Kenai Peninsula, before working on abundance, connectivity, and dispersal questions about bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem in northwestern Montana. I went to Northern Arizona University (NAU) for my PhD and currently am a David H. Smith Postdoctoral Conservation Fellow at Colorado State University.

I have several relevant experiences to council. I was treasurer for two years for the Spatial Ecology Working group of the Wildlife Society. Other board roles include acting as President for the Forestry Graduate Student Association at Northern Arizona University, Secretary for the Graduate Student Association at NAU, and Student Representative for the US-International Association of Landscape Ecology.

Thanks for your consideration!
Council Members

Mark Bruscino – North America

Having worked on all aspects of large carnivore management and conservation for 28 years for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, including 22 years focused on the restoration of the Yellowstone area grizzly bear population. My experience includes supervising Wyoming’s Large Carnivore Program that focused on conflict management, population monitoring, habitat management and conservation, public education, applied research, and policy development for grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions, and gray wolves. I’ve been a member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team for over two decades and the Northern Rockies Wolf Working Group for 18 years. I have worked extensively with federal and state agency biologists and policy makers, legislators, local governments, landowners and land managers, and constituent groups to create and implement successful conservation programs for bears and other large carnivores.

As a Council member I will work to weave biology, wildlife management, human dimensions, and practical application to support the objectives of the IBA and make that information and resources available to the membership, researchers, managers, and to policy makers at all levels wherever bears occur. I believe that my broad range of experience implementing science backed conservation programs at the field level will benefit the Council and membership by bringing a manager’s perspective to the other important disciplines of bear conservation represented by the Officers and other Council members.

I have recently retired from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department after 32 years as a wildlife manager and would be honored to serve the Officers and membership as a Council member.

Marta de Barba – Europe

I have been involved with bear research since I attended the university and then through graduate school, when I went to my first IBA meeting in San Diego, in 2004. Since then, I much appreciated IBA contribution and the dedication of IBA members to bear conservation worldwide. My main focus has been on small and endangered bear populations to address questions relative to their genetics, demography, ecology, and viability, through field sampling and molecular genetic tools.

I have worked on bear projects in North America and Europe and have been exposed to issues for bear conservation and management in these parts of the world, but most of my efforts were and are still dedicated to the small, reintroduced brown bear population in northern Italy. Brown bear conservation in Southern Europe is challenged by habitat fragmentation and modification due to extensive human presence and activities, and population persistence is tightly linked to reduction of human-bear conflicts and management at the metapopulation level, for re-establishing connectivity among isolated populations once part of continuous ranges. In this perspective I am involved in the initiative for the creation of a European Brown Bear Genetic Database that will aid in sharing genetic monitoring data and building collaborations among researchers working on bears in Europe. If elected, I intend to push forwards these efforts within the IBA, for promoting effective bear conservation in Europe, particularly for the small and isolated populations.

Nishith Dharaiya – Asia

I am an assistant professor of Environmental Science at Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University in Gujarat, India. For the past 18 years I have been working mainly on large mammal ecology and biodiversity monitoring in Gujarat. I obtained B.Sc. with Zoology subject and did my Masters in Animal Sciences from Saurashtra University, Rajkot, India. My doctoral research focused on the ecology and behavior of Asiatic lions in the Gir Protected Area. Since 2006, I am doing research on sloth bears, investigating distribution, population monitoring, and human-bear conflicts in Gujarat. Recently I have also completed a primary survey on Sloth bears in Bhutan and Assam with BSG Co Chairs. Since 2008, I am a member of IBA and Sloth bear expert team and currently I am appointed as a Co Chair of Sloth bear expert team. I have authored the Bear Conservation Action Plan for the state of Gujarat and revised the map of sloth bear distribution for this state. In addition to sloth bear research, I am also engaged in studies focused on wetland monitoring and monitoring of small mammal populations in Gujarat. I am working toward collaborative capacity building programmes for wildlife conservation in my state. I am also developing manuals for rapid assessment of habitat and biodiversity to aid the state forest department's routine monitoring. I would like to encourage students and young researchers for research on bears and their habitats and involve local community in the bear welfare and conservation. As a part of IBA Council, my goal will be to congregate with the IBA mission and vision through enhancing and disseminating knowledge among young researchers and students, help them to write grants and participate and contribute in IBA activities and also encourage them to be a member of IBA.
IBA Officers & Council

Mark Edwards – North America

My passion for bears began under the mentorship of Dr. Andrew Derocher during my PhD (2003-2009), which took me to the Canadian Arctic to study barren-ground grizzly bears prior to the onset of hydrocarbon development. I am now Curator of Mammalogy at the Royal Alberta Museum and my research program focuses on how behavioral ecology of individuals influences their spatial and temporal distribution and resource use, and on the conservation and management of large carnivores, especially bears. I have been a member of the IBA since 2003. The IBA offers its members a broad range of support from enhancing networking opportunities, encouraging innovative scholarship, and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration. As an IBA Council member, I would like to enhance the IBA as resource for audiences beyond researchers and managers by:

1 – enhancing the visibility of the IBA website as an international resource for bear-related information. In the last year I have been working with Dr. Ximena Velez-Liendo to facilitate the development of Bear Information Pages on all 8 bear species for the IBA website. We want to attract new audiences (e.g., general public, educators, etc) to the IBA website.

2 – building educational resources on bear ecology, conservation, and management for educators. By attracting educators to the IBA website, we in turn mobilize our knowledge and passion to the next generation of bear scientists.

3 – strengthening the contributions and recognition of early career researchers. These individuals are on the cutting edge of bear science, management techniques, and practices and by encouraging their leadership, such as in the development of the Bear Info Pages, we develop effective future leaders in bear research, education and outreach.

Gabriella Fredriksson – Asia

During my MSc research on orangutans in East Kalimantan in 1994, I was lucky to come across two sun bears raiding a stingless bees nest way up in a huge Dipterocarp tree. This sighting was probably key in how my life has further taken course. In 1997 I started the first field research project on sun bears in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Since then I have been attending various IBA conferences and been active as the co-chair of the sun bear expert team of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group. My research on sun bears finally culminated in obtaining my PhD in 2012 supervised by Dave Garshelis and Jon Swenson.

During the years that I studied the smallest of the bear species, I became increasingly involved in the myriad of conservation issues that sun bears face throughout their distribution range. Habitat loss, hunting and poaching for body parts, lack of local constituencies supporting (bear) conservation, scant scientific attention from local students and research institutions, and a lack of knowledge and awareness concerning sun bears and conservation issues amongst the general public are the main challenges that need to be addressed.

I'm honored to be nominated for IBA council. I would like to see the IBA in the future to become more involved and proactive addressing bear conservation, specifically in countries where bear conservation is still underrated. The IBA should liaise with other key conservation NGOs to initiate and promote the development of new initiatives focusing on conservation of bears in Asia, and other areas where bear conservation action is limited but needed. In addition, I would like to assist the IBA in its’ important function to influence national conservation priorities to include bear conservation.

Kerry Gunther – North America

I began my career working on a black bear research project in Northern Minnesota and have spent the last 30 years working in grizzly bear and black bear research, management, and conservation in Yellowstone National Park. I have been the Yellowstone National Park Bear Management Program leader for the last 24 years. My experience includes human-bear conflict reduction management, bear safety messaging, and managing a recovering bear population in the face of significantly increasing park visitation. The foundation of our bear management program in Yellowstone Park is to reduce human-bear conflicts by preventing bears from obtaining anthropogenic foods and garbage. This program results in significantly fewer incidents of bear-caused property damage and bear-inflicted human injuries, and therefore significantly reduces the number of bears that must be captured and removed from the population in management actions. I believe this bear management philosophy could enhance bear conservation throughout the world. I strongly believe in science based bear management policies and the importance of human dimensions science in carving out a place for bears in today’s human dominated world.

As an IBA council member, I would work to simplify and standardize bear safety messaging, promote bear conservation and habitat protection, and work to support the objectives of the IBA.

Thank you for considering me for an IBA council member position. If elected, I look forward to serving the IBA membership and its officers.
**Alex Kopatz – Europe**

I live in Northern Norway at approximately 70 degrees north, next to the Norwegian-Russian border. As Sarah Palin, I can see Russia from my house.

I study brown bears in Northern Europe, using mainly non-invasive genetic samples from bear populations across the borders of Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia. Bioforsk Svanhovd DNA-laboratory, where I work, operates internationally and handles samples from large-scale bear monitoring projects from all northern European countries as well as cases of human-bear conflict and wildlife forensics. We are also testing new sampling techniques and introducing methods of conservation genomics.

In 2004 I started researching bears in Finland and attended my first IBA conference; nervous, my head full of questions and doubts. I got strong support and inspiration by the people I met and had contact to. Now, I want to get active, using the knowledge I acquired during the challenge of studying bears across far Northern Europe.

I look forward to take on responsibilities and contribute to push bear research and conservation in the name of the IBA, because in my opinion, the voice of the IBA should be heard louder, also outside of the bear community. In Europe, most of the managers, hunters, and photographers are not aware of the IBA. I experience the influence these groups have on the media and public opinion in my every day work. To improve communication with these groups is therefore of utmost importance for bear conservation, research and the achievement of the goals of the IBA beyond 2013.

**Yoshikazu Sato – Asia**

Since 1991, when I have first met a female brown bear with her cubs grazing on the subalpine grassland at the Daisetsuzan National Park in Hokkaido, my interest has focused on studying brown bears. I am currently an associate professor of wildlife ecology in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, Rakuno Gakuen University in Hokkaido, Japan, where I have studied brown bear ecology and management, with particular interest in ecological understandings the cause of human-bear conflicts and its application for conservation and management. I received a B.S. from Hokkaido University in 1996 and completed a M.S. and Ph.D. in wildlife management at the University of Tokyo in 1998 and 2002, respectively.

I have been an active member of IBA since 1998 and have served on Program Committee Chair of IBA conference 2006 in Japan. I also serve on the Secretary General of the Mammal Society of Japan and the Vice-President of Japan Bear Network since 2012.

Since many of IBA members engaged in local conservation, management issues or particular research topics, one of the missions of IBA is an information bridge among worldwide members. There are heavy human-bear conflicts in Asian countries and there is limited information available regarding the status and biology of Asian bears in most of areas. As a council candidate from Asia, I hope to contribute to strengthen information exchanges between Asia and other areas, as well as within Asia.

**Tomaz Skrbinsek – Europe**

Coming from Slovenia, the country with one of the highest population densities of brown bears, I had to go to Alaska to meet my first bear. A city boy at a still tender high-school age, spending a year in one of the last wild places left on the planet got me hooked on things wild. And never let me go.

This passion for wild things and the joy of accepting a challenge got me into brown bear research when a noninvasive genetics research project of this species ended in my lap. Although being a “lab rat” clashed with my internal self-image of a gritty field biologist at first, I soon realized the power of these (then) new tools. Looking back a decade later, I wouldn’t change a thing. And it never was purely about science – the goal was conservation, and I’ve been working hard to make a difference.

I consider being nominated as an IBA councilor an honor, as well as a challenge. Also, I see it as an opportunity to give something back. When I was struggling with the first steps in my career as a researcher, it was an IBA student grant that helped me get the training I needed in one of the best laboratories around. I feel very strongly about science and think that it should be the basis for conservation, but experience also taught me that conservation only happens when actual people that live with the things we wish to conserve are involved. If elected, I will make an effort to promote these issues within the IBA.
Gordon Stenhouse – North America

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to conduct research on bears (brown bears and grizzly bears) over the past 33 years of my professional career as a wildlife biologist and research scientist. My current position is with the Alberta Government where I have worked in a seconded role with the Foothills Research Institute (FRI) as leader of the FRI grizzly bear program. This program has focused on applied research and has necessitated the formation of large number of partnerships to both conduct the scientific component of the program and also to provide ongoing funding of the work. I take pride in the fact that I work with a dedicated and hardworking multi-disciplinary research team and the program achievements are indeed a team effort. I am also proud that this research has drawn together groups and organizations to support our common goal of grizzly bear conservation in Alberta, and these groups continue to provide funding to support this ongoing work.

I have been an IBA member for many years and I am always impressed with the dedication and contributions of the IBA council and membership. I do however see a need to try to broaden our support with new sponsors and partners who share our common vision as this relates to research and management activities. My sense is that there are groups and organizations that would welcome and benefit from IBA input in a number of areas.

As a researcher I truly understand the challenges of stable funding and long term funding support, and I think the IBA faces these same challenges. I believe I have skills, experience, and the ability to assist the IBA with promoting our organization and in so doing strengthen and expand our long term fiscal outlook (our IBA treasury) in order that the IBA can also do some longer term planning for our membership. This is not something I can do alone but rather I would like to work with a small team of members to help move this forward.

The IBA has, and continues to evolve with new developments and challenges facing bear conservation worldwide. Our membership will play a key and pivotal role in providing sound scientific input and advice to those facing important management decisions regarding bears and their habitats. Strengthening our ability to take on this role, and assist in the development of the next generation of IBA professionals, should be important goals for the future direction of the IBA.

If elected I would be honored to serve the membership and would try to provide thoughtful consideration of issues that come before the IBA Council and would welcome the opportunity to participate with other council members on discussions and decisions about these issues.

Paulina Viteri – South America

I have worked on Andean bear research and conservation for thirteen years in both academia and conservation organizations. In 2003, I obtained a B.Sc. in Biology from the University San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador, and in 2007 I completed a M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Idaho, USA. Most of my research has focused on developing field and laboratory methods to study genetics and ecology of Andean bears. However, early on in my career I understood that generating scientific information was not enough, and that to be able to conserve bears it is essential to work with people. In this sense, for the last six years and as part of my doctoral program, I studied social sciences and have gained experience on participatory action research methodologies and collaborative approaches to biodiversity conservation.

Since 2008 I have served on the Andean Bear Expert Team. In 2010, I participated and co-authored the National Strategy for Andean bear conservation in Ecuador. I am fully committed to conserve this species and I consider the IBA an important ally to achieve this goal. I have been part of the IBA family since I attended the 14th IBA conference in Steinkjer, Norway in 2002. Since then, the IBA has become more international and interdisciplinary, but I think there are still more opportunities to increase the representation of members from countries and disciplines that are currently underrepresented. I also would like to see more input from members to decide where IBA should be heading in the future. As part of the IBA council, I would be happy to facilitate discussions to develop a process to increase member participation, diversity and gender equity.

Remember to vote on 1 December 2013 for President, Vice-President Americas, Secretary, and Treasurer, and 3 Council Members.
Status of the Brown Bear Population in the Central Alps (Trentino-Italy)

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2012 monitoring season (which constitutes the 11th year of successive genetic monitoring) on brown bears in Trentino-Italy shows that the bear population is still growing (15.6% average yearly growth rate during the period 2002-2012), with a presently estimated minimum population of 43-48 individuals (Fig. 1) with at least 7 different litters recorded in 2012.

This is the main data reported in the “Bear Report 2012”, now at its sixth edition, edited by the Forest and Wildlife Department of the Provincia Autonoma di Trento, in cooperation with the Adamello Brenta Natural Park and the Science Museum of Trento. The English version of the report is available as a PDF on http://www.orso.provincia.tn.it/rapporto_orso_trentino/082-10231.html

The document offers an update on the status of the bear population, providing data concerning monitoring, damage prevention and compensation, emergencies management, communication, personnel training, international networking and research.

The minimum number of 43 bears consists of 22 males, 14 females and 7 undetermined. 17 of these bears (40%) are adult, 11 are sub-adults (26%) and 15 are cubs (35%). The effective population (Ne=12), shows that only in the last three years there has been a strong increase in the number of bears capable of reproduction (Fig. 2).

The survival rates (observed over 11 years, 64 different bears and 291 bear-years) are the fol-
Litters and cubs 2002-2012

Fig. 3

In 2012 for the first time standardized monitoring with camera traps on rub trees has been carried out (on 20 selected trees). The main scope was to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on the use of rub trees by bears, in relation to the frequency and ways in which they are used by different sexes and age groups and during different seasons. The monitoring lasted from May until November, checking cameras every three weeks. 4,736 videos (128 of bears) have been collected. Main data are available on the above mentioned website.

On territory occupancy, the Brenta and the Paganella-Gazza range still represent the strongholds of the bear population. Females roam in a relatively small area (1,052 square km) which is entirely in the western part of Trentino (3.2 bears/100 square km in such area), while the territory occupied by males, considering the dispersion movements of 2012, is 19,425 square km wide (Fig. 4). It is interesting to note that almost all adult males roamed, at least during the spring season, in the area occupied by females. Out of the 21 young males that have dispersed between 2005-2012 two have been shot (in Germany and Switzerland), two are dead, one disappeared, two went missing in the last year and 14 are still present (6 came back into Trentino or bordering areas, 6 are roaming out of the province and 2 reached the Dinaric population).

Damages recorded a considerable increase in 2012, compared with the previous year (+55%). 191 damages have been recorded and 97,800,29 euro compensated. This significant increase in damages is probably due to the shortage of natural foods in 2012 (particularly beechnuts, *Fagus sylvatica*). In 2012 the emergency team was called into action 37 times, in most cases following reports of damage or the sighting of bears close to facilities frequented by man or inhabited areas. 6 times the staff carried out aversive conditioning.

Finally in 2012 the bear called M11, recovered as an orphan cub in 2011, rehabilitated in the following 38 days and then released back in the wild, has been repeatedly spotted showing that he has successfully survived the winter season. M11 is under strict control because of his increasing confident behaviour and may be removed soon.
19 Year-old Female Black Bear, Former Study Animal, Killed by Vehicle in Florida

Brian Scheick and David Alden
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

On December 9, 2012, personnel with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) responded to a call from a citizen reporting a carcass of a female Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) on the side of a road within the boundary of Eglin Air Force Base (EAFB), Florida. They found an old female bear with a metal Monel ear tag stamped with the number 20 that weighed 68 kg (150 lbs). Her front teeth were worn nearly to the gum line, but despite her poor teeth she was in good overall body condition. Also, she may have been accompanied by a cub; one was reportedly seen with her although not confirmed by FWC personnel who recovered the carcass. Because black bear cubs older than 6 months are typically capable of being independent, FWC did not attempt to locate the reported cub.

Because FWC no longer uses metal ear tags, one of our biologists searched in an FWC database of bear records for a bear with this tattoo or tag number. They found that Bear #20 had been part of a joint study by the University of Florida and the University of Tennessee, funded by the United States Department of Defense for EAFB. She provided data for several theses and publications. Bear #20 had been captured and radiocollared in June 1995 at 43.1 kg (95 lbs) and then recaptured in July 1998 at 59.0 kg (130 lbs). The 1995-1998 EAFB bear study collected 209 locations for Bear #20 over 26 months (June 1995 – August 1997) and created a 95% minimum convex polygon home range of 3,460 ha (8,550 acres). When the location of the recent vehicle collision was mapped, we found that she was on the very edge of her mid-1990s home range (Figure 1), apparently struck attempting to cross the road into or out of a small section of bear habitat. This anecdotal evidence indicates adult female black bear home ranges can be very stable over longer periods than was known.

Bear #20 is also one of the oldest bears documented in Florida. She was a young bear when captured (estimated age 2.5 years via cementum annuli analysis) and likely would have been born in late January of 1993 (Garrison 2007), therefore she was a few months shy of turning 20 years old when she was struck and killed by a vehicle. Of 809 independent female bears (aged 2 or more) aged in Florida (FWC unpublished data of captures and carcasses) over several decades, only 1 is older than 19 years (2 = 19 years, 1 = 20 years). Bears aged at 17 or greater represent the 99th percentile of these 809 samples. Reports in 1996 of a bear with cubs fit her radiolocations but researchers could not confirm the cubs. She was lactating in 1998 and may have had at least one cub this year. We will have a tooth analyzed to attempt to reconstruct reproductive history, but this is rarely successful in Florida (8% success from 65 teeth in 2011; FWC unpublished data).

Figure 1. The location of Bear #20’s December 2012 death from a vehicle collision in relation to 1995-1998 locations from captures, radiotelemetry, and visual positions and 95% minimum convex polygon home range in Okaloosa County, Florida.
tion (Gary Matson, Matson’s Laboratory, LLC, personal communication 2012) so the number of cubs Bear #20 produced over her lifetime may be left to speculation.

Vehicle-bear collisions are fairly common in Florida, and increasing. Collecting data on location, sex, age, body condition, and other factors helps make use of these unfortunate fatalities. Through long-term monitoring and reporting, sometimes we discover the unexpected and thereby learn something new. We would like to thank Andrew Jerrigan and Kevin McDonald for recovering Bear #20, Barbara Schmeling Almario for searching our database, and the members of the EAFB research project: Dr. Mel Sunquist, Dr. Mike Pelton, David Alden, Clint Cagle, Adam Freedman, and Marty Stratman.

References

A Six-toed Paw Print
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Imagine Adam Konanz’s surprise in the fall of 2012, when he came across a six-toed bear track while checking his wildlife trail camera, near Clark Lake in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, Canada. Among some lynx and cougar tracks, Konanz spotted the six-toed print easily. Caught without a ruler, Dr. Konanz, a chiropractor in the nearby town of Penticton, measured the print using his hand. “The width was my thumb spread out to my pinky, which is 7 inches”. Konanz also took photos, and forwarded them to me for a closer look.

From the photos, the prints appear to have been made by an American black bear (Ursus americanus), because of the toe curvature and spacing, relatively short claw marks, and the shape of the foot. A black bear would also be a more likely species in that region than a grizzly bear (Ursus arctos). It may be possible, however, that the additional digit has altered the foot in such a way as to hinder identification. Says Konanz, “the bear … just missed walking by my trail camera which would have been great”.

Polydactyly is a condition in which an animal has extra fingers or toes, and it is usually genetically influenced. Polydactyly is well documented in humans, non-human primates, cats, dogs, chickens, and mice, but I could find no record of extra digits having been observed among bears of any kind. If you have observations or records of polydactyly in bears that you would like to share, or if you have questions regarding this note, please feel free to contact me at the address above.

Acknowledgment: much gratitude to John Acorn for a helpful review of an earlier draft of this article.
An IBA Experience and Exchange Grant Helps Facilitate International Cooperation to Reduce Human/Bear Conflicts

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During the spring of 2013 we visited Slovakia thanks to an exchange grant from the IBA. The intent of the visit was two-fold. One aspect was to continue the work begun two years earlier to assist in designing a bear resistant retrofit to the trash containers used along the Carpathian Mountains. This ongoing project typifies the international cooperation possible to solve human/bear conflicts. The Slovaks sent a container to the United States where it was tested using protocols developed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The container failed the tests as expected and it was then taken to Canada where a private firm named Haul-All modified it and shipped back to the U.S. for testing at the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center in Montana. That time the container passed the tests. Video of the testing was presented to government officials in Slovakia and agreements were made for testing on-site of new modified containers, along with agreement to work towards municipal ordinances to require proper sanitation and use of bear resistant containers. Work is now ongoing to produce and ship test retrofit kits back to Slovakia.

In addition to meeting to discuss the modified containers, I was also able to meet with students from pre-kindergarten through university to discuss American wildlife management, especially bears. With younger children I was able to use activities from the Project WILD Curriculum to help convey basic wildlife management concepts.

The Slovak people were very excited about hearing of the ongoing success in America to conserve brown bears and they were extremely wonderful hosts. The media was very interested in my visit and numerous print, radio, television, and internet stories were produced about the exchange and all mentioned the IBA.
The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Has a New Look!

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The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) was formed in 1983 to lead a coordinated effort by state and federal resource management agencies to recovery grizzly bear populations in the contiguous lower 48 United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, and research. The IGBC consists of representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and representatives of the state wildlife agencies of Idaho, Montana, Washington and Wyoming. In the interest of international coordination and cooperation, the Canadian Wildlife Service is also represented.

Since somewhere near its inception the IGBC has used a logo whose origins have long been forgotten, to represent itself. While the logo was somewhat endearing, it has graphic limitations and had become dated.

In 2012, Gregg Losinski who chairs the Information & Education Subcommittee for IBC felt it was time for a rebranding and approached the IGBC for approval to begin work on developing a new logo. After many ideas were reviewed an image designed by Jaimel Blajszczak of Wyoming Game & Fish was adopted.

Website and video links: igbconline.org http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S98tneF-VaM
California Searching for New Methods to Monitor its Bears

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In 1958, the California State Legislature classified black bears (*Ursus americanus*) as a game mammal, and black bears have been sport-hunted since that time. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) currently relies on a change in ratio model that utilizes sex and age-at-harvest data (Fraser et al. 1982, Paloheimo and Fraser 1981) to estimate statewide black bear abundance, and we have been continuously collecting bear harvest data for this model since 1982.

California’s black bear population has increased substantially over the past 30 years. Sitton (1982) estimated between 10,000 and 15,000 bears occurred in California in the early 1980’s. Current estimates following the 2011 hunting season indicate that approximately 30,537 bears (+/- 7,452 95% CI) occur in California, roughly a threefold increase since Sitton’s estimate. However, limitations of the Fraser model inhibit our ability to manage bear populations at less-than-statewide scales. Because the Fraser model relies on harvest data, we lack a mechanism to estimate bear abundance outside existing bears hunt zones.

Furthermore, using the Fraser model inhibits our ability to monitor bear populations at smaller scales. For example, Brown et al. (2009) differentiated four distinct genetic subpopulations of black bears occurring within California. When harvest data for these subpopulations are exposed to the Fraser model, key assumptions are violated in some locations. These violations result in obviously erroneous population estimates (some are large negatives). Hence, we must find alternate models in order to confidently evaluate abundance of bears constituting these subpopulations and monitor their trend.

One of the most cost effective and increasingly common methods of estimating abundance and density of bears on local scales is through genetic capture-mark-recapture (CMR) using systematically collected hair samples (Mowat and Strobeck 2000, Kendall et al. 2009). With human development moving further into bear habitat and bears readily habituating to these human-altered landscapes, it is critical that we acquire these population parameters in both wildland and urban habitat types. Hence, in 2010, we initiated a project is using genetic CMR sampling techniques to acquire estimates of density, population size and sex ratios in both wildland and human-altered, urban habitats in the eastern Sierra Nevada, Mono County, California. Our urban study area is the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TML), CA. The wildland study area is located on the Slinkard Valley Wildlife Area. Though genetic CMR methods have been widely used for wildland bears, they have not been tested in urban environments, such as TML. The main objective of our study was to test traditional wildland CMR methods and modify these methods for urban environments. Field work was completed August 2012. Genetic data will be available from the UC Davis Wildlife Heath & Genetics Lab, Davis, CA, USA in July 2013 for us to perform CMR analysis.

In addition, we have begun efforts on a larger-scale genetic CMR study to estimate bear abundance outside the existing bear hunt zones and understand the logistical complexities of working in California’s landscape. We began sampling wildland bears throughout San Luis Obispo County (SLO) in the spring of 2013 following Mowat and Strobeck (2000) and Kendall et al. (2009). We plan to continue collecting hair samples into early summer, and then we’ll move operations north to Monterey County this fall to start securing access to private properties that contain pre-designated sampling locations (approximately 48% occur on private land). Hair samples containing genetic material will be analyzed by the UC Davis Wildlife Heath & Genetics Lab who will analyze the data using established CMR based models.

We anticipate gaining much from these efforts. We will have a new methodology to sample bears in urban areas. We will have bear abundance estimates for portions of the state outside existing bear hunt zones that do not rely on harvest data. We will have worked out logistical details associated with this type of work.

Although we will have gained much, there’s still a lot of work to do. Particularly, we will need to assess the feasibility of monitoring bears with this technique on a statewide scale. The Fraser model is attractive because it is relatively inexpensive to produce an abundance estimate, but the costs are many as explained here. Conversely, the genetic CMR technique is time consuming and expensive, especially when sampling costs are factored. We will explore various options for monitoring California’s black bears using genetic CMR techniques, such as varying effort, time or locations, or subsampling by defining areas of the state which well-represent California’s four black bear subpopulations.

References
A Mixed Methods Analysis Examining the Conflicts Arising in Human-Black Bear Encounters

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Human–black bear conflicts have been increasing over the last twenty-five years in the western United States. Conflicts arising in human–bear encounters involve both those between people and bears, and between people about bears and how to address them. Research focusing on the interactions between people and black bears is extensive, but few studies have focused on the conflict, or the progression from encounter to problem to conflict.

Using concurrent mixed methods, this study examined the conflicts arising in human–black bear encounters in the Lake Tahoe Basin of California and Nevada. Through seventy semi-structured interviews and one hundred nineteen surveys with community members and agency employees, and legal, policy, and document reviews, this research sought to learn more about the factors that influence the views participants formed about bears, and the alternatives they considered when an encounter became a problem. The interviews and background survey were administered concurrently, analyzed separately, and compared and integrated in a final interpretation. Background survey and Potential for Conflict Index (PCI) results supplemented the interview findings and created context and connections with earlier studies.

Five themes organized the twelve findings that emerged from the semi-structured interviews through open coding. Four of the five themes organizing the findings begin to map the social, psychological, and political dimensions of how problem black bear encounters arise in the community and offer some insights into the recurring paths they take. The first theme focused on intrapersonal dimensions, or participants’ ideas about bears and the ways they formed them. The next three themes illustrated symptoms of the fractures, and/or ways that the fractures manifest in social and institutional relationships. The second theme organized the ways that participants characterized problems with black bears and the problems arising in encounters and addressing them. The third theme organized the ways that the community has been addressing problem encounters with black bears. The fourth theme provided insights into the support systems the community relies upon and ways those support systems might be improved. The fifth, and final, theme emphasized the community itself and the partitions in the community that became evident through the interviews. It also acknowledged the complexity of the community and the need to recognize both its human and natural dimensions while evaluating and addressing problem black bear encounters.

Background survey analyses identified significant differences based on gender, and significant differences and highly mixed opinions on the importance of engaging an impartial facilitator. Strong gender differences between the respondents, especially in their opinions about wildlife and black bear management, were clearly evident. These findings were extended through the use of the Potential for Conflict Index (PCI2) to identify the issues of greatest concern both among and between the participants through their affiliations as a resident (full-time and part-time), public agency employee, or vacation visitor. For instance, although survey wide responses suggested that respondents supported the idea of an impartial facilitator leading a community problem-solving process, significance testing and analyses using the Potential for Conflict Index revealed the support was situated most with parties who have less of a stake in the community, especially vacation visitors. The background survey and analyses also provided insights into the community’s preferences for black bear management outcomes while Potential for Conflict Indices shed light on the levels of consensus between and within community constituencies. Although almost half (41%) of the respondents survey wide strongly supported the wildlife management agency making final decisions about problem black bears, there were clear and significant differences between residents and public agencies, and residents and vacation visitors.

Sitton, L.W. 1982. The black bear in California. State of California, the Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game.
The research also found at least three distinct communities sharing the same geographic space, but functioning for the most part independently until a problem black bear encounter occurred. Bears as provocateurs were both troublemakers and the catalysts for understanding the fractured community, how it addresses problem situations, and how their troublemaking could help to build a more connected community.

Acknowledging the partitions in the larger community can create incentives to tailor conflict resolution systems that will reach individual communities based on their foremost needs and interests, and provide opportunities to explore areas most likely fruitful for building bridges between the communities. These findings also provide insights into ways that existing systems for addressing problem encounters might be improved for greater harmony between people and bears and people about bears. Future efforts might include developing ways to more accurately assess the scope and extent of problem encounters, exploring the community’s interest in forums to create connections between the disparate sub-communities, examining opportunities to develop community support systems, and exploring opportunities for team-building projects between community members.

Mexican Wildlife Agency Receives Equipment from Pneu-Dart
Diana Doan-Crider

Through a generous donation of a $1000 certificate from the Pneu-Dart Corporation to the IBA, the Mexican wildlife management agency of Parques y Vida Silvestre de Nuevo León (PVSNL) recently received some much needed field equipment. Due to a dramatic increase in human-bear conflicts in this city of 4 million, managers have had to focus a great deal of their time on relocating bears that have wandered into schools, yards, and other highly urbanized areas. As many of you know, the PVSNL has been progressive in training their staff to reduce and manage conflicts by participating in our many IBA sponsored workshops and conferences. Thanks Pneu-Dart for helping them do their job! We would also like to thank Marty Obbard for facilitating this gift.

If You’re a Student, YOU Need to Sign Up NOW!

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Spectacled Bear Museum Exhibit in Ecuador

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Fundación Cordillera Tropical (Cuenca, Ecuador) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison developed the museum exhibit, “El Oso de Anteojos: Símbolo de los Andes” (“The Spectacled Bear: Symbol of the Andes”) in collaboration with experts at the Pumapungo Museum in Cuenca, Ecuador. The photographic exhibit opened on February 28th and ran through March 24th, 2013. It explores our work to study and protect this locally endangered species. The exhibit juxtaposes photographs from our camera traps with those from our work to train community park guards and para-biologists, as well as pictures of work with local elementary schools on our bear-focused education program.

In conjunction with the exhibit, we have hosted a series of public lectures and special visits for local school children. Our goal is that this exhibit is a first step toward creating a national dialogue about endangered species conservation. To that end, we have asked all visitors to leave their message for the spectacled bear. Of the more than 500 messages in Spanish and Kichwa, we want to share these words from one visitor with you: “Little bear, be careful. Mother Nature needs you. You are beautiful. I hope to see you one day. I love you, (signed) Angeline”.

The public museum exhibit aims to embed science and conservation into the national consciousness. We hope that our exhibit can inspire a new generation of young conservationists, foster policies that support conservation on private lands, and ultimately protect this venerable symbol of the mighty Tropical Andes.

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Student Forum
Pioneering Grizzly Bear Researcher, Kate Kendall, Retires After 35 Years

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Kate Kendall retired from her job as a grizzly bear researcher for the US Geological Service (USGS) in May 2013. The USGS is the scientific research arm for many federal agencies including the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since 1982 Kate’s research work focused on what is arguably the most important grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states, the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem or NCDE. The NCDE includes Glacier National Park and extends southward along the Continental Divide in Montana. The NCDE is the key to connecting other isolated bear populations south of Canada including the Cabinet-Yaaks, Yellowstone, and the still-unoccupied vast area of grizzly bear habitat in Central Idaho called the Bitterroot Ecosystem. The NCDE is also the largest grizzly bear population south of Canada as was convincingly demonstrated by a massive study she completed in 2004 (Kendall et al. 2009, Demography and Genetic Structure of a Recovering Grizzly Bear Population, J. Wildlife Management 73(1)). This paper won the The Wildlife Society’s “Outstanding Wildlife Article” award in 2010.

Kendall’s work in the NCDE built on DNA hair-snaring work initiated by Canadian researchers Bruce McLellan, John Woods and David Petkau but she estimated the number of bears in an astonishingly huge area, the entire 8 million acre (31,410 km2) NCDE recovery area and buffer zone. She organized an army of 240 summer staff and volunteers to collect over 34,000 hair samples over a 2-year period. Hair was collected from the scent-baited hair corrals developed in the Canadian work but also from an additional source she pioneered, bear rub trees. She also integrated historical conventional captures into her design. With these data she and her co-workers estimated a population of 765 bears in the NCDE ecosystem with an incredibly small 95% CI of 715-831). Kendall’s estimate provided the baseline for ongoing work by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks scientist Rick Mace and his colleagues to determine that the NCDE population has been growing at about 3%/year since the baseline and now numbers an extrapolated 1,000 grizzly bears.

With this information in hand, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is now in the process of proposing to delist grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act list of threatened species in the NCDE. Prior to Kendall’s work, the estimate of bears in the heavily-forested NCDE was little more than guesswork and guesswork would have been an inadequate basis for any delisting proposal. Kendall’s work in the NCDE played a role parallel to the much longer-term and better-funded work in the Yellowstone Ecosystem by Frank and John Craighead, Dick Knight, Chuck Schwartz and, now, Frank VanManen in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Over the last year Kate has assembled a similar effort to estimate the number of bears in Montana’s Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem and she continues to research ways to use DNA hair snaring techniques to detect trends in bear populations. Although she is now retired from her USGS job, she assured me at her retirement party last May that she will continue to be involved in these and other efforts. She has an ability to organize, to collect funds for, to staff, and to successfully complete studies on a scale more massive than any other bear researcher I know. She’d have been a good general.

In addition to her work in the NCDE, Kate is well known as an expert on white-bark pine which is an important, and declining because of disease, bear food in some areas. She co-organized a symposium on whitebark pine and co-edited the proceedings.
IBA Member News

I got to know Kate well when I was IBA President in the late 1990s. Kate was the IBA’s Secretary-Treasurer and implemented reforms in that position (including splitting it into 2 separate positions). She was a delight to work with and I could always count on her to complete whatever task she agreed to and she never turned down any task I asked her to do. I think that one of the things that sets Kate’s approach to research apart is her willingness to involve a team of people in the design of her work; she doesn’t let ego get in the way of successful execution of team research and is eager to share credit with her co-workers and collaborators.

Kate’s distinguished career included many firsts including paving the path for many of the women who are distinguished bear (and other wildlife) researchers and managers today. Her graduating undergraduate class at the University of Virginia (1970) was the first to admit women but now the majority of many wildlife programs are women. Kate and her husband of 31 years, George Scherman, have 2 boys; all are avid outdoor recreationalists. They will continue to live in their beautiful home, largely built by George, on the banks of the Flathead River south of Whitefish Montana. When you see her in Provo this September, be sure to congratulate her on her highly successful and significant career and the many challenges she has overcome.

Bears in Culture

Bears in Scotland

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My interest in bears began as a child. Like most other British children my bookshelves were full of books with bears in them, from Winnie-the-Pooh to Baloo, from Paddington to Rupert, and all the bears in fairy tales. Some of these were clearly as stuffed as the bears I had in my bed, but not all of them: the three bears encountered by Goldilocks clearly had independent lives out in the forest, even if they did come home to eat porridge. It was those real bears that fascinated me most, and it didn’t take long before I was asking, if there were so many bears in my stories, was I likely to meet one when I played in the woods. And if not, why not?

Brown bears are native to Britain, although they were hunted to extinction probably about a thousand years ago. Bones of brown bears have been found in more than 100 archaeological sites across Britain, from Essex in the south, to the Salway Firth in southern Scotland, to the Inchnadamp Caves in Assynt, in the northern county of Sutherland, where the remains of three brown bear skeletons have been found so far, including the most recent wild bear bones in the UK.

In the light of advice from animal historian, Andrew Kitchener, that it was plausible that Sutherland was the last place they survived in the wild, I set my first novel, The Last Bear, in Assynt at the end of the 10th century AD. This was a time of political turmoil, when the indigenous inhabitants were subject to cultural change, with the arrival of Vikings from Norway and Christian Scots.

Brown bears left their mark on Scotland’s ecosystems, and their impacts have outlived them. As great seed dispersers, they are probably responsible for the rapid spread across the island of big-seeded trees, such as oak and hazel, after the end of the last ice age. Conversely, their absence has a detrimental effect, making it hard for the oak and hazel trees to regenerate from the remaining fragments of oakwood, particularly in the northern landscape where mountains and lakes make seed dispersal difficult.

There is no doubt of the cultural significance of bears to people in Britain for the thousands of years before they were exterminated. Thanks to archaeology in Yorkshire, we know they were eaten by people in the neolithic period. Bear tooth amulets have been found in various sites, including an iron age broch at Keiss and a Roman camp at Chesters, and claws and bear skins were found in several human burials. There are also several inscriptions of bears or bearlike animals on pictish stones.
There is documentary evidence of bears in the forests of Scotland in the Roman period, and of “Caledonian Bears” being used for attacking Christians in Roman amphitheatres. The idea of the Caledonian forest as bear habitat outlived the species, with, for example, Campden, in his book Brittania, in 1607, describing the forest as “dreadful for its dark intricate windings and for its dens of Bears”. Despite their ferocious reputation, in stories of the Caledonian forest, the bear is often a helpful animal. The Brown Bear in the Green Glen is a good example.

In the mediaeval period captive bears were used for baiting with dogs and toured as dancing bears for entertainment, and there are stories of their occasional escapes, but it is unlikely any genuinely wild bears remained in Britain. Some of the many place names containing “bear” or related words, including Bearwards Lane in London, are linked to the keepers of captive bears. Likewise Bearsden in Glasgow, if it relates to bears at all, is likely to refer to a captive or pet bear rather than a wild one.

Mathan, the Gaelic word for bear, made its way into people’s names: the Mathieson clan, for example. Other names, including Arthur, Bernard, Bertha, Ursula and even Robert have bear-related origins.

Bears appear on some clan insignia or other heraldic signs, and the famous gates of Traquair House in the Scottish borders have bears on them. There are records of bear hunting at this estate into the 13th century but this is likely to be of captured bears released specifically for the hunt. Again, we see that although actual bears were gone, the idea of the bears continued, and people were keen to gain from their associations with courage and strength.

In British literature, and not only children’s books, bears have an ongoing presence. Bears have a deep and old symbolism of fertility, and the apparently magical ability of nature to restore life after death. In many indigenous traditions around the boreal region, the mother bear’s apparent self-burial for winter, followed by her rebirth in spring with cubs, makes the bear a powerful totem animal. This symbolism is echoed in British poetry, for example Ted Hughes’ poem “The Bear”, in which “The bear is gluing / Beginning to end / With glue from people’s bones..... He is the ferryman / To dead land.”

Another key idea about bears is their kinship with us, due to their intelligence, omnivorous diet and ability to stand on hindlegs. The poet Eleanor Rees continues this tradition in her long poem “Eliza and the Bear”, which explores the suspicion that her lover is a bear. The myth of Callisto, the maiden who is turned into a bear rather than becoming a mother, appears in many forms in literature, and it was this story that I used as a central thread in my latest novel, Bear Witness.

Bear Witness explores the question of whether, after a thousand years of absence, brown bears might be reintroduced to Scotland. It was launched at an event in Assynt called “How Wild Can We Go?” on Earth Day (22 April) 2013, which included an enthusiastic debate on the potential for reintroduction of all of Scotland’s extinct species, including bears, wolves and lynx. Osprey, red kite and sea eagle reintroductions have been successful and beavers are now back, and the European Directive on Habitats makes it an obligation for the government to consider reintroduction for all the missing species. The Earth Day event took place on community-owned land, and the current shift towards community land ownership and land purchase by organisations that give primacy to nature conservation in their management objectives, means that the culture of land use in Scotland may be more welcoming to predators than at any time in the past.

There are many organisations in Scotland that support the rewilding of land, and some, including the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Trees for Life, have explicit policies to promote the return of bears. Other organisations that support rewilding include Reforesting Scotland, the John Muir Trust, the Woodland Trust, New Caledonian Woodlands and the Scottish Wild Land Group. Many valuable lessons can be learned from the many rewilding experiences in other European countries, but research carried out by Tooth and Claw in 2007 makes clear that there is a huge range of opinion about predators in Scotland, and much more debate is needed. A thorough scientific study of the feasibility of brown bear reintroduction to Scotland would be a good place to start.

For the time being, however, bears retain their place in the culture of Britain, primarily on our bookshelves.
Do Bears Need Wilderness? Are They a “Symbol of the Wilderness”?

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“In wilderness is the preservation of the world”, wrote early American conservationist and writer Henry David Thoreau over 150 years ago. His message was that wild places sustained the physical and spiritual needs of human societies. Thoreau’s words seem more valid today than ever. Human economies benefit immensely from ecosystem services provided by wild places (watershed protection, and mitigation of natural disasters, are two examples). And growing numbers of tourists to national parks in many countries signifies a need for contact with nature. Clearly people need wild places (whether they realize it or not)—but do bears? Should bears be used by conservationists as ambassadors of wild places?

Bears of course often thrive in wild places. From South and North America to Europe and Asia, the largest bear populations tend to occur in places that are relatively unsettled and uncultivated by humans. This is not necessarily because these places represent the best bear habitat; rather, it is largely because bears living in remote places are less likely to be killed by people. One thing we’ve learned about most of the bears is that they can also live in places that are anything but wild. Their incredible adaptability and resilience enable them to thrive in a wide diversity of habitat conditions. Brown bear distribution and abundance in Europe has diminished greatly compared to historical levels, yet today brown bears are expanding in many countries—despite higher human densities and less wilderness than in the past—because the management priorities of most countries has changed from extermination to conservation. Simply put, the status of bears and other large carnivores in Europe and North America is not directly connected to human population density (Linnell et al. 2001). The most important determinant for the persistence of bears in an area is usually peoples’ behavior, rather than whether people occur there or not.

The lesson that bear population status depends mainly on human behavior rather than wilderness appears to be true for less well-studied bear species as well. A contrasting example of two sun bear populations in Malaysia illustrates this point. Bears in a protected area in Borneo starved to death during a natural fruiting failure (Wong et al. 2005). By contrast, sun bears in a small fragment of forest surrounded by oil palm and other crops were the heaviest wild sun bears ever reported because they fed extensively on the crops (Cheah 2013). In many areas bears can do quite well in human-dominated landscapes, if not persecuted by humans. And, as the research by Wong et al. showed, wild areas do not guarantee healthy bear populations, even if bears are not hunted there.

What do these observations teach us about bear conservation? First, bear populations are often limited by human-related mortality, not habitat quality per se. Bear populations can flourish in a great diversity of habitats, even human-dominated landscapes, if mortality from humans is low. This actually presents a great opportunity for bear conservation – if we can control human killing, we don’t have to worry so much about habitat. Notably, bears exist in places where other species have been wiped out – species such as tigers, rhinos, pangolins, and turtles. Though their wild habitats have shrunk at the hands of humans, bears often persist and even thrive in human-dominated landscapes.

Second, because bears are not necessarily connected to or an indicator of wildness, using them as potential flagship species or a symbol of wild places might actually be more complicated than is often assumed. This has implications for how we communicate with the public about bears, and about the places where bears live. We don’t mean to suggest that wild places are not good for bears, but we need to be clear that non-wild places can also be good, and that these also deserve conservation attention. As bear biologists and conservationists, we need not shy away from this slightly more complicated perspective: we can use bears as symbols to help conserve wild places, but we would be remiss if we limited bear conservation to wild places. We should be pleased that most bears are opportunistic omnivores, and use that knowledge to our advantage in developing conservation strategies. If we insist on promoting the image of bears in pristine wilderness, we will lose many opportunities to save bears.

That is not to say that we should not strive to protect wilderness as a place that bears and many other species can live with minimal impacts from humans. Certainly, a photo of a bear in a wild setting, with no evidence of human intrusion, is
far more compelling and inspiring than a bear in a cropfield, even if the latter has better nutrition. Bears can still serve as ambassadors in public communication regarding habitat conservation.

Ecosystems might not collapse without bears, and we should not suggest that they would, but we should also be aware that bears may have important functional roles that maintain overall ecosystem integrity. Take dispersal of large-seeded fruits in tropical Asia for example. There are relatively few species of animals that handle large fruits (e.g., hornbills, some of the bigger pigeons, gibbons, and bears), yet 90% of tropical tree species depend on animal dispersers. Loss of dispersers has been demonstrated to cause drastic changes in tropical tree species composition and forest dynamics, though it might take a few decades.

As Thoreau wrote a century ago, people clearly benefit from wild places. These benefits should be promoted widely, especially among urban people. Bears are part of these wild places, and thus can help us protect wild places, but let’s not mix up conservation of wild places with conservation of bears. Our conservation message should be clear, simple, and also accurate.

References

Distribution and food resources of Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) and human-bear conflict in the Panchase Protected Forest of Nepal

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Introduction

The Panchase Protected Forest (PPF) lies in the Syangja and Parbat districts of the sub-tropical mid-hills region of Nepal (Figure 1). It comprises 57.76 km² of Schima-Castanopsis dominated forest and rises from 784 m to 2,517 m elevation (DoF 2012). The forest connects the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) and serves as the main source of water for Phewa Lake. The value of its natural resources and biodiversity, and of its social, religious, historical and cultural heritage led the Government of Nepal to declare the area as protected in 2012 (DoF, 2012). Declaration of the forest as protected included the definition of a core area of the PPF that is off-limits to all human presence and activity (Figure 1).

The region has more than 2,000 species of plants (including at least 112 orchids) and is rich in animal diversity (Aryal and Dhungel, 2009). There has been no systematic wildlife survey of the area. The present study was an initial effort to document
the status of black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*), food resources used by the species, and perceptions of local people regarding the presence of bears in the area.

**Methods**

This study was conducted in September and October 2012, using three approaches: 1) presence/absence survey (detailed in Bista and Aryal, 2013); 2) microhistological scat analysis as described in Aryal et al., 2012; and 3) interviews with people who live around the PPF about sightings of bears, evidence of bear activities and incidents of conflict with bears.

**Results and Discussion**

Evidence of black bears was found throughout the PPF area in the form of paw prints, scratched trees, and bear scat. Most of the black bear sign was found between 2,000 m to 2,500 m elevation. We interviewed 57 local people who live in the Panchase region to learn about their perceptions of bear presence, and about instances of human-bear conflict. Black bears are known to visit the agricultural fields surrounding the PPF, and 96% of interviewees appeared aware of the presence of bears in the area. Eighty percent of interviewed people felt that bear populations had decreased in the last 10 years. They suggested that increasing human activity in the forest and shrinking habitat size was driving the animals into human-occupied areas.

To understand the food resources on which black bears survive in the area, we analyzed all 18 bear scats that were found during the study. Of the plant fragments isolated from the scats, 80% were identifiable as one of twenty-five different plants. The remaining 20% were not identifiable. The most common plant species isolated in the scats were *Quercus* spp. (9%), *Arisaema* spp. (7%), *Smilax* spp. (5%), *Daphniphyllum himalense* (3%), *Drepanostachyum falcatum* (3%), *Viburnum mullaha* (3%), *Cyathea spinulosa* (2%), *Osbeckia stellata* (1%), *Cleyera japonica* (3%), *Pyrularia edulis* (1%), *Berberis asiatica* (1%), *Rhus* spp. (1%), *Mahonia napaulensis* (1%). This study
provided a preliminary understanding of black bear feeding behavior, and a more detailed study is necessary to elucidate this aspect of black bear ecology in the area.

Interviewees recounted three instances of people having been attacked by bears in 2005, 2009 and 2012, respectively (Figure 2). These attacks occurred in the core area of the PPF while people were collecting forest products.

While the buffer area of the PPF is still open for human use, the core area is intended for conservation of biodiversity and wildlife habitat and is restricted from human encroachment. Human-wildlife encounters are also meant to be prevented by keeping people out of the forest. Local people have depended for generations on the forest for livelihood activities such as livestock grazing, livestock fodder and firewood collection, and collection of plants for medicinal use. To prevent illegal encroachment of the protected area, the government has implemented income-generating activities for local people that are intended to reduce the dependence of people on the forest. In addition, efforts are being made to raise awareness among locals about wildlife conservation and forest protection. Enforcement of the restriction remains a challenge as people continue to trespass into the forest, particularly to graze livestock.

References

Conditions of Captive Brown Bears in Ukraine
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The official government estimate of numbers of wild brown bears in Ukraine is close to 400, but independent data from scientific institutions indicates there are approximately 250-300 wild bears, and more than 200 brown bears in captivity.

We made a preliminary assessment of the captive conditions of 36 bears. The majority of bears were 4-10 years old with a sex ratio of 1:1, 60% of which were reproductive.

Our assessment found that bears are kept in captivity for three main reasons:

a. Creation of private zoological collections for aesthetic purposes with periodic bear demonstrations.

b. Entertainment purposes; bears are kept by businesses and entertainment companies, including restaurants, hotels, traveling zoos, and circuses.

c. Bears are used to train hunting dogs.
Our analyses indicated that captive conditions were poor for bears in all cases. Dietary conditions of the bears did not satisfy their physiological requirements, area enclosures were less than the 30 m² as required by law, and qualifications of service personnel and their knowledge of bear biology was extremely low. Veterinary control was virtually absent and all animals we observed manifested a high frequency of compulsive behavior and had clearly visible health problems, such as obesity, hair loss, and gastrointestinal tract disorders. In addition, safety measures such as barriers, electric fences, etc. were rarely used, resulting in human injuries which in turn negatively affected public perception about bears.

The sources of bears for captivity were state zoological gardens, illegal traveling menageries, circuses and private collections in Ukrainian and Russian territories, and wild captures in Ukraine and Russia. The majority of captive bear cubs originated from Russian territory. In Ukraine, den hunting is illegal and rarely occurs. Brown bears in Ukraine have been listed on the national red list of threatened species since 2003.

Official private keeping of bears is not effectively controlled. Bears are sold and bought, bred and hybridized without control. Currently, in Ukraine there is one state and one private bear shelter in operation which does not have the capacity to support many animals.

We have compiled a database about captive bears (please see: carnivora.com.ua) for addressing such problems and we are developing recommendations for enrichment of bears in captivity. These recommendations will include: informing keepers about the biology of the species, infectious risks, requirements for diet and enclosures, and environmental enrichment.

Fig.1 Captive 4-year old brown bear in a private zoo in the Chernivtci region, Ukraine.
Rescued Moon bear given life-saving brain surgery in Lao PDR

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An Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) suffering from hydrocephalus recently underwent a world-first neurosurgery at the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre in Lao PDR (Laos). Asiatic black bears are a globally threatened species and are given the highest level of legal protection in Laos, where they are targeted by poachers to feed the demand for their bile and other body parts.

The bear, named ChamPa, was rescued from wildlife traders as a cub in 2010 and brought to the Free the Bears–sponsored Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre in northern Laos. ChamPa was estimated to be just a few months old at the time of her arrival at the sanctuary. Her sibling, captured at the same time from forests in northern Laos, had already died whilst in the hands of wildlife traders; they intended to sell these bears into a life of misery on one of the many bear bile extraction facilities that occurs in Laos and neighbouring countries such as China, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Free the Bears staff noticed ChamPa’s pronounced, dome-like head when she first arrived, but at that stage the symptoms of hydrocephalus were mild. In humans, hydrocephalus is diagnosed using specialist imaging techniques such as MRI or CT, which are not available in Laos. Hydrocephalus, also known as “water on the brain”, is a medical condition in which there is an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the cavities of the brain, leading to increased intracranial pressure inside the skull and progressive enlargement of the head. Headaches, convulsions, tunnel vision and mental disability often result from hydrocephalus which, if left untreated, often leads to premature death. In wild animals, hydrocephalus would usually lead to a decision to euthanize, however this was not considered to be an option in Laos due to cultural concerns.

After nearly three years at the Free the Bears sanctuary, ChamPa’s condition had deteriorated greatly, leading to drastically impaired vision, and to her being unable to interact with other bears. On February 26th 2013, Free the Bears assembled an international team of veterinary specialists for a workshop aimed at building capacity of local veterinarians from bear sanctuaries in Laos, Cambodia and India. The veterinary workshop was the fourth in a series supported by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and was the first to be held in Laos, where veterinary science is still relatively undeveloped. Following a thorough examination of ChamPa, the specialists, led by Dr. Romain Pizzi and Dr. Jonathan Cracknell of Wildlife Surgery International, concluded that she was indeed suffering from hydrocephalus. Thus ChamPa became the first bear of any species to receive neurosurgery.

The surgery required the placement of a ventricular shunt which allowed the excess CSF to be drained from the brain and into the abdominal cavity of the bear where it could be naturally absorbed. The procedure took over 6 hours and involved assessment of the ideal location to place the shunt, creating access to the brain via a 6 mm bone tunnel drilled using special
ist equipment. The ventricular catheter, inserted into ChamPa's brain, was then attached to a low-pressure shunt that was buried under her skin, running nearly the entire length of her body. This was finally linked to a peritoneal catheter which drained into ChamPa's abdomen and was placed using minimally invasive keyhole surgery. This long and difficult surgery required both specialist surgical and anaesthesia techniques to be applied.

By the following morning ChamPa's condition was already showing noticeable signs of improvement, with increased activity and balance, improved mental alertness and signs that her vision had improved. Close monitoring over the past three months has concluded that the surgery was a success, with ChamPa now enjoying a greatly improved quality of life. ChamPa will require on-going specialist care and will never be suitable for re-release back to the wild but can now spend the remainder of her natural life comfortably at the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre. This centre serves not only as a safe home for the placement of bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, but also as a unique facility for increasing environmental awareness amongst more than 200,000 local and international tourists who visit the park each year.
Book Review: American Bears – Selections from the Writings of Theodore Roosevelt, by Paul Schullery

Review by Lance Craighead

This is a delightful little book that gives us a clear window into the beginnings of scientific game management in North America. Paul Schullery provides a wonderful selection of twelve of Roosevelt’s writings about bears as well as a collection of passages about predation from other writings. He sets the stage with a well-written and referenced introduction that explains Roosevelt’s perspective from within the social conventions and beliefs of his time: his knowledge was gleaned from wide reading, his hunting experiences, and discussions with others. It appears that he was the most authoritative author about bears up to that time; and for many years thereafter. The book was originally published in 1983 and then re-printed in 2012. Like most IBA members, I have as large a collection of books about bears as I have been able to find over the years: I’m amazed that I never came across this one before. Perhaps it’s because people have held onto them and they haven’t found their way into most used book stores. A search of Amazon books didn’t find it, but a Google search found it in several places.

The selection of writings was chosen by the author with an eye to bear natural history and behavior. The first nine chapters were written by Roosevelt from his western experiences in the 1880’s and 90’s. The final three chapters are about trips made during his presidency. The chapters are reproduced as they appeared in Roosevelt’s books; many had been published previously as magazine articles. Roosevelt’s prose invokes images of the old rough rider, sitting around a campfire, and embellishing a good story with colorful details; while sticking close to the actual facts. He was very observant and had an encyclopedic knowledge of wildlife writings, often commenting on popular misconceptions and pointing out what he had discerned to be the reality. One passage from Chapter 2, old Ephraim, The Grizzly Bear explains: “The grizzly is now chiefly a beast of the high hills and heavy timber; but this is merely because he has learned that he must rely on cover to guard him from man, and has forsaken the open ground accordingly. In old days, and in one or two very out-of-the-way places almost to the present time, he wandered at will over the plains”. Roosevelt then goes on to discuss grizzlies on the plains, and in the Arctic; and then adds: “My friend, Mr. Rockhill, of Maryland, who was the first white man to explore eastern Tibet, describes the large, grizzly-like bear of those desolate uplands as having similar habits”.

Chapter Ten describes a trip to Yellowstone Park in April 1902. Roosevelt concludes this essay saying: “This whole episode of bear life in the Yellowstone is so extraordinary that it will be well worth while for any man who has the right powers and enough time, to make a complete study of the life and history of the Yellowstone bears. Indeed, nothing better could be done by some of our out-door faunal naturalists than to spend at least a year in the Yellowstone, and to study the life habits of all the wild creatures therein. A man able to do this, and to write down accurately and interestingly what he has seen, would make a contribution of permanent value to our nature literature.” In 1902 a whole year of study would have been considered excessive. Today after about 55 years of study, there is still a lot to learn about the Yellowstone bears.

This book is a fun read, and a great contribution to the bear literature. I highly recommended it, not only for its information on bears, but for its insights on Theodore Roosevelt. It’s hard to imagine any modern-day politicians, with their canned hunts, photo ops, and disregard for hunter safety, having a similar appreciation for the natural world.

Recent Bear Literature

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If your research article is going to be published or is in press, please send the citation to Jennapher Teunissen van Manen to be included in the next issue of IBN.

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Events

**IBA 2013 in Provo, UT—September 15-20**

As you make final arrangements to attend IBA 2013 in Provo, Utah, please support the local conference committee by reserving rooms at the Downtown Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Room rates are reasonable for this quality facility, which is the only local venue that can easily accommodate a conference of this size.

Small, local motels are not within walking distance of the conference venue. Please book your rooms now, supporting the local committee’s budget by using the recommended hotel. Enter group rate (beabeaa) when booking with the Provo Marriott to receive the group discount. If you are looking for the Government rate, please contact cw169@byu.edu to receive more information.

The early bird registration price ends on July 31, register before then and save up to $90.00 (USD). Full and student registration fees include:

- Welcome reception on Sunday, September 15
- All session and workshops
- One Chuck wagon dinner and show ticket
- Program abstracts
- Continental breakfast each morning
- All coffee/snack breaks

You are a valuable part of this year’s conference. See you in Utah!

Registration and conference information can be found at ibautah.byu.edu
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About the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization open to professional biologists, wildlife managers, and others dedicated to the conservation of all bear species. The organization has over 550 members from over 50 countries. It supports the scientific management of bears through research and distribution of information. The IBA sponsors international conferences on all aspects of bear biology, ecology, and management. The proceedings are published as peer-reviewed scientific papers in the journal *Ursus*.

**IBA Mission Statement**

*Goal:* The goal of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) is to promote the conservation and restoration of the world’s bears through science-based research, management, and education.

*Objectives:* In support of this goal, IBA’s objectives are to:

1. Promote and foster well-designed research of the highest professional standards.
2. Develop and promote sound stewardship of the world’s bears through scientifically based population and habitat management.
3. Publish and distribute, through its conferences and publications, peer-reviewed scientific and technical information of high quality addressing broad issues of ecology, conservation, and management.
4. Encourage communication and collaboration across scientific disciplines and among bear researchers and managers through conferences, workshops, and newsletters.
5. Increase public awareness and understanding of bear ecology, conservation, and management by encouraging the translation of technical information into popular literature and other media, as well as through other educational forums.
6. Encourage the professional growth and development of our members.
7. Provide professional counsel and advice on issues of natural resource policy related to bear management and conservation.
8. Maintain the highest standards of professional ethics and scientific integrity.
9. Encourage full international participation in the IBA through the siting of conferences, active recruitment of international members and officers, and through financial support for international research, travel to meetings, memberships, and journal subscriptions.
10. Through its integrated relationship with the Bear Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission, identify priorities in bear research and management and recruit project proposals to the IBA Grants Program that address these priorities.
11. Build an endowment and a future funding base to provide ongoing support for IBA core functions and for the IBA Grants Program.
12. Support innovative solutions to bear conservation dilemmas that involve local communities as well as national or regional governments and, to the extent possible, address their needs without compromising bear conservation, recognizing that conservation is most successful where human communities are stable and can see the benefits of conservation efforts.
13. Form partnerships with other institutions to achieve conservation goals, where partnerships could provide additional funding, knowledge of geographical areas, or expertise in scientific or non-scientific sectors.

Deadline for the Fall 2013 issue is 5 October 2013

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