



Oso	Urs
Bär	Ours
Björn	Медведь
Orso	Бса
Bjørn	Medved
Samxe	Beer
熊	Shash
熊	Béruang
Bhalou	Karhu
Ἀρκτος	Bear

# International Bear News

*Quarterly Newsletter of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)  
and the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group*

August 2005 vol. 14, no. 3



© John Hechtel

14th IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group Meeting summary and resolutions on pages 14-17.

# Table of Contents

<b>Council News</b>	3	<i>From the President</i>
	4	<i>Editor's Thank You's</i>
	5	<i>IBA's New Experience and Exchange Grants Available</i>
	6	<i>New Source for Bear Safety Videos/DVDs</i>
	6	<i>New Reporting for R&amp;C Grants Program</i>
		<i>IBA Members: Yellowstone Grizzly Decision Input Sought</i>
<b>Opinion</b>	7	<i>IBA Should Support Proposal to Remove Yellowstone Grizzly Bear from the U.S. Threatened Species List</i>
<b>Bear Specialist Group</b>	10	<i>Creating a Mexican Black Bear Expert Team</i>
	11	<i>First Mexican Black Bear Workshop</i>
	13	<i>Bear Specialist Group Coordinating Committee</i>
<b>Polar Bear Specialist Group</b>	14	<i>14th Meeting of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group</i>
	15	<i>New PBSG Chair</i>
	16	<i>IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group Resolutions</i>
<b>Eurasia</b>	18	<i>Asiatic Black Bear Restoration in Mount Jiri, South Korea</i>
	20	<i>Brown Bears Return to Mount Olympus</i>
	22	<i>Romania</i>
<b>Americas</b>	23	<i>Bolivia: Reason to Kill a Bear, "I did it because it was there."</i>
	24	<i>Volunteers Needed in Ecuador</i>
		<i>Crossing Borders for the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop</i>
	25	<i>Mexico Black Bear Pilot Study Initiated in Nuevo Leon Using GPS Collars</i>
	26	<i>Second Fatal Black Bear Mauling in the Northwest Territories, Canada</i>
	27	<i>Florida Update</i>
	28	<i>Five Cubs Increase Mississippi's Bear Population 15-20 Percent</i>
	29	<i>18th Eastern Black Bear Workshop Thank You's</i>
<b>Captive Bears</b>	30	<i>Naturalistic Large Enclosures for Polar Bears in Europe</i>
	31	<i>Grizzly Bear Vasectomy</i>
	32	<i>Rehabilitation and Release of Bears</i>
<b>Student Forum</b>	33	<i>We'll See You in Italy!!</i>
		<i>IBA Student? The List Serve is for You!</i>
		<i>"Go to Your Room!"</i>
	35	<i>Student Spotlight: First Mexican Black Bear Workshop Students</i>
<b>Bears in Culture Events</b>	36	<i>The Burned Paw</i>
	38	<i>Italy 16th IBA Conference — Program — Call for Videos — Registration</i>
	44	<i>American Zoo and Aquarium Association Annual Conference</i>
		<i>First European Congress of Conservation Biology</i>
		<i>Ninth Western Black Bear Workshop</i>
	45	<i>Japan 17th IBA Conference</i>
	47	<i>Mexico 18th IBA Conference</i>
<b>IBA</b>	48	<i>IBA Officers &amp; Council</i>
	49	<i>IBA Membership Application</i>
	51	<i>IBA Publications Order Form</i>
	Back	<i>About IBA and Mission Statement</i>

*International Bear News*, ISSN #1064-1564, quarterly newsletter of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA).  
 Editor: Teresa DeLorenzo, Design: Cynthia Cheney, 10907 NW Copeland St., Portland, Oregon 97229-6145, USA.  
 Phone (503) 643-4008, Fax (503) 643-4072, Email [ibanews@bearbiology.com](mailto:ibanews@bearbiology.com), Website [www.bearbiology.com/www.bearbiology.org](http://www.bearbiology.com/www.bearbiology.org).  
**Back issues are available at [www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com).**

#### Editorial Policy

*International Bear News* welcomes articles about biology, conservation and management of the world's eight bear species. Submissions of 750-1500 words are preferred, and photos, drawings and charts are appreciated. Submissions to [ibanews@bearbiology.com](mailto:ibanews@bearbiology.com) are preferred, otherwise mail or fax to the address above. IBA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit submissions.

**Deadline for the November 2005 issue is October 15, 2005.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. Artwork is copyrighted — do not reproduce without permission.  
 Thank you to CityGraphics and Imaging, Portland, Oregon, USA for generously discounting the cost of printing.

#### Membership

**Use the form on the page 49 to order or renew memberships, make donations, and update member information.**

## From the President

Harry Reynolds  
PO Box 80843  
Fairbanks, AK 99708, USA  
Phone (907) 479-5169  
Email [ibapresident@bearbiology.com](mailto:ibapresident@bearbiology.com)

### Italy!!

There is still time to make arrangements to attend the 16th IBA international conference in Italy that will be held September 27-October 1, 2005 (pages 38-43). This important gathering of individuals committed to bears will be held in the spectacular setting of Riva del Garda in Trentino, where brown bears roam in the Italian Alps. Each of our conferences provide opportunities to share applications of the most up-to-date techniques to help focus efforts for conservation of bear populations throughout the world. As important, our meetings allow for the one-on-one discussion of ideas, brainstorming of more effective approaches to common problems, and exposure to new personal contacts. The value of this exchange cannot be overstated — it leads to more rapid transfer of the long term understanding and on-the-ground conservation measures that are crucial to management of bears in all parts of the world, and to the continued integral presence of bears in diverse environments of the world far into the future.

The organizing committee has attracted a wide variety of presentations for the conference. (Note the call for videos on page 40.) The conference will provide the first opportunity for many members of Expert Teams of the IUCN Bear Specialist Group to meet in person and to better assess conservation priorities and strategies for bears.

### IBA Webmaster Tully Hammill Retires

One of the great strengths of IBA is that it is an organization of volunteers, providing their services, commitment and energies because they believe in bear conservation. Tully Hammill is one of the very important volunteers who help make our organization function. As our webmaster, Tully has enabled us to communicate with each other through the web and to provide IBA's science-based conservation message to others. Tully is retiring in September 2005 from his position with the University of Washington, and because of his future plans will resign from his IBA position as well. Please join me in thanking Tully for his part in making IBA an effective voice for bear conservation and in wishing him an enjoyable retirement.

As a result of Tully's retirement, IBA is seeking a new volunteer webmaster. Tully is very willing to help in the transition for a new webmaster and to share his insights regarding keeping our website a valuable tool for users around the world.

### My Retirement

After almost 33 years of working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, primarily as a brown bear research biologist, I've decided to retire on September 1, 2005. I plan to dedicate most of my efforts for the remaining two years of my tenure as IBA president to further the goals and programs of IBA. Note new contact information above.

### Japan Conference

Preparations are well underway for the 17th IBA conference in Karuizawa Town, October 2-6, 2006. Submissions for poster and oral presentations will be accepted beginning October 1, 2005 (deadline March 31, 2006). The deadline for scheduling workshops is December 31, 2005. See pages 45-46 for details.

### Elections for IBA Council

In a separate mailing, all IBA members will soon be receiving ballots and candidate statements for the election of the IBA Vice President-Eurasia and two Council members. Elections for Council positions are held in conjunction with both the Americas conference and the Eurasia conference. While members who are candidates for Council may reside in any country, our bylaws require that candidates for Vice President-Eurasia and Vice President-Americas be residents within those regions. Those elected will represent members in conducting the day-to-day business of IBA. Our effectiveness in advancing bear conservation depends on many of the decisions made by Council, so it is important that members carefully consider their votes. In order to be counted, completed ballots must be mailed in time to reach IBA Secretary Joe Clark before September 27th when the conference in Italy begins.

## From the President, cont'd.

### Bears of the Gobi Desert, Mongolia

During November 2004, His Excellency U. Barsbold, Mongolian Minister of Nature and the Environment, convened a workshop to assess the most appropriate strategy for conservation of the remaining population of 20-50 bears that remain in the Gobi Desert (see workshop recommendations on the IBA webpage, [www.bearbiology.org](http://www.bearbiology.org)). The workshop was attended by Mongolian scientists, experts, and conservationists as well as representatives from IBA, the IUCN Bear Specialist Group, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), among other NGOs, and independent biologists. There is a general lack of information on population size and stability, movement patterns, and even species status of Gobi bears. If the present assessment of Gobi bear numbers and status by Mongolian experts is correct, then the population, at least in Mongolia, is at risk of extinction.

Workshop recommendations included the need for collecting genetic samples to determine genetic relationships with the nearest areas inhabited by brown bears; using remote cameras to assess minimum numbers of individual bears visiting the three oasis complexes that comprise the known distribution centers for the bears; and fitting a sample of bears with GPS satellite collars to determine movement patterns between oases, and use of areas beyond the oases.

To address one aspect of the recommendations, P. Zahler (WCS), B. Lhagvasuren (Mongolian Academy of Sciences), B. Mijiddorj (Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area (GGSPA)) and I submitted a one-year research proposal to the IBA Research and Conservation Grants Program for

purchase of remote cameras and related equipment for deployment at oases to assess minimum numbers of bears using these areas. As a result of the IBA grant award, we worked in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Mongolian Ministry of Nature and the Environment to purchase three GPS satellite collars; and with a team of Mongolian biologists, to capture and collar bears and collect genetic material for analysis. Team members included L. Amgalan (Mongolian Academy of Sciences), T. Tserenbataa (UNDP), Dovchiudorj (GGSPA), and Derek Craighead (Beringia South). Although we were responsible for all costs while in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, the team was provided with in-country logistical support once we reached the countryside. Supplemental support was received from the independent research institute, Beringia South, of Kelly, Wyoming, USA and its president, Derek Craighead, who has extensive experience with GPS satellite tracking and data analysis, and who was also part of the team. Airfare was provided through a grant from Bear Trust International.

During June 10-July 10, 2005, we were able to set out remote cameras at eight oases and collect about 30 hair or scats for genetic analysis. Despite problems encountered with traps that had not been used in

many years, we were able to capture two bears, and place one satellite collar and one VHF collar on these. We also provided training in the use of remote cameras for rangers of the GGSPA.

This effort provides a good example of how IBA grant funds can serve as leverage to enable a conservation effort to be accomplished and provide training opportunities at the same time. The end result we strive for is conservation of bear populations for the future.

### Editor's Thank You's

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue, including regular correspondents:

Charity Bartoskewitz  
Fred Dean  
Diana Doan-Crider  
Matthew E. Durnin  
Dave Garshelis  
Lydia Kolter  
David Mather  
Bruce McLellan  
Harry Reynolds  
Robin Rigg

## IBA's New Experience and Exchange Grants Available

Ole Jakob Sorensen  
Program Chair  
North Trondelag University College  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
and Natural Resources  
Box 2501  
N-7729 Steinkjer, Norway.  
Phone +47-74112052  
Fax +47-74112101  
Email ole.j.sorensen@hint.no

The committee appointed to oversee IBA's new Experience and Exchange Grants (*IBN* May 2005 14(2):6) has started to work out the guidelines for this program. We are currently working to have the guidelines and application form ready to be presented at the 16th international bear conference in Italy in late September (pages 38-43).

This grants program will mainly be designed for young biologists and researchers who desire to gain technical and practical training either by visiting ongoing research programs, thereby seeking experience to be implemented in his/her own research area, or by having more experienced researchers join them on site to help create or improve ongoing research, management, or conservation programs. Though we anticipate that most applications will fall into one of these categories, other types of experience and exchange applications will be considered.

A unique aspect of this program is that it always will include coordination and cooperation between two parties, the one travelling and a host. That connection and the mutual interest and goals of the two parties must be clear in the application. The host must in some way demonstrate that they are ready to assist practi-

cally, technically and maybe also, but not necessarily, financially to the common effort.

For people interested in looking into this grant possibility in 2005 or 2006, the time has come to start planning. The 2005 startup funding for this program will be awarded late in the fall of 2005, for use most likely in 2006. Application requirements will be finalized by late September and posted on the IBA website ([www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com)), with an application deadline of November 1, 2005.

Applications for 2006 grants is tentatively set for March 1, 2006.

Grants will be awarded for up to approximately US\$1,500.

We realize that the first two years will be a time of learning for this program committee. Guidelines and schedules may change as we learn more about how to best design and implement these grants. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in finding opportunities to apply for this grant are welcome to contact any of the committee members for more information, both before and after we present our final guidelines at the conference in Italy and on the IBA website.

The other committee members are:  
Glen Contreras (USA)  
[glenifsfish@aol.com](mailto:glenifsfish@aol.com)  
Isaac Goldstein  
(Venezuela)  
[igoldstein@wcs.org](mailto:igoldstein@wcs.org)  
Petra Kaczensky (Germany)  
[petra.kaczensky@wildlife.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:petra.kaczensky@wildlife.uni-freiburg.de)  
Karen Noyce (USA)  
[karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us)

## New Source for Bear Safety Video/DVDs

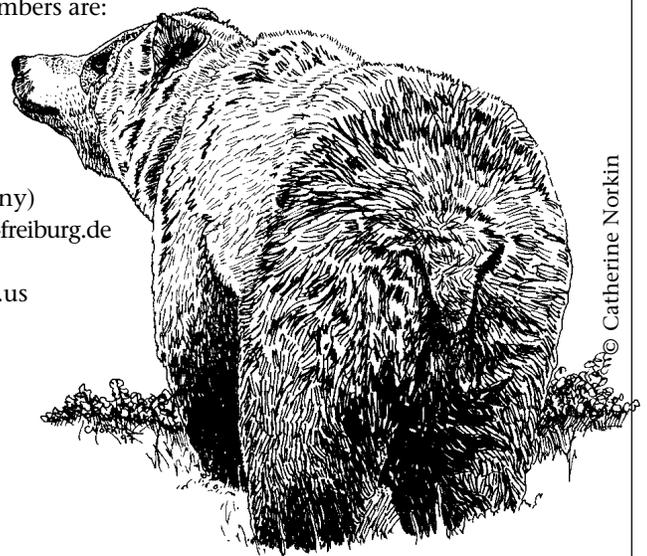
John Hechtel  
Regional Refuge Manager  
Southcentral Alaska  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4  
Palmer, AK 99645, USA  
Phone (907) 746-6331  
Fax (907) 746-6305  
Email [john\\_hechtel@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:john_hechtel@fishgame.state.ak.us)

Magic Lantern, the old distributor of the *Safety in Bear Country* videos/DVDs is now out of business. All of the video/DVD products, *Staying Safe in Bear Country*, *Working in Bear Country* and the new *Living in Bear Country* are now available through Distribution Access at:

<http://www.distributionaccess.com>  
or

the toll free order desk phone:  
1-888-440 4640.

Copies of the videos *Staying Safe in Bear Country* and *Working in Bear Country* are also available from the IBA. Use the order form on page 51 or the website: [www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com).



© Catherine Norkin

## New Reporting for R&C Grants Program

Frederick Dean, Chair  
IBA Research and Conservation  
Grants Committee  
810 Ballaine Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709, USA  
Email deansfs@alaska.net

The Research and Conservation Grants Committee is requesting that final reports on research and conservation grants include information that is needed for fundraising by the Economic Development Committee. All grantees should check the IBA website ([www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com)) this fall for new information regarding final report preparation. Anyone preparing a final grant report is asked to include the following additional information:

- A one or two sentence description of the project.
- A summary of the results or outcome of the project in three or four sentences.
- A statement explaining the relevance and importance of the work to bear conservation.
- An explanation of what has been done and what additional plans there are for informing the many groups to whom the information is important, i.e. local people, appropriate agency and organization workers, the scientific and conservation communities regionally and globally.

It is best that the above information is in the author's own words, and will save much writing time for the grants committee.

- A list of financial and in-kind contributors, showing the amounts of money or value of materials and services. Please include the percentage of the total project cost represented by the IBA grant.

This information will be helpful in reviewing future proposals, and will help raise funds to expand the overall grant fund.

## IBA Members: Yellowstone Grizzly Decision Input Sought

Karen Noyce  
IBA Vice President, Americas  
Minnesota Department  
of Natural Resources  
1201 East Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744, USA  
Phone (218) 327-4133  
Email [karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us)

In mid-August of this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will officially announce its proposal to remove the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone ecosystem from the U.S. Threatened Species list. This proposal, if passed, would transfer responsibility for managing the population of grizzlies in the Yellowstone ecosystem from the federal government to the states in that ecosystem. The proposal will be very controversial. Anyone who has followed, even casually, the history of bear management and policy in Yellowstone Park over the past half-century knows that these bears comprise one of the most contested wildlife populations in the world. The story of the decline and subsequent recovery of grizzlies in the Yellowstone region is one of the most complex chronicles in bear management history, filled with colorful and controversial characters, fascinating science, villains and heroes, breathtaking scenery, riveting stories, and truckloads of politics.

Following announcement of its proposal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a public comment period of, most likely, 60-days, during which anyone is welcome to comment on any or all aspects of the proposed change in management.

On the next page of this newsletter, you will find an opinion piece, submitted by six IBA member biologists from the western U.S. and

Canada, proposing that the IBA pass a resolution in support of the plan to delist the Yellowstone grizzly. The group plans to submit a draft resolution to the IBA membership for consideration soon. (IBA bylaws allow any IBA member to introduce resolutions for consideration and a vote by the membership.)

This proposal raises very important questions for IBA members to consider. One is the specific question at hand: should IBA pass a resolution in support of the delisting of Yellowstone grizzly bears? First we must decide whether to take a stand on this issue at all. Already we have received comments from several biologists very familiar with the issues that are adamantly opposed to IBA taking any position on the delisting question. This then raises a larger question: what is the appropriate role for our professional organization in cases such as this? Is it appropriate, advisable, and/or effective for IBA to take positions on local or regional management issues? The question has been raised before but never resolved. One of IBA's goals is to advance the conservation and management of bears wherever they occur, which means advocating for sound management practices and science. It is also imperative that we maintain our objectivity and scientific integrity while doing so.

There is no doubt that these questions will stimulate vital, thought-provoking, and perhaps heated discussion within our membership. We hope that no one will shy away from participating in this dialogue. We urge all IBA members to

## IBA Should Support Proposal to Remove Yellowstone Grizzly Bear from the U.S. Threatened Species List

read the following opinion piece on Yellowstone delisting. We ask you, as IBA members, to participate in discussing any or all of the questions outlined above. If you have any thoughts to share, please express them. Well-reasoned and well-articulated written comments that can be shared with others are likely to be most helpful. You can bring your thoughts and comments to the IBA membership meeting in Italy (pages 38-43), where this topic will be on the agenda for discussion. Even better, whether or not you will be in Italy, send comments ahead of time to any IBA Council member or officer (contact information page 48). It is important that our organization continues to work towards reaching more clarity on these very complex and vital issues. Thanks for your help.

Submitted by  
 Sterling Miller, email millers@nwf.org  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 Matt Austin  
 British Columbia Ministry  
 of Environment  
 Chris Servheen  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Steve Nadeau  
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
 Dave Moody  
 Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
 Jim Peek  
 University of Idaho, retired

In 1975, the grizzly (brown) bear (*Ursus arctos*) in the United States south of Canada was listed as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Following 30 years of intensive and coordinated effort by state and federal wildlife and land management agencies, the demographic and regulatory targets established in the 1993 grizzly bear Recovery Plan have been met and significantly exceeded. Con-

The recovery of grizzlies in Yellowstone is a dramatic success story for recovery of a severely depleted bear species and illustrates what can be accomplished when humans direct their energies and resources toward recovery. The success of this effort should serve as an example for recovery efforts for all of the world's bear species and for grizzly bears in other regions where recovery has lagged behind that in Yellowstone. We believe it is important that the IBA recognize the success of this recovery effort and endorse delisting bears in this ecosystem. We have prepared a resolution which we intend to present for consideration by IBA members and Council.

There is little dispute over the following facts put forth in our resolution:

1. The abundance target set in the recovery plan (observation of at least 15 different females with newborn cubs) has been exceeded since 1986 (six year average ranging from 15 to 38). In the Yellowstone Ecosystem, there were 52 observed in 2002, 38 in 2003, and 49 in 2004. Extrapolating from the number of females with newborn cubs, the total population point estimate in 2004 was 588 bears using the methods of Keating et al. (2003); this represents more than a doubling since listing when an estimated 250 bears occurred in the Yellowstone area.

2. The annual distribution target over a six-year period (at least 16 of 18 Bear Management Units [BMUs] occupied by females with offspring) has been exceeded since 1998. During three of these years (2000-2002), females with offspring were observed in all 18 BMUs and the six-year objectives have been obtained in all 18 BMUs.

sequently, as mandated by the ESA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected in August 2005 to propose removing Yellowstone grizzly bears from federal management under the ESA. This proposal will list components that are already known (the Conservation Strategy, Forest Service Plan amendments, the affected states' management plans, etc.).



© Catherine Norkin

## IBA Should Support Proposal to Remove Yellowstone Grizzly Bear from the U.S. Threatened Species List, cont'd.

3. The approach to setting mortality quotas changed in 2005. The old approach was based on no more than 4% human-caused mortalities in the minimum population of bears of all ages; of this quota no more than 30% could be female. The new approach is based on 9% mortalities of females two years old or older from all causes (including estimates of unreported mortalities). The female subquota was slightly exceeded in 2004 using the old method for calculating the quota but achieved using the new method.

Moreover, plans are in place to assure appropriate management of grizzly bear habitat and in the Yellowstone ecosystem following delisting. A Conservation Strategy has been adopted by state and federal land management agencies that details how habitat will be managed on federal lands in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Conservation Strategy provides high levels of habitat security for grizzly bears in a core area (the Primary Conservation Area (PCA) of 5.9 million acres centered on Yellowstone National Park (34.4%) and national forest lands (58.5%)). The six national forests surrounding Yellowstone are in the process of plan revisions that specify how grizzly bear habitat will be managed within and outside of the PCA subsequent to delisting. The states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have all completed grizzly bear management plans that specify grizzly bears will continue to colonize and occupy "biologically suitable and socially acceptable habitats" and these plans are part of the Conservation Strategy.

Also, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are successfully increasing the amount of secure habitat for bears, wolves and other species by purchasing, from willing sellers, U.S.

Forest Service grazing allotments in areas with frequent conflicts. The state management plans are designed to at least maintain and in some cases increase the number of bears and we believe these plans are adequate to accomplish their stated objectives and not permit grizzly bear population declines following delisting. The plans all provide for continued expansion of grizzly bears into socially acceptable and biologically suitable habitats. We believe that the monitoring and research program laid out in the Conservation Strategy is adequate to accomplish its stated objectives as long as it is adequately funded.

The beneficial effects of the Conservation Strategy, the state management plans, and the Forest Plan amendments are contingent upon delisting and will not be implemented absent delisting. Absent delisting the Section 7 consultation provisions of the ESA will be the only tool left for the Fish and Wildlife Service to influence management of Yellowstone grizzlies and this tool is greatly inferior for grizzly bear conservation in comparison to the combined state plans, the Forest Plan amendments, and Conservation Strategy. The success of the recovery effort for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem has not been matched in other recovery areas designated in the recovery plan and increased emphasis is needed in these areas to achieve national recovery and delisting of grizzly bears.

Concerns about future ecological uncertainties associated with reduction of food supplies including white bark pine, cutthroat trout, cutworm moths, and winter-killed ungulates are unlikely to ever be answered with certainty and calls for delay based on this uncertainty amount to a perpetual listing in a way not anticipated by the ESA. The Forest Plan

amendments for the six national forests provide for maintaining "the productivity, to the extent feasible, of the four key grizzly bear food sources" and emphasizes maintaining and restoring whitebark pine stands, "inside and outside the PCA." Moreover, the Conservation Strategy includes provisions for adaptive management adjustments should unforeseen threats or circumstances arise.

We believe that success in delisting a high profile population like the Yellowstone grizzly bears will undercut arguments that the ESA is a failure because of few delistings. These arguments jeopardize the continued protections provided by the ESA. Should unforeseen biological circumstances or political and administrative failures to appropriately implement the Conservation Strategy, the state management plans, and adaptive management principles lead to a significant decline in abundance in Yellowstone grizzlies, the species can and should be relisted.

We expect there will be opposition to delisting, and to IBA support of delisting, from some IBA members. However, this is an extremely important issue and is one that we believe the professional organization of bear biologists should not shrink from because of lack of unanimity. Below, we mention and respond to some of the concerns that have been expressed about the delisting proposal.

*Threats exist to key foods utilized by Yellowstone grizzlies including white bark pine nuts, army cutworm moths, cutthroat trout, and carrion from ungulates.* It is true that scenarios exist where these threats could become significant to Yellowstone grizzlies. Whether they will, however, is speculative, as are the

significance of the biological impacts if they do. Plans are in place to monitor trends in these foods on a long-term basis and to implement adaptive management in response to threats posed by changes in these foods. The ESA was not designed to continue to list species based on speculative threats.

*Connectivity to other ecosystems must be established before Yellowstone grizzlies can be delisted.* For many reasons, connectivity between wildlife populations is highly desirable. Fragmentation of habitat is a serious concern and the delisting proposal and associated plans recognize this and mandate continued efforts to establish connectivity even though not mandated under the ESA or the Recovery Plan. Since most of the area through which connectivity must be established is on private lands and there is significant resistance from many private landowners to the presence of ESA-listed species, we believe continued listing is, in fact, a barrier to establishing connectivity with other ecosystems and vacant habitats. Even subsequent to delisting, establishing connectivity between Yellowstone and other ecosystems capable of supporting grizzlies will be a daunting task that will require focused efforts and large expenditures over decades. Establishing linkage between Yellowstone grizzlies and other populations is addressed as an ongoing need in the Conservation Strategy and members of the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement linkages between grizzly populations. Work on connectivity will continue regardless of whether the bear is listed or delisted.

*A population of 600 bears is too small to be viable.* Over time there

have been numerous Population Viability Analyses (PVAs) for grizzly bears with differing results. The most recent effort by Boyce et al. (IBA monograph Series number 4, 2001) estimated, "a 99.2% probability that the [Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem] grizzly bear population will persist for 100 years. Extending to a 500-year period, we find that probability of persistence decreases to 96.1%." The current population in this area is about 600 bears and data in press by Schwartz et al. (Wildlife Monograph to be printed in October 2005) concludes that the core population in Yellowstone Park is at carrying capacity and is experiencing density dependent declines in survival and productivity. Although there remains room and space outside core areas for additional population growth, this potential is limited. It appears that the current grizzly bear population is near the limit of social tolerance where additional expansion and associated problems may cause declines in support for continued progressive management of grizzly populations.

*Species should not be delisted in some areas when they are still endangered in others.* Grizzly bear recovery is far more advanced in Yellowstone than in the other recovery areas and we expect that delisting in Yellowstone will permit more federal recovery efforts under the ESA to be directed to areas where they are more needed. Recovery efforts in the Bitterroot Ecosystem have been stalled. This area has more potential than any other recovery area to significantly improve the status of grizzly bears south of Canada (because of the presence of two huge areas of designated wilderness totaling 651,126 km<sup>2</sup> (25,140 mi<sup>2</sup>)). Similarly,

recovery is near zero in the North Cascades recovery area and bears remain highly endangered in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk recovery areas. Recovery efforts in these areas will take decades and it is unreasonable to postpone delisting in the one recovered area until similar success is achieved elsewhere. The ESA has provision for delisting in "Distinct Population Segments" like Yellowstone.

*Grizzly bears will be better protected under the ESA than with management by the states.* This is a value judgment for which there is no unequivocal response. Clearly, there are risks to grizzly bears both in keeping them listed as well as in delisting them, but it is our view that these risks are less with delisting. This is because the states, which have been major contributors (financially and with personnel) in the success of the recovery efforts to date will remain committed to grizzly bear recovery as laid out in their state management plans following delisting. All three states have signed the Conservation Strategy and have committed to the demographic and mortality standards contained therein. Absent delisting, there is a risk that the states will become frustrated with what amounts to moving the goal posts and changing the rules at the last minutes of the game and that they will withdraw their support. In our opinion, the combination of a sound Conservation Strategy and the state management plans represents a significant improvement in the prospects for grizzly recovery over what would exist with the tool set (and finances) available for continued grizzly bear management under the ESA.

# Bear Specialist Group

## Creating a Mexican Black Bear Expert Team

Dave Garshelis  
Email dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us  
&  
Bruce McLellan  
Email bruce.mclellan@gems9.gov.bc.ca  
Co-chairs  
Bear Specialist Group  
Coordinating Committee

The Bear Specialist Group (BSG) consists of a coordinating committee and 10 expert teams committed to

improving the conservation status of bears around the world. Expert teams are either specialists on species or a conservation-related topic (trade in bear parts; captive bears). There are eight species of bears and eight species-oriented expert teams, but that match is coincidental. Polar bear scientists are in their own Polar Bear Specialist Group (pages

14-17), separate from the BSG. Brown bears, because of their extensive range, are represented by three expert teams: European, North Asian and South Asian. We do not have a separate expert team for North American brown bears or for American black bears. There are several reasons for this: (1) most populations of brown and black bears in North America are robust and well-studied, (2) there are so many bear experts in North America that it would be difficult to select a

workable team (most other expert teams have only one-to-three representatives per country), (3) current North American BSG members (D. Doan-Crider, D. Garshelis, B. McLellan, H. Reynolds, and C. Servheen) can either answer or ask other biologists to answer infrequent questions related to these species in North America, and (4) studies and conservation initiatives for bears in North America are so well funded by

areas and on many private ranches. However, the actual extent of their distribution, population trend, and limiting factors are mostly unknown. The only intensive and long-term studies of black bears in Mexico have been conducted by Diana Doan-Crider and the research team from the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Because of her familiarity with Mexico, and contact with administrators and biologists, Diana was appointed to the coordinating committee of the BSG specifically to represent the interests of Mexican black bears. Presently we refer to Diana as our Mexican black bear coordinator because she felt that it was premature to develop a

Mexican black bear expert team. Not only is there a lack of knowledge regarding the status of black bears in Mexico, but of black bear *researchers* as well. Recently, over 75 Mexican bear researchers gathered at a workshop in Mexico, which Diana describes in the following article (also see pages 24 and 35). This conclave brought to light that there may be more researchers *and bears* in Mexico than previously thought.



@ Diana Doan-Crider

Dressed as the bear, BSG Co-chair Dave Garshelis demonstrates the use of a barrel trap during the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop, Saltillo, Mexico.

government management agencies and other interest groups that BSG efforts to secure more support (possibly at the expense of other bears) would be misdirected.

There are, of course, some exceptions to the generally favorable state of bear populations in North America. One such exception is the case of the American black bear in Mexico. Grizzly bears were exterminated in Mexico (last known one killed in 1960), but black bears have persisted in rugged mountainous

## First Mexican Black Bear Workshop

Diana Doan-Crider  
King Ranch Institute  
for Ranch Management  
MSC 137  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Kingsville, TX 78363-8202, USA  
Phone (361) 593-5407  
Email d-crider@tamuk.edu.

Most speculations about the status and distribution of American black bears in Mexico have relied on piecemeal information layered on top of the great Starker Leopold's (son of Aldo) efforts during the 1950s. In all honesty, even the updated range map published in the IUCN's *Bears: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* was based on scanty information. Recent increases in reports of observations and conflicts with bears throughout its historic range in Mexico coincide with our findings in northern Coahuila, which indicated increasing populations and high densities of black bears. Given the near eradication of black bears in Mexico by the early 1970s, their apparent comeback took a lot of people by surprise, and no infrastructure was in place at the state or federal level to deal with increasing management concerns or research needs. Land ownership patterns have changed from communal subdivision toward the preservation of large tracts, and there is now enhanced awareness toward conservation of wildlife, especially bears.

The first workshop on black bears in Mexico was held June 2-5, 2005, in Saltillo, Coahuila. The intent of the workshop was three-fold. First was to provide a foundation of bear ecology, biology, and behavior for those who were interested in bear research. One of the greatest barriers to learning about bears in Mexico is that most publications are in English, so even basic information is

not readily accessible to many Spanish-speaking people. Furthermore, many publications are not readily available in Mexico; many journals and proceedings in the fields of ecology and conservation (especially those of rather narrow scope, like *Ursus*) are hard to come by. In the past few years, I have been inundated with requests for help in designing bear research projects, and quickly recognized the need to provide information using a shotgun approach — hence the idea for a workshop. We disseminated information using the diverse expertise from northerners Dave Garshelis, Steve Herrero, and Linda Wiggins, plus our Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (Texas A&M University-Kingsville) team members, including me, Dave Hewitt, and Charity Bartoskewitz, and our Mexican counterparts, Maira Martinez and Sergio Aviles of the Department of Ecology, and Enrique Guadarrama, Ana Soler, and Samara Ferrara. Among this group, we presented over 18 lectures and mini-work sessions that covered topics from population dynamics, problems in research design, behavior, conflict resolution, and handling tips. We did not conduct specific training on bear capture or handling because there was insufficient time, and also because we hoped to stimulate types of research that were less expensive than telemetry studies.

Second, we wanted to provide a forum for bear researchers from all areas of Mexico to gather and develop a communication network. In that aspect, the workshop was immensely successful, with visitors from 10 Mexican states. Working groups have since been established and are brainstorming research strategies. In addition, we developed a new list serve for Mexican bear

researchers, which will help them to more easily communicate and to access postings about conferences and other pertinent Bear Specialist Group and IBA information.

The third important objective of the workshop was to develop a preliminary distribution map based on verified observations by the participants. Prior to the workshop, we created a large range map, using published reports and incidental observations that we knew about. This map was displayed at the workshop, and participants were asked to add their own observations and corresponding metadata. By the end of the workshop, these additions had nearly tripled the known size of the bear's range, even expanding it beyond the historic limits delineated by Leopold and others (presumably indicating that Leopold's map underestimated the range at the time, not that the range has grown that much since the 1950s). This will be extremely useful information in the design of a proposed study to evaluate black bear distribution and range fragmentation across Mexico using genetic sampling, which we plan to begin in 2007 through collaboration with many of the researchers who were present at the workshop.

Workshop attendees were also invited to participate on a field trip. Ranchers of the Palo Blanco Watershed in Nuevo Leon invited us to visit their cooperative wildlife conservation area of 19 ranches (almost 100,000 hectares) and to observe their new bear monitoring program. It was a three hour trip each way, but participants were happy to visit with the ranchers and enjoy a camp cooked meal. (See related articles on pages 24-25 and 35).

Financially, the workshop was also successful with support from various

# Bear Specialist Group

## First Mexican Black Bear Workshop, cont'd.

state, federal, and private organizations. Registration fees were kept as low as possible to encourage attendance (\$100 for four days), and included meals and field trip transportation. We gratefully thank the Department of Ecology of Coahuila, the Coahuila Regional Cattlemen's Union, the FEMSA Bottling Company, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, the Museo del Desierto in Saltillo, and the IBA an Bear Specialist Group for their generous contributions and in-

kind support. We also thank the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources for their endorsement and participation. They sent several representatives.

The 18th International Conference on Bear Research and Management will take place in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2007 (see page 47). Given the enthusiasm witnessed at this workshop, we will have quite an energetic team to prepare for the event, and our Mexican counterparts are very

excited to host it. Meanwhile, there are numerous Mexican biologists and students who are looking for training opportunities in bear handling and other types of research. If your project is able to support volunteers, please contact me at the address above. As we move forward with training and research, we envision creating a team of bear experts in Mexico in the not too distant future.



© Diana Doan-Crider

Field trip participants enjoy a visit with ranchers of Nuevo Leon during the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop

## Bear Specialist Group Coordinating Committee



Photo by new Polar Bear Specialist Group Chair, Andrew Derocher.

**Bruce McLellan**

Coordinating Committee Co-chair  
email bruce.mclellan@gems9.gov.bc.ca

**Dave Garshelis**

Coordinating Committee Co-chair  
email dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us

**Harry Reynolds**

IBA Representative  
ibapresident@bearbiology.com

**John Seidensticker**

email seidenstickerj@nzp.si.edu

**Diana Doan-Crider**

Mexican Black Bear Coordinator  
email d-crider@tamuk.edu

**Isaac Goldstein**

Andean Bear Expert Team Chair  
email igoldstein@wcs.org

**Dave Garshelis**

Asiatic Black Bear  
Expert Team Co-chair  
email dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us

**Rob Steinmetz**

Asiatic Black Bear  
Expert Team Co-chair  
email robtyn@hotmail.com

**S. Sathyakumar**

South Asian Brown Bear  
Expert Team Chair  
email ssk@wii.gov.in

**John Paczkowski**

North Asian Brown Bear  
Expert Team Chair  
thebearsare@hotmail.com

**Djuro Huber**

European Brown Bear  
Expert Team Co-chair  
email huber@mavef.vef.hr

**Jon Swenson**

European Brown Bear  
Expert Team Co-chair  
email ibnjsw@ibn.nlh.no

**Lydia Kolter**

Captive Bears Expert Team Chair  
email lkolter@zoo-koeln.de

**Lu Zhi**

Giant Panda Expert Team Chair  
email luzhi@pku.edu.cn

**Shyamala Ratnayeke**

Sloth Bear Expert Team Co-chair  
email sratnaye@utk.edu

**K. Yoganand**

Sloth Bear Expert Team Co-chair  
email slothbear\_research@yahoo.com

**Gabriella Fredriksson**

Sun Bear Expert Team Co-chair  
email gmfred@indo.net.id

**Siew Te Wong**

Sun Bear Expert Team Co-chair  
email wongsiew@hotmail.com

**Christopher Servheen**

Trade in Bear Parts Expert Team Chair  
email grizz@umontana.edu

**Andrew Derocher**

Polar Bear Specialist Group  
email derocher@ualberta.ca

# Polar Bear Specialist Group

## 14th Meeting of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group

Press Release from  
IUCN/SSC Polar Specialist Group

The 14th meeting of the IUCN/SSC (World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commission), Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, during June 20-24, 2005, under the chairship of Scott Schliebe. In fulfillment of the terms of the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, delegates representing each of the five circumpolar nations signatory to the Agreement for the Conservation of Polar Bears (Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Norway, Russia, USA), were in attendance. Also attending as invited specialists were representatives from the Greenland Home Rule Government, the Alaska Nanuuq Commission (Alaska), the Inuvialuit Game Council and Wildlife Management Advisory Council, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Canada), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (USA), National Environmental Research Institute (Denmark) and other specialists. The PBSG meets every three to five years to review and exchange information on progress in the research and management of polar bears throughout the Arctic and to review the worldwide status of polar bears. Invited specialists from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and Western Ecosystems Technology were instrumental in development of new analysis procedures for population data.

The world's polar bears are distributed in 19 subpopulations over vast and sometimes relatively inaccessible areas of the Arctic. Thus, while the status of some subpopulations

in Canada and the Barents Sea are well documented, that of several others remains less known. Thus, it is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the total number of polar bears in the world, although the range is thought to be 20-25,000.

Research in several geographic areas indicates the greatest challenge to conservation of polar bears may be large scale ecological change resulting from climatic warming, if the trend documented in recent years continues as projected. A new analysis of the long-term subpopulation data base in Western Hudson Bay confirms the size of that subpopulation has declined from 1,200 to less than 1,000. The PBSG concluded the decline was caused by reductions in condition and survival, especially of young bears, because climatic warming has caused the sea ice to break up about three weeks earlier now than it did only 30 years ago. Thus, polar bears have less time to feed and store the fat needed to

survive on shore for four months before the ice re-freezes. Significant reductions in the apparent survival of ringed seal pups and changes in the diet of sea birds in northern Hudson Bay, coincident with larger amounts of open water earlier in the summer, have also been reported. Taken together, these results suggest that unknown changes in the marine ecosystem of Hudson Bay are now underway. Similarly, the minimum extent of multi-year ice in the polar basin continues to decline at the rate of 8-10% per decade, resulting in unusually extensive areas of open water in regions such as the Beaufort/Chukchi Seas and East Greenland. The PBSG emphasized the importance of continuing to monitor polar bear subpopulations in order to quantitatively assess the affects of climatic warming.

High levels of PCBs and pesticides were found in East Greenland polar bears. There was a strong indication of a relationship between contami-



© Ian Stirling

nants and skull mineral density indicating possible disruption of the bone mineral composition. The changes were related to aging, infections and chronic exposure. The PBSG felt these results confirmed the importance of continuing to monitor and study the effects of contaminants on polar bears.

With the results of the foregoing research and related uncertainties in mind, the PBSG reviewed the status of polar bears using the 2001 IUCN Red List categories and criteria. The PBSG concluded that the IUCN Red List classification of the polar bear should be upgraded from Least Concern to Vulnerable based on the likelihood of an overall decline in the size of the total population of more than 30% within the next 35 to 50 years. The principal cause of this decline is climatic warming and its consequent negative effects on the sea ice habitat of polar bears. In some areas, contaminants may have an additive negative influence.

Harvesting of polar bears continues to be of primary importance to the culture and economy of aboriginal groups throughout much of the Arctic. Therefore, maintaining a harvest within sustainable limits, in relation to subpopulation size and trends, remains a priority. It was also recognized that aboriginal people resident throughout the Arctic are uniquely positioned to observe both wildlife and changes in the environment. Thus, the PBSG confirmed the importance of integrating traditional ecological knowledge with scientific studies to aid polar bear conservation wherever possible. Since the last meeting of the PSBG four years ago, significant new reports on traditional ecological knowledge of polar bears and their habitat have been completed in Chukotka, Alaska, and Canada. The results of these and

future studies need to be incorporated into research and management where possible but the PBSG agreed that estimates of subpopulation size or sustainable harvest levels should not be made solely on the basis of traditional ecological knowledge without supporting scientific studies. Furthermore, because of continuing changes in ice cover, with unknown consequences for the arctic marine ecosystems of which polar bears are a part, the precautionary principle should be observed in determining harvest quotas, regardless of how certain the combined information appear to be.

There was substantial discussion about large quota increases in some polar bear subpopulations in Nunavut where there has continued to be uncertainty about subpopulation size and trends despite scientific studies augmented by computer simulations and traditional ecological knowledge. The PBSG concluded that increases in harvest levels or estimates of subpopulation size should not be based on traditional ecological knowledge without support from sound scientific data and further, that regardless of how certain the combined information appear to be, increases in quotas should be implemented with the precautionary principle.

Although the harvest of polar bears in Greenland has been poorly regulated, the Greenland Home Rule government announced that quotas are to be implemented and enforced as of January 1, 2006. Hunters will have to have a special license for each polar bear hunted and this will be used to track the sale of hides or trading in parts. Preliminary discussions have been held with Canada to develop co-management agreements and determine the size of shared sustainable quotas for subpopula-

tions of polar bears shared between the two countries using both scientific information and traditional ecological knowledge. The PBSG commended Greenland on this initiative and emphasized the importance of ensuring a sustained effort to monitor the harvest and enforce regulations. Further, the PBSG noted the critical importance of a continuing a program of public education through the transition period to ensure understanding and acceptance of the vital need to improve the present system of management.

Similar to Greenland the PBSG acknowledged significant harvest levels were occurring unregulated in Chukotka, Russia. The PBSG urged both the United States and the Russian Federation to move rapidly to implement the bilateral treaty already signed between the two countries.

Future challenges for conserving polar bears and their Arctic habitat will be greater than at any time in the past because of the rapid rate at which environmental change appears to be occurring. The complexity and global nature of the issues continue to require a significant degree of international cooperation and development of diverse and new approaches.

## New PBSG Chair

The new chair of the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group (and current IBA Council member) is: Andrew Derocher  
Department of Biological Science  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada  
Phone (780) 492-5570  
Fax (780) 492-9234  
Email [derocher@ualberta.ca](mailto:derocher@ualberta.ca)

# Polar Bear Specialist Group

## IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group Resolutions

### A Precautionary Approach When Setting Catch Levels in a Warming Arctic

The IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG)

**Recognizing** that the sea ice is critical to the continued survival of polar bears; and

**Recognizing** that during recent decades the area of the sea ice in the Arctic has declined significantly as a response to climate warming, and that ice break-up in many areas is occurring earlier and freeze-up later; and

**Recognizing** that the degradation of the sea ice habitat, which is predicted to continue, is having negative effects on survival rates and abundance of polar bears in western Hudson Bay; and

**Noting** that in several areas both local hunters and scientists have observed an increased occurrence of polar bears near settlements and outposts and on near-shore sea ice in recent years; and

**Noting** that increased occurrences may not reflect an increased population size; and

**Noting** that the Agreement for Conservation of Polar Bears (Article I and II) identifies the right of local hunters to conduct sustainable harvests; and

**Noting** that based upon local and traditional knowledge, Nunavut (Canada) has increased its quotas for some of its polar bear populations where polar bears must spend several months of the open water period on land surviving on their stored fat reserves; and

**Noting** that also the catch of polar bears in Greenland near shore has increased substantially; and

**Noting** that polar bear populations may be seriously threatened by the combined effect of rapid habitat loss and increased exploitation; therefore

**Recommends** that polar bear harvests can be increased on the basis of local and traditional knowledge only if supported by scientifically collected information.

### An International Study of the Effects of Pollution on Polar Bears

The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group

**Recognizing** that the polar bear — as an arctic apex predator — is susceptible to the effects of pollutants; and

**Recognizing** that such effect may be exacerbated through habitat changes driven by global warming; and

**Recognizing** the scientific merit in studying such effects in all polar bear subpopulations; and

**Recognizing** that previously a world-wide study — facilitated through the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group — of organochlorine levels was successful; and

**Noting** that pollution induced histopathological and bone mineral density changes probably occur in East Greenland polar bears, as well as the occurrence of diseases; the PBSG therefore

**Recommends** Denmark coordinate a circumpolar study of health effects from pollution on vital organs, skeletal and other systems in polar bear subpopulations.

### Status of the Western Hudson Bay (WH) Population Analysis

The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group

**Recognizing** that the largest and best developed scientific database for any polar bear population is the WH database; and

**Recognizing** that the current WH mark-recapture population analysis has used multiple standardized

methodologies which produced equivalent, estimates; and

**Recognizing** that the analysis results are consistent with independent population simulation results; and

**Recognizing** that the data used for these estimates have been carefully checked and validated; and

**Noting** that the decline of WH polar bears from approximately 1,100 in 1995 to less than 950 in 2004 is conclusive; and

**Accepting** that the decline was due to a combination of anthropogenic removals (defense and harvest kills) and reduced demographic rates from climate warming; therefore

**Recommends** that appropriate management action be taken without delay.

### Implementation of the U.S./Russia Bilateral Agreement

The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group

**Recognizing** that Article II of the 1973 Agreement for the Conservation of Polar Bears calls for each nation to manage polar bear populations in accordance with sound conservation practices based on the best available scientific data; and

**Recognizing** the United States' and Russia's commitment to the long-term conservation and management of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population and that on October 16, 2000, both countries signed the *Agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population*; and

**Recognizing** that polar bears are a significant resource of the Arctic region and of cultural and economic value to aboriginal peoples that have the right to harvest polar bears;



© Andrew Derocher

has encouraged the development of increased commercial and tourism ship traffic; and

**Recognizing** that increased ship traffic results in increased risks for polar bears from contaminants, bilge dumping, fuel spills, habitat alteration and bear-human encounters; therefore

**Recommends** that each jurisdiction take appropriate measures to monitor, regulate and mitigate ship traffic impacts on polar bear sub-populations and habitats.

**Recognizing** that sound conservation practices for the sustainable harvest of polar bears requires accurate information on the number, sex, age, and location of harvested animals; and

**Recognizing** the lack of a valid population estimate and concern that the current combined legal harvest from Alaska and illegal harvest of polar bears from Russia may exceed the sustainable harvest limits for the Alaska-Chukotka sub-population; and

**Recognizing** the need to coordinate and conduct research on the Alaska-Chukotka subpopulation, shared between the United States and Russia, and the need to obtain a scientifically valid population estimate, estimates of survival and recruitment, and to document changes in distribution and habitat use; therefore

**Recommends** that the United States and Russia immediately enact

and enforce the terms of the *Agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population*.

## Risks to Polar Bears from Arctic Shipping

The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group **Recognizing** that the sea ice is critical to the continued survival of polar bears; and

**Recognizing** that during recent decades the area of the sea ice in the Arctic has diminished significantly; and

**Recognizing** that in some areas where polar bears live, ice break up has become significantly earlier due to global warming; and

**Recognizing** that this warming is predicted to continue in the future; and

**Recognizing** that the reduction in extent and thickness of the sea ice

## Wrangel Island Nature Reserve and Other Protected Areas

The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group **Recognizing** the increasing role of Wrangel Island as a refuge for an essential part of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population; and

**Noting** the importance of continuous polar bear research on Wrangel Island as an essential part of Alaska-Chukotka population status assessment; therefore

**Recommends** that polar bear research on Wrangel Island should continue without time gaps at the level necessary to monitor population status and health; and

**Recommends** creation of protected nature areas throughout polar bear range to conserve key polar bear habitats, with particular focus on terrestrial summer retreat habitats.

## Asiatic Black Bear Restoration in Mount Jiri, South Korea

Dr. Sang-Hoon Han, Director  
Asiatic Black Bear Management Team  
National Parks Authority of South Korea  
Phone +82-61-783-9120  
Fax +82-61-783-9121  
Email kwirc@chol.com  
&  
Minjeong Gwon, DVM  
Staff Veterinarian  
The Asiatic Black Bear Restoration Project  
Southern Office of Jirisan National Park  
National Parks Authority  
53-1 Hwangeon-Ri Masan-Myun  
Gurye-Gu Chonnam Province 542-853  
South Korea  
Office +82-61-783-9120  
Cell +82-19-405-2270  
Fax +82-61-783-9121  
Email minjgwon@yahoo.com

### History and Background

Koreans are intimately familiar with the Asiatic black bear as over the centuries they have told and retold the Dangun creation myth. Through the Dangun myth, Koreans trace their history as a people back to the mystery shadow of pre-history. The tale tells of a bear and a tiger that yearned to be humans. Each prayed to the gods and was told that if they remained in a cave for 100 days and ate nothing but mugwort and garlic their wish would come true. The impatient tiger could not wait and quit, but the bear waited patiently and was rewarded by being transformed into a woman and united with the son of heaven to give birth to Dangun, the founder of Korea more than 4,000 years ago.

Internationally, the Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) is classified as vulnerable on the 2002 IUCN Red List of threatened species, and listed on Appendix I of CITES. A subspecies of Asiatic black bear, *Ursus thibetanus ussuricus*, is distributed in the northeastern area of China, the Primorskii region of Russia, and the

Korean peninsula. Historically, Asiatic black bear were dispersed widely in the mountain areas of the Korean peninsula. However, widespread poaching through the 1970s was carried out largely as a result of a Japanese colonial period policy stating, "to terminate tigers and bears from Korea is to prevent damage from humans' lives and property." Although efforts were made by the Korean government to designate the animal as an endangered species under the Natural Environment Preservation Act and it was listed as the "Natural Monument No. 329," bear numbers continued to decrease. Since the mid-1980s, there had been no evidence of the black bear in the wild.

In November 2000 a local television crew photographed a black bear in the Jirisan National Park. On November 13, 2002 a monitoring camera set up by the Asiatic Black Bear Management Team (ABBMT) photographed a wild Asiatic black bear, the first evidence in Korea since the mid-1980s verified by a government authority. Korean ecologists now report that about 20-30 Asiatic black bears remain in South Korea and approximately five to eight bears remain in the Mount Jiri area.

Mount Jiri is one of Korea's holy mountains on which Asiatic black bear have lived for centuries. The Mount Jiri National Park, Korea's first national park, stretches across three provinces and is located in southern Korea. It covers 472<sup>2</sup> km and is dominated by oak (*Quercus mongolica*, *Quercus serrata*), bamboo (*Sasa borealis*), *Aster scaber*, acorns, and berries which provide ideal habitat and sufficient food for Asiatic black bear.

The Mount Jiri bears are the largest remaining population in South Korea, making Mount Jiri

National Park the ideal location for a bear restoration project. Additionally as a national park there is greater ability to enforce bear protection laws and prevent illegal activities, such as hunting and habitat destruction from logging and forest conversion to agriculture.

### Current Conservation Efforts

It is generally agreed that a wild animal population may be considered viable when its numbers and survival rates create a 95% probability of survival for 100 years. However, the Mount Jiri bear population's probability of surviving 100 years is only three percent. Because the Mount Jiri population is not considered viable, human intervention, such as release of captive bears, is considered necessary to maintain this population.

At the 2000 Asiatic Black Bear Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop, Seoul, Korea, "vortex simulation modeling" suggested that introducing six bear cubs a year for five years into the Mount Jiri population would stabilize it with a minimum viable population of 53 bears after ten years, and have a 94% probability of survival after 100 years. The conclusion was that immediate action was necessary or the Mount Jiri bear population would most certainly go extinct.

Efforts to introduce bears into the Mount Jiri population were conducted over an initial two-year period by the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER). Responsibility for the bear restoration has since been transferred to the Korean National Park Service and ABBMT which is composed of biologists, ecologists and local communities, cooperating with local environmentalists.

### Experimental Release

In January and February 2001, four Asiatic black bear cubs, belonging to a subspecies of Asiatic black bear on Mount Jiri, were selected from a breeding facility in Korea. Following separation from their mother by researchers from the NIER, the cubs were weaned and put through a wild adjustment program from April to August 2001. With radio transmitters attached, the bears were released into the Gurye region of Mount Jiri National Park on September 8, 2001. However, the experimental release was not as successful as had been hoped. One female bear failed to adapt to the wild and habituated to humans, appearing in front of mountain climbers and monks. Another two attacked shrines on Mount Jiri, and raided beehives in surrounding communities. Repeated attempts by the ABBMT to prevent bears from raiding apiaries failed and the ABBMT was forced to compensate local communities approximately US\$120,000 for bear-caused apiary damage. The fourth bear, a female, was found dead. Only the skull remained with the abandoned radio collar. The bear may have been the victim of illegal hunting. The three remaining bears were recaptured due to the problems mentioned above, as well as a detailed genetic analysis of the released bears which revealed they were in fact more closely related to southern Asiatic black bears and not northern Asiatic black bears native to the Mount Jiri area. The returned bears will remain in captivity to provide public education. They will move to a new nature education facility with a naturalistic enclosure in August 2005.

Although the release was not successful, field work conducted while tracking the cubs provided

excellent data for design of the next phase of the reintroduction program, and led to several significant findings by the ABBMT on the habitat and ecology of the remaining wild bears. The ABBMT described bear resting platforms in trees as well as ground nests. They discovered and described footprints and scratching marks on trees. Bears were found to hibernate in empty holes, under large rocks and inside big, old trees. Diets were determined through scat analysis. Additionally the ABBMT was able to document the presence and habitat



© Denis Torres

of several other wildlife species in the Mount Jiri area including; badgers, musk deer, and leopard cats.

### Release of Russian Bears

In September 2003 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on black bear protection was signed between the Republic of Korea and Russia. The MOU included an agreement on importing Russian Asiatic black bears into Korea in 2004. The ABBMT decided to import Russian Asiatic black bear cubs as a result of genetic analysis which found they have the same origins as Korean black bears. Coincidentally, the Ussurisk Nature Reserve in Russia where the bears came from had

successfully trained bear cubs to adapt to the wilderness.

In October 2004 six seven-month-old Russian bears were imported for introduction to Mount Jiri. After their mother was shot by hunters, they were rescued by a bear rehabilitation center in the Ussurisk Nature Reserve. An approximately 5.2 ha soft reintroduction enclosure was installed inside Jirisan National Park. Eight CCTV systems were installed to monitor the bears 24-hours a day and an electronic fence was installed to prevent escape. To reduce the potential for human habituation, only a small number of ABBMT staff and photographers were allowed access to the bears, and the staff was required to wear outfits designed to reduce or completely eliminate the bears identifying them as human. Three male cubs and three female cubs, named after three peaks and three valleys in the Mount Jiri area respectively, were fitted with radio ear tags and released after training. All six bears successfully hibernated over the 2004-2005 winter and the ABBMT field team successfully tracked and located the bears which were using caves and oak tree hollows as dens. Den locations were generally located in areas difficult for people to access and provided wide fields of view for the bears. Based on these results the ABBMT considers the project to be partly successful because hibernation is an important stage of bear growth.

### Release of North Korean Bears

Eight Asiatic black bears (four males and four females) from North Korea were released into Jirisan National Park on July 1, 2005. These bears were part of a "Zoo and Wild Animal Exchange Project between North Korea and South Korea." These bears were the offspring of bears

## Asiatic Black Bear Restoration, cont'd.

captured in the wild by Pyongyang Zoo. After two months of adaptation training, they were released.

### Future Work

The bear restoration project has been challenging for the ABBMT but they have made great progress over the last five years. Since the experimental release in 2001, and largely due to the data obtained and lessons learned as a result of the experimental release, a total of 14 Asiatic black bears have now been successfully released into the Jirisan National Park area. The current project plans provide for the release of six Russian bear cubs annually for the next four years. However many issues pertaining to cooperation with local communities, park visitors, and other stakeholders remain unresolved, particularly how best to accommodate participation of multiple groups in the decision making process, and how to control bear damage. Future success will therefore rely heavily not only on a successful biological component but in the ability of the ABBMT to mediate social and political issues and provide sound leadership in the years ahead.

News from China and Korea is provided by:

Matthew E. Durnin  
MacArthur Foundation  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
California Academy of Sciences  
Ornithology and Mammalogy  
Phone 86-10-8430-2480  
Fax 86-10-6592-2053  
Email mdurnin@calacademy.org

## Brown Bears Return to Mount Olympus



Yorgos Mertzanis  
Callisto  
5, Nik. Foka st.  
GR - 54621 Thessaloniki  
Greece  
Phone +302310/252530  
Fax +302310/272190  
Email ymertz@otenet.gr  
mertzanis@callisto.org

Until 2003, the most recent information on brown bear presence on Mount Olympus dated from the mid-1940s. Since then, the bear was considered to be extinct from the legendary mountain home of the 12 gods of Greek mythology.

Mount Olympus (2,918 m) is one of the highest mountains in southeastern Europe. It includes all vegetation types from evergreens to alpine meadows and hosts more than 1,700 plant species. It lies on the east coast of Greece about 60 km east of the core brown bear population in the Pindos Range (see map on next page). Being completely separated from the Pindos Range made bears on Mount Olympus more vulnerable to pressure from surrounding human settlements and cultivated lands.

Despite being the oldest national park in the country (Mount Olympus National Park was created in 1938) the conservation status of several key species, including bear and chamois, did not improve and even deteriorated.

In spring 2003, the presence of brown bear on the northwest slopes of Mount Olympus was confirmed for the first time in 60 years. While damaging a wild boar breeding farm, a bear left a good hair sample on the farm fence. The hair was collected for DNA analysis.

In April 2005 in a more remote valley of the same area on Mount Olympus, bear-marked black pine trees were observed by mountain hikers. Again hair samples were collected for DNA processing.

In June 2005 local forestry authorities recorded attacks on beehives as the most recent evidence of bear activity in the area.

Although we are far from confirming a bear metapopulation on Mount Olympus, we can reliably hypothesize that a re-colonization process is likely to have been triggered by dispersal east of some individuals from the Grevena area of the eastern Pindos Range. This subpopulation has been recently estimated (through DNA analysis) at a minimum of 44 bears. A dispersal route from the eastern Pindos to the western slopes of Olympus seems very likely due to the favorable topography and vegetation forming a travel corridor.

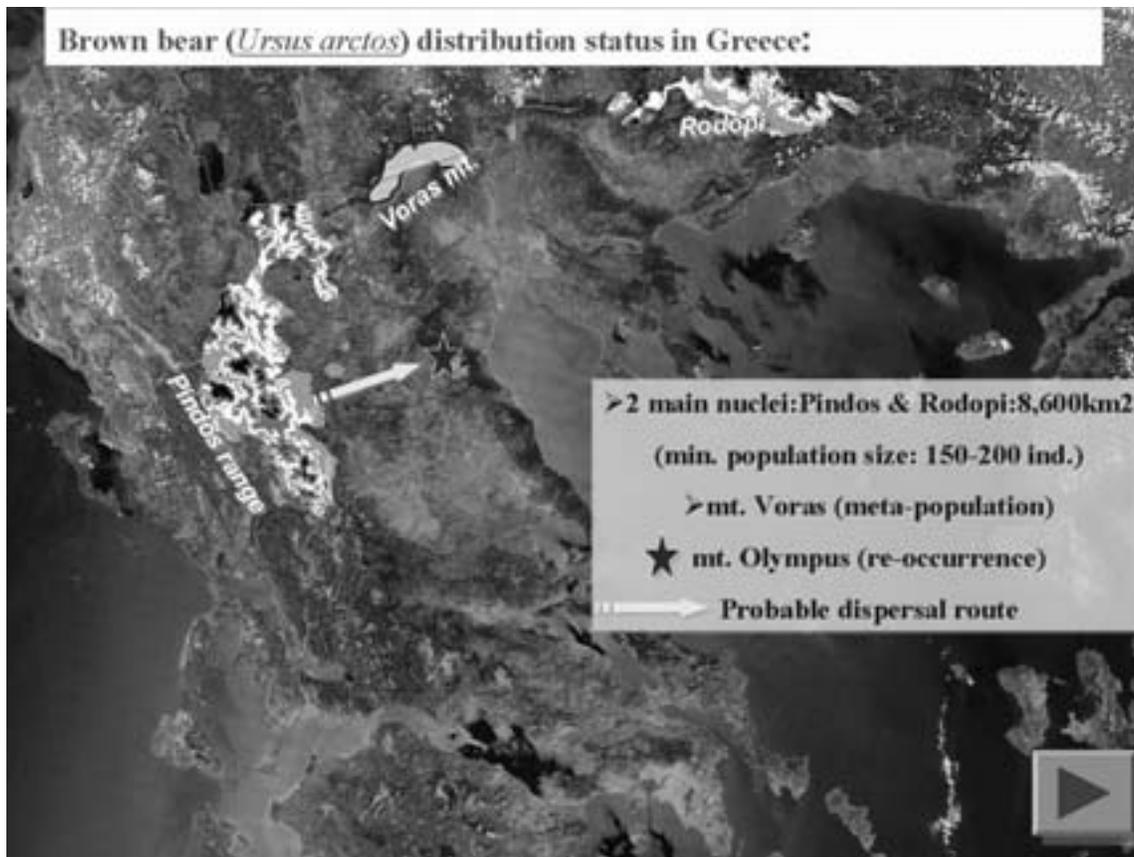
Reactions of local communities to this news are less favorable. Negative attitudes prevail, and NGOs and ecologists have again become reluctant to support release of bears in new areas to help species survival.

Continuing efforts by NGO Callisto are being made to educate local and central authorities, and to organize ongoing cooperative efforts to reverse negative attitudes to bears.



© H. Papaioannou

Brown bear in Greece.



## Romania

Robin Rigg  
Slovak Wildlife Society  
PO Box 72  
L. Hradok, 033 01, Slovakia  
Web [www.slovakwildlife.org](http://www.slovakwildlife.org)  
Email [info@slovakwildlife.org](mailto:info@slovakwildlife.org)

### CITES and Romanian Bear Trophies

At its 33rd meeting, held in Brussels on June 13th of this year, the Scientific Review Group of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) decided to maintain a ban on importing brown bear trophies from Romania ([http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/agenda\\_summaries/33rd\\_short\\_summary\\_srg.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/agenda_summaries/33rd_short_summary_srg.pdf)). According to Erika Stanciu, Forest and Protected Area Team Leader for the WWF Danube Carpathian Program, the decision was taken mainly because the Romanian government had still not developed an acceptable management action plan. As previously reported (*IBN* August 2004 13(3)), some NGOs have been strongly critical of bear hunting in Romania and suspect that the number of bears in the country is much lower than that claimed by the forestry service. However some experts, such as John Linnell of the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, believe that trophy hunting has been instrumental in maintaining a large population of bears in the Carpathian Mountains, and view a ban on imports as an issue of animal rights rather than of conservation.

Meanwhile, it emerged in June this year that Slovak Prime Minister, Mikuláš Dzurinda, had illegally imported a bearskin from Romania into Slovakia. Dzurinda had been given the trophy by his Romanian

counterpart and claimed he had not been aware that special permission was needed to import it. A member of the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate said that because the violation had taken place more than two years before it was discovered, no charges could be brought against him. CITES has been in force in Slovakia since 1993.

© Robin Rigg, the BEARS Project: [www.medvede.sk](http://www.medvede.sk)



European brown bear.

### Bear-proof Containers Installed in Brasov

Bears feeding on household refuse at the edge of the Romanian city of Brasov have been virtually a nightly occurrence and something of a tourist attraction for many years. Fatal attacks on people in the area in October 2004 (*IBN* February 2005, 14(1)) finally led to concerted efforts to prevent bears gaining access to the refuse. Victor Watkins of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) reports that four large bear-proof containers have now been installed. The Italian-made containers each replace six to eight normal bins and are emptied on a daily basis. According to Watkins'

colleague, Ozgun Emre Can, initial results have been encouraging: bears have not been able to open the containers and, after checking them and their surroundings for food, tend to leave the area. Unfortunately some old containers are still in place nearby and so bears have simply been moving farther down the road. The mayor of Brasov has said he will eventually replace all the old bins. WSPA plan to begin building a bear sanctuary in Brasov from July that they hope will allow the problem of food-conditioned bears to be addressed more effectively.

## Bolivia: Reason to Kill a Bear, “I did it because it was there.”

Ximena Velez-Liendo  
 Laboratory of Animal Ecology  
 University of Antwerp  
 2610 Wilrijk, Belgium  
 &  
 Centro de Biodiversidad y Genetica  
 Universidad Mayor de San Simon  
 PO Box 538  
 Cochabamba, Bolivia  
 Email xime\_vez@yahoo.co.uk

“I did it because it was there,” replied the local resident who recently shot and killed a female Andean bear in Kewina-Pampa, near Carrasco National Park, Bolivia (see maps). Its uninjured cub stayed with the female after she was shot. The killer tried to catch the cub, but eyewitnesses made a lot of noise to drive the cub into the forest. Based on the descriptions of witnesses, the cub was very small, probably born in December or January.

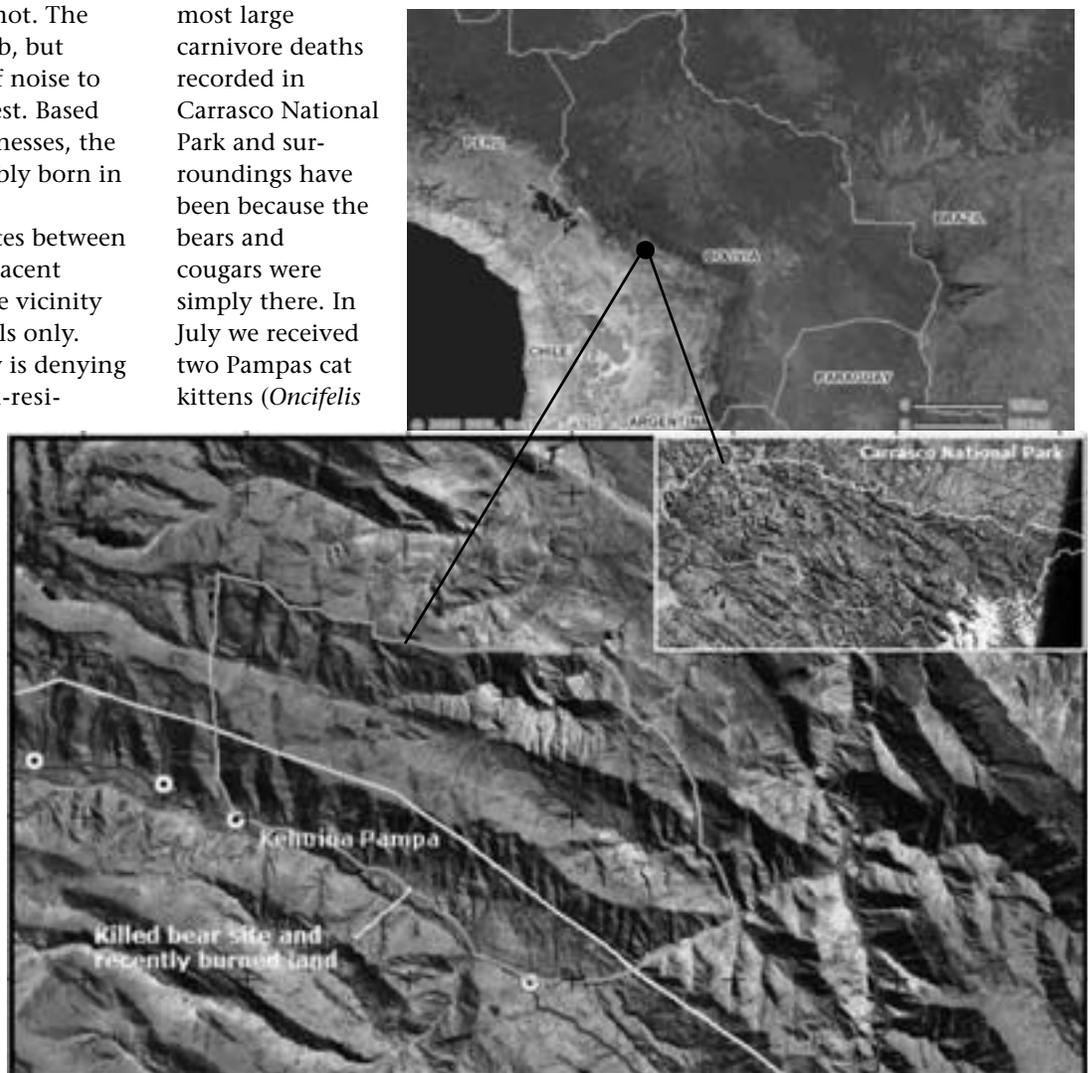
Due to boundary disputes between the protected area and adjacent communities, access to the vicinity has been restricted to locals only. Currently, the community is denying entry requests from non-residents. The demand for agricultural and pasture land has provoked surrounding communities to take possession of large portions of land belonging to Carrasco National Park. The latest news from this area is that local communities have already burned large portions of grasslands belonging to the protected area. As the map shows, the burned land where the bear and other animals have been killed is one of the few protected

natural grasslands. Grasslands provide food during the wet season and are a year around refuge for Andean bears. Several observations of females with cubs showed that this habitat is used all year until the youngsters leave their mother.

The culture of “shoot everything that moves” is widely applied in almost all rural communities because residents think that carnivores (bears, cougars and wild cats) killed/kill/will kill their cattle. Although there are some cases in which bears and cougars must be killed due to proven predation (i.e. remains found on bear nests), most large carnivore deaths recorded in Carrasco National Park and surroundings have been because the bears and cougars were simply there. In July we received two Pampas cat kittens (*Oncifelis*

*colocolo*), an endangered species, rescued from a resident who killed their mother “just because the cat was there.”

Due to land tenure and boundary delimitation problems with communities that are inside and surround Carrasco National Park, educational programs are very difficult to develop. For them, talk about conservation or protected areas means that they will lose their land, an erroneous concept, but something that we have to deal with to gain the chance to work in those areas.



## Volunteers Needed in Ecuador



© Armando Castellanos

Fundación Espíritu del Bosque  
Barcelona 311 y Tolosa  
Quito, Ecuador  
Web [www.andeanbear.org](http://www.andeanbear.org)  
Email [volunteerbears@yahoo.com](mailto:volunteerbears@yahoo.com)

Join us in the Ecuadorian Andes on a unique and fulfilling adventure to help the Andean bear. In the cloud forest of Intag, northern Ecuador, we study the ecology of the majestic Andean bear. We invite you to volunteer with us to help collect important and often groundbreaking data on this little-studied species.

For a very reasonable contribution, all food and accommodation is provided in the volunteer house. We request a minimum commitment of four weeks. It's a time you will remember forever! All proceeds directly benefit the bears and the local community.

If you enjoy mountain hiking, the natural world, and interacting with people from different cultures, then this project is definitely for you! If you prefer interacting with people, join our teaching program for the local school children — another unforgettable experience!

Contact information above.

## Crossing Borders for the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop

Charity A. Bartoskewitz  
Caesar Kleberg  
Wildlife Research Institute  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
MSC 218  
Kingsville, TX 78363, USA  
Phone (361) 593-4500  
Email [charity.bartoskewitz@tamuk.edu](mailto:charity.bartoskewitz@tamuk.edu)

In June 2005, over 70 participants attended the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop in Saltillo, Coahuila as part of an effort by the IBA and IUCN Bear Specialist Group to synthesize and promote American black bear conservation in Mexico. Participants traveled from 10 different Mexican states with representation including students, landowners, biologists, agronomists, state and federal natural resource agencies, and non-government organizations.

Scientists from Mexico, Texas, Minnesota, and Alberta, Canada presented sessions focusing on basic bear biology, current status and history of the bear in Mexico, population dynamics, basics of habitat, food requirements, landscape use, principles of designing bear research, bear behavior, live-stock conflicts, relocation and reintroduction, and management tools. A bear-handling session allowed researchers to gain a better understanding of bear and human safety during capture. An education session provided participants the opportunity to engage in small group discussion about current human-bear interaction problems in Mexico, and how they might go about developing strategies to address the issues. The focus of the bear education session was to assist in the development of

community bear-wise strategies in Mexico by highlighting the importance of education in bear conservation. Biologists from Consejo Estatal de Flora y Fauna Silvestre de Nuevo Leon, a wildlife consulting organization, organized a field trip to a privately owned ranch in northern Mexico where biologists have been recording black bear sightings using trail master cameras.

For the first time, those concerned with black bear issues in Mexico were able to share information and develop networks with other professionals interested in developing research projects and promoting conservation of black bears in Mexico. Following the workshop, collaborative efforts by several participants aided in the development of a list serve so that biologists and students can continue communicating about bear related topics. If you are interested in becoming a member of this list serve, please contact Diana Doan-Crider, email [d-crider@tamuk.edu](mailto:d-crider@tamuk.edu).

Cooperative sponsorship was provided by the IBA, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Instituto Coahuilense de Ecología, FEMSA Bottling Company, Museo Del Desierto, and Coahuila Cattlemen's Association (Union Ganadera Regional de Coahuila). Thanks to all who helped make this "first" a great success!

For more details on the workshop, see articles on pages 11 and 35.

## Mexico Black Bear Pilot Study Initiated in Nuevo Leon Using GPS Collars



© Dave Maehr

Black bear (subadult male) with GPS collar on the Minas Viejas Ranch in Villaldama, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Sasha Carvajal Villarreal  
 Coordinadora de Fauna  
 Pronatura Noreste A. C.  
 Loma Larga 235  
 Col. Loma Larga, Monterrey, N. L.  
 64710 Mexico  
 Phone 52 (81) 83 45 10 45 ext 16  
 Fax 52 (81) 83 45 45 59  
 Web [www.pronaturane.org](http://www.pronaturane.org)  
 Email [scarvajal@pronaturane.org](mailto:scarvajal@pronaturane.org)

Although many range maps suggest a continuous distribution of the American black bear in Mexico, it is possible that remaining subpopulations may be highly fragmented. The species is listed as "endangered" by the federal government. During May 2005, Pronatura Noreste collaborated with Dave Maehr of the University of Kentucky and Biol. Arturo Caso of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (Texas A&M University-Kingsville), to monitor the 5,500 ha Rancho Real de Minas Viejas, Nuevo Leon (about 100 km south of Laredo,

Texas) for the presence of black bears using baited remote-activated cameras. Photos revealed the presence of at least four individuals including a female with a cub born in 2005. This was followed by five days of trapping in late June with Aldrich-style spring-activated snares. During this time, we found three sets of tracks belonging to different bears and we were able to equip a 61 kg subadult male with a GPS collar. While black bear studies in Mexico are not new (e.g., Doan-Crider 1995), there is great interest in the species among NGOs, government agencies, and private landowners. The owner of Rancho Real de Minas Viejas has traditionally subsisted on cattle ranching (with occasional bear depredations), but is also interested in developing ecotourism as a way to maintain the natural attributes of the property while economically diversifying. The news of the successful capture stimulated enough enthusi-

asm with some potential funding organizations from Monterrey, Mexico, to pledge funds for eight additional radio collars and an off-road vehicle for access to the ranch along its network of rocky trails. Pronatura Noreste has assigned a wildlife biologist to maintain contact with this bear population and to develop a research plan to understand its status and distribution. We plan to return in October when the local bears will likely be consuming acorns in the six-species oak forest that dominates the ranch, and deploy at least three more GPS collars.

Literature Cited  
 Doan-Crider, D.L. 1995. Population characteristics and home range dynamics of the black bear in northern Coahuila, Mexico. M.S. thesis. Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. 117pp.

## Second Fatal Black Bear Mauling in the Northwest Territories, Canada

Dean Cluff  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the  
Northwest Territories  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P9, Canada  
Email dean\_cluff@gov.nt.ca

An American black bear attacked and killed 71-year-old Merlyn Carter of Hay River, Northwest Territories (NWT) on June 14 or 15, 2005 at his fishing lodge on Nonacho Lake in the NWT, about 260 km east of Yellowknife.

Although a bush pilot himself, Merlyn Carter was flown in by his grandson on Tuesday, June 14 to open the camp for its first visitors of the season on the weekend. The grandson then returned to Hay River. Merlyn's wife Jean and their son Myles, also a pilot, were to join him that evening but were detained by weather. Jean spoke with Merlyn by HF radio that night at 10 PM. The following morning at 7 AM, Jean and Myles tried again to reach Merlyn at the lodge by radio prior to take-off, but had no response. Concern for Merlyn's well-being grew further when the family's plane landed at the camp and no one met them at the dock.

While Myles tied up the plane for unloading, Jean set out towards the lodge, an assortment of cabins, living quarters and storage to accommodate 32 people. She walked off the dock to climb the hill, and was about 4 m from the dock when a black bear appeared in front of her. Jean shouted, "Myles, bear!" Her son looked up to see the bear make its way towards his mother. Myles shouted, "Mom, run as fast as you can!" Jean then turned and ran to the dock. She looked over her shoulder and saw the bear pick up its pace. Jean thought the bear was chasing her because she was running

and recalled advice of not to run when you see a bear. She stopped, turned around, took off her jacket and began waving it at the advancing bear, which then stopped. Jean backed up but the bear came close enough to her that she kicked sand in its face. Jean made it back to the dock where Myles had picked up a 3.6 m (12 feet) barrel ramp made out of 5 cm (2 inch) pipe steel and hit the bear in the head with it. The bear, Myles, and Jean all froze momentarily in bewilderment. Jean stated the bear had focused on her for about five seconds although emphasized it felt more like five minutes. The bear then turned around and walked away. Myles secured Jean in the plane and promptly ran to the living quarters where the family kept some firearms. Inside the cabin, Myles saw an over-and-under .22 caliber hornet/.410 shotgun with four shells nearby. Myles chose to get a 30-30 rifle from the bedroom and went outside by a back door when he encountered the remains of his father and the bear lying next to him. Myles shot the bear and hit it. The bear ran away but reappeared shortly after Myles could confirm that his father was indeed dead. Myles then fired another two shots and killed the bear.

The dead bear was a young male, estimated to be between two and five years of age, and in good health. It appeared that Merlyn Carter was aware of a bear in the area because of the gun on hand with ammunition. The body was discovered with a flashlight nearby on the path to the

outhouse. Presumably, Merlyn was intending to use the outhouse rather than investigate a noise because he took only the flashlight and not the firearm. Merlyn was apparently attacked from behind and he attempted to fight off the bear but was soon killed by bites to the throat area. The bear had begun to feed on its victim and consequently the attack was likely an act of predation. The body was partially cached under leaves and some chicken wire. Evidence suggested that at some point the bear had tried to gain access to the cabin by a window, and also had torn off chicken wire, used as a barrier for small mammals, from the crawl space of the house.

Merlyn Carter was an amiable and respected man in the Northwest Territories and his death was a tragic loss. Merlyn came to the north with his family in 1952, earned his pilot's license, and was involved in the commercial fishing business for many years. He married Jean in 1956 and they soon started their own air charter company and ran the lodge.

The attack was the second fatal mauling recorded in the Northwest Territories. On June 2, 2001, a black bear attacked and killed an 18-year old man outside of Yellowknife in what was also considered an act of predation by the bear, although that bear had several puncture-type injuries likely from an earlier confrontation with another bear (*IBN* August 2001, 10(3):19).

## Florida Update

Sandra A. Jonker  
 Bear Management Program  
 Florida Fish and Wildlife  
 Conservation Commission  
 Division of Habitat  
 and Species Conservation  
 620 South Meridian Street  
 Tallahassee, FL 32899-1600, USA  
 Phone (850) 410-0656 ext 17328  
 Fax (850) 921-1847  
 Email [sandra.jonker@MyFWC.com](mailto:sandra.jonker@MyFWC.com)

### 18th Eastern Black Bear Workshop

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Bear Management and Research Program staff have recovered from hosting the 18th Eastern Black Bear Workshop and would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our sponsors, supporters, and contributors (please see our thank you on page 29).

### Road Impacts Study

FWC's Bear Management and Research Program has completed a three-year American black bear study: "Statewide Assessment of Road Impacts on Bears in Six Study Areas in Florida." Study results have provided baseline information on: 1) roadkill impact on six populations in Florida, 2) extrapolated population estimates for six populations in Florida, and 3) updated primary and secondary range distribution delineation. The population estimates generated from this study provide a

reference point from which to begin long-term monitoring efforts

on individual populations and eventually provide a broader understanding of the sustainability of bear populations statewide.

### Florida Bear Plan

Recognizing the need to update the management plan for American black bears in Florida, the bear program is assembling all pertinent information to complete this task. In addition to the updated distribution and population estimates gathered through several studies and targeted stakeholder group input, the bear program will be conducting a statewide public survey to better understand public attitudes, opinion, and perception regarding black bears and bear management.

### New Nuisance and Urban/Wild Projects

FWC and the University of Florida are currently cooperating on two research projects designed to address the increasing problem of human-bear interactions.

The first project is determining the impact of relocation on nuisance Florida black bears in central Florida (Kim Annis, email [Kimannis@ufl.edu](mailto:Kimannis@ufl.edu); MS candidate directed by Mel Sunquist). The objective of this study is to investigate the effects of relocation on nuisance Florida black bears (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The study focuses on the efficacy of relocation as a strategy for the management of nuisance bears by the FWC. To date 19 bears (16M, 3F) have been relocated into the Ocala National Forest and 9 (8M, 1F) are still being monitored. Post-relocation, eight male bears continued

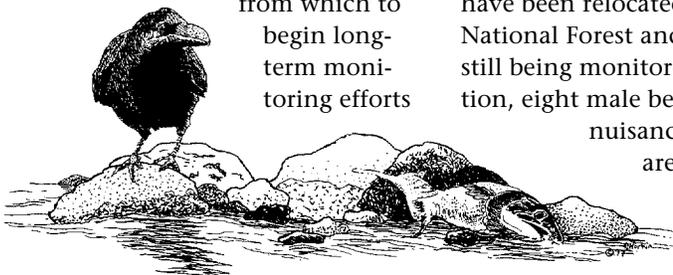
nuisance activities in new areas throughout the Ocala National Forest region.

Of these eight,

one bear was euthanized for repeated home entry attempts, one bear was removed and relocated to the Apalachicola National Forest and two bears utilized remote forest dumpsters (prior to their permanent closure). The nuisance activities of four males continue to be monitored. Of the original 19 bears, one female bear and three male bears successfully returned to their former home ranges after being relocated more than 20 miles, and one male's collar was found in a creek adjacent to a roadway within his former home range after being relocated more than 45 miles away. The fate of this bear remains unknown but he is presumed dead (a possible illegal kill). Two females successfully produced one healthy male cub each in January and February 2005.

The second study is evaluating the ecology of the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) at the urban-wildland interface of Ocala National Forest (Aletris Neils, email [AMNeils@ufl.edu](mailto:AMNeils@ufl.edu); MS candidate directed by Mel Sunquist). Research to investigate the behaviors and movements of bears in a highly fragmented landscape in Central Florida began in June 2005. Currently, six bears (4M, 2F) are being monitored and efforts to increase this number are ongoing. The goal of this project is to closely monitor the movements and activities of black bears living in the urban-wildland interface. Objectives for this project are:

1. Document fine-scale habitat use of bears utilizing the urban-wildland interface.
2. Assess the effects of habitat quality, quantity, and distribution on the movements and behaviors of bears inhabiting the urban-wildland interface.



© Catherine Norikin

## Florida Update, cont'd.

### Highlands County Bear Project Summary

In May 2004, the University of Kentucky began a radio-telemetry study of the small American black bear population centered in Highlands County, Florida. Primary research personnel are David S. Maehr, Wade A. Ulrey, and Joseph M. Guthrie. By the end of 2004, 22 bears were captured (11 females and 11 males). Currently 17 bears are being tracked and over 300 aerial locations have been collected thus far. In addition, 11 GPS collars have been deployed and are attempting position fixes every one or four hours. Among seven adult females, at least five have had cubs within the last two years. We have identified three high-use areas located in relatively large forest patches separated by highways (State Highway 70 and U.S. 27). While no females have crossed these highways, several males have crossed them. Although there is historical evidence of substantial highway mortality among bears in this area, no vehicular collisions have been reported since this project began. Two males, however, have died due to apparent gunshot (both cases are currently under investigation by the Law Enforcement division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). The fundamental goal of this study is to determine the requisites for survival of one of the smallest bear populations in the southeastern U.S. Thus, we are interested in examining rates of movement among discrete habitat patches and population centers, determining the relation between bear distribution and highways, estimating population size and trend, and developing conservation plans that incorporate private landowners. As public lands represent the minority of area that is used by this population, support from Archbold Biological Station and local landowners has been critical to this project's success.

## Five Cubs Increase Mississippi's Bear Population 15-20 Percent

The Associated Press, June 7, 2005.

A Louisiana (American) black bear has had a record five-cub litter — and all five new members of this threatened subspecies are doing well, say Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries biologists. “Before she gave birth, the female was huge — probably about 250 pounds,” said Maria Davidson, a department biologist. “For having such a big litter, all of the cubs were about the same size and there was no runt of the litter.”

The brood is in Mississippi, USA but their radio-collared mother moves back and forth between Wilkinson County, Mississippi, and West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The female was moved in 2001 from the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge to Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge as part of a project to connect three isolated Louisiana black bear subpopulations and improve their living conditions. The radio-collared female mated with a resident male. After raising cubs there, she swam the Mississippi River and moved into the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area in West Feliciana Parish.

Last summer she and a huge male were spotted eating out of a deer feeder, where she was photographed several times over 10 days. This past winter, she denned a few miles north of the Louisiana state line, in Wilkinson County, Mississippi

“The Mississippi people were excited to have a recorded birth,” Davidson said. “This female has already had a four-cub litter, so she is very productive.”

Biologist Brad Young of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks said in March that the female and litter together increased Mississippi's bear population 15 to 20 percent. Bears in this region are born in late January or early February. They live with their mother for a year, then look for their own territory during their second summer.

A female bear normally gives birth to two cubs, although litters of three or four are not uncommon, if the habitat supports it. “The female was in excellent condition and had selected a high quality den site,” Davidson said. “We've seen four cubs after a good mast crop year, but we've never had five before. I think we moved her to the right area.”

The Black Bear Conservation Committee is working to restore the Louisiana black bear to its former range. The Louisiana black bear once roamed all of Louisiana, most of Mississippi, southern Arkansas and eastern Texas. Biologists estimate that 300 to 400 Louisiana black bears survive, mostly in Louisiana's Tensas and Atchafalaya River basins, with small scattered populations in southeast Louisiana and western Mississippi.

# The 18<sup>th</sup> Eastern Black Bear Workshop Organizers

## Would Like to Extend A Special Thanks

to our

### Sponsors, Supporters, and Contributors



#### Sponsors

- Bear Trust International
- Wildlife Foundation of Florida



#### Supporters

- North American Bear Foundation
- Black Bear Conservation Committee



#### Contributors

- Alabama Wildlife Federation
- Apalachicola National Forest
- Bear Vault
- Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream
- Brasingtons – Gainesville
- Brasingtons –Ocala
- City of Tallahassee
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Florida TNC
- Florida TWS
- Florida Wildlife Federation
- Forestry Suppliers Inc
- Gold's Gym Tallahassee
- Home Brew Crew (Harry & Steve)
- Learning Gate Community School
- Mary-Slater Lynn
- Rite in the Rain
- Smokey Mountain Knife Works Inc
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
- Torreya State Park
- Travel Country Outdoors
- US Forest Service
- Liz West
- Wildlife Materials

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Bear Management and Research Program

# Captive Bears

## Naturalistic, Large Enclosures for Polar Bears in Europe

Lydia Kolter  
Zoologischer Garten Köln  
Germany  
Email lkolter@zoo-koeln.de

Since the end of the 1980s, naturalistic large enclosures with natural substrates and vegetation have existed in Europe for captive brown bears. They were first established in game parks exhibiting European species. Since the mid-1990s zoos have also created large enclosures by fencing several 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> up to several hectares of forested area with relatively lightweight material like chain link or welded mesh secured by electric fences as described by G. Baars (*IBN* November 2004, 13 (4):34).

Compared to other ursid species polar bears were traditionally kept in the largest enclosures, very often with two separate, connected spaces. In most cases one of the spaces was tiny. Several of these older facilities have a total usable area much larger than 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, but only hard substrates of concrete and large artificial or natural rocks to simulate the terrestrial arctic environment. These enclosures are dominated by large pools which form part of the barrier between the bears and the public. The perimeter is usually a high concrete wall, or a combination of walls and glass.

Since the end of the 1990s more natural substrates have been used to simulate a shore with pebbles, with sand and smaller rocks lining the pool. Some exhibits include pastures as part of the land area as in Aalborg (Denmark) or even shrubs and trees as in La Flèche (France). The animals

can manipulate these substrates (for example: nest building) and use the structures for hiding from the public and each other. Replacing concrete artificial rocks or walls and glass with lighter, cheaper fences reduces the cost of materials and allows construction of larger enclosures when space is available. A completely electrified welded mesh borders the tundra section of the enclosure in Rhenen (The Netherlands) which opened in 2000. It is connected via the indoor cages to the old arctic section. Together they total 3,700 m<sup>2</sup>. An electrified game fence (photo) surrounds the

Since 2004, two polar bears in Dierenrijk Europa near Eindhoven (The Netherlands) have lived in two naturalistic enclosures (1,750 m<sup>2</sup> and 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>) both of which have a pool and shelters. This facility also has two separate indoor facilities, so that a pregnant female can be completely isolated before and after birth. No noises or activities from husbandry or other animals affect her. The same concept exists at Scandinavisk Dyrepark near Aarhus (Denmark). Three separate, connected "winter units" (4,400 m<sup>2</sup>; 3,300 m<sup>2</sup>; 1,900 m<sup>2</sup>), each with its

own pool, have a total surface of 9,600 m<sup>2</sup>. The largest is equipped with shelters, and the other two with breeding dens including video surveillance. All are connected to an area with six cages for management purposes. A 1.7 ha summer area is under construction and scheduled to open in 2006.

Obviously there is an evolution of facilities and management methods which take into account the biology of polar bears, especially the non-gregarious life of adults. Some of the above-mentioned enclosures are included in a current comparative study on the effect of enclosure and group size on behavior and physiology. But only future studies will show whether polar bears reared and maintained in these new exhibits demonstrate less stereotypic behavior which is frequently observed in animals in conventional enclosures.



Polar bear in Safari de Peaugres enclosure equipped with electric fence.

© Lydia Kolter

1.3 ha enclosure in a forested area of Safari de Peaugres (France) inhabited since 1999 by three polar bears. Two paddocks of 200 m<sup>2</sup> with natural ground fenced by electrified welded mesh connect the indoor facility with the two large enclosures of more than 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> each. The polar bears respect the electrified game fence, even when bison calves or American black bears rest close to it on the other side. The new polar bear facility in Karlsruhe (Germany), too, offers several sections so that individuals can be separated if necessary. The largest tundra-like section is very well structured and provides niches for retreat and rest.

## Grizzly Bear Vasectomy

Donald J. Perrine, DVM  
Montana Wildlife Veterinary Service;  
Staff Veterinarian,  
Montana Wildlife Rehab. Center;  
Associate Veterinarian,  
Companion Animal Hospital  
806 Maynard Road  
Helena, MT 59602, USA  
Phone (406) 458-8881  
Fax (406) 449-6205  
Email bonedoc3577@msn.com

Goldie, a young two-year-old male grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) arrived at the Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (MWRC), Helena, Montana, USA, in August 2004 after a series of conflicts at a northwestern Montana campsite, and being fed by local residents. The orphaned bear was originally brought to the MWRC in 2003 by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP). He was released and placed in a den in February 2004 and lived in the wild without incident until August 2004. MFWP decided that because of his habituation to human food, Goldie was a risk to human safety and could not be returned to the wild. The only options were euthanasia or placement in a captive facility. For seven months the staff and volunteers at the MWRC cared for this bear and desperately worked to find him a home. He gained popularity with the community and left his mark in the hearts of all the people who knew and cared for him.

In March 2005 the the Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, North Dakota, USA, agreed to take Goldie on permanent loan from the State of Montana. Once he reaches adult size in about a year, he will share an exhibit with two six-year-old female Kodiak brown bears. The females are older and larger than Goldie, and weigh approximately 600 lbs (272 kg) each, compared to Goldie's current 350 lbs

(159 kg). One of the females was dominant and aggressive towards Goldie when they were introduced through a screen. Zoo officials do not want Goldie to breed, but were concerned that castration would limit growth potential and masculinity, making it difficult for him to cohabitate with the females. After consulting with the zoo's director and veterinarian, I recommended a vasectomy surgery on Goldie as the best method for achieving both goals. This is a very effective means of contraception and does not require the removal of the testicles which are needed for the production of androgens such as testosterone — the hormone responsible for male characteristics and growth. This surgical procedure has been performed in humans and several species of domestic and wild animals. However, I have found no written information on vasectomy surgery in grizzlies.

On May 20, 2005, my wife Danielle, a Certified Veterinary Technician, and I arrived at the Roosevelt Park Zoo. We met with zoo officials and staff as well as their veterinary team to review details of the surgery which would be performed the following morning. To avoid the prolonged anesthesia time needed to transport Goldie to the

zoo hospital, the procedure was performed in an adjacent indoor enclosure. Goldie could recover under observation in his own indoor area until he was fully awake.

### Surgical Procedure

Goldie's food was withheld for 12 hours prior to anesthesia. A mobile surgical table, lights, and an anesthetic machine were assembled, and the room was prepared as a surgical suite while Goldie waited in his indoor enclosure. Anesthesia was Tiletamine-Zolazepam at 8 mg/kg intramuscularly delivered via a Pneu-dart in the hind limb. After ten minutes the bear was evaluated for depth of anesthesia and was still exhibiting head and paw movement. Medetomidine was given at a dose of 25ug/kg intramuscularly in the quadriceps muscle, and the bear was fully anesthetized within another ten minutes. Goldie was blindfolded and carried into the surgery area and placed on the surgery table in dorsal recumbency. Oxygen was administered via a face mask which also permitted administration of an additional anesthesia, Isoflurane, if needed. Heart rate and blood saturation was monitored with a pulse oximeter and recorded every five minutes. Atropine at a dose of .02 mg/kg was given intramuscularly to maintain heart rate and prevent



© D. Perrine

Isolated and clamped vas deferens.

# Captive Bears

## Grizzly Bear Vasectomy, cont'd.



© D. Perrine

Goldie in his temporary enclosure at the Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, North Dakota, USA.

excessive salivation. The scrotal area was aseptically prepped and draped for surgery. A 2 cm skin incision was made over the scrotum on the right side. The right testicle was exteriorized and incisions made into the vaginal and parietal tunics to expose the vas deferens. The vas deferens was isolated via blunt dissection and clamps placed 1 cm apart (photo page 31). The vas deferens was ligated with 3.0 PDS suture. The 1 cm section of the vas deferens was excised. The vaginal tunic was closed with 2.0 PDS suture and the testicle placed back in the scrotum. The subcuticular tissue was closed with 2.0 PDS suture. The skin was closed with 2.0 PDS suture which dissolves. The procedure was repeated on the left testicle to complete the vasectomy surgery.

Goldie was given penicillin at a dose of 10,000 IU/lb intramuscularly to prevent infection. Once the surgery was completed the bear was returned to his indoor den area and given Atipamezole 20,000 ug intramuscularly as a reversal agent for the Medetomidine. Within fifteen minutes he was lifting his head and recovering nicely.

### Discussion

Vasectomy surgery is a common means of contraception in humans and also has been an alternative procedure for castration and chemical sterilization in both domestic and zoo animals. There is very little information about surgery and anesthesia in Ursidae. Goldie's case is unique and hopefully will provide information for future researchers in bear manage-

ment. Vasectomy surgery as a method for contraception in zoo animals can be reversed thus preserving the genetics and breeding potential of captive species.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to my wonderful wife Danielle for all her help and support and who loves Goldie like our own child; all the staff and volunteers from the MWRC who cared for this magnificent bear and diligently worked to give him a second chance at life; Ron Merritt of the Roosevelt Park Zoo, Scott Wahlberg, Senior Curator, Rorey Fischer, DVM Zoo Veterinarian, and staff; and last but not least, Goldie for allowing me the privilege to know and care for him and be his veterinarian.

## Rehabilitation and Release of Bears

Lydia Kolter  
Zoologischer Garten Köln  
Germany  
Email lkolter@zoo-koeln.de

The publication *Rehabilitation and Release of Bears* is finished and will be available at the 16th IBA conference in Italy (pages 38-43) or by emailing me at lkolter@zoo-koeln.de. Included are papers presented during a rehabilitation and release workshop held in 2000 in Rhenen, The Netherlands along with the minutes of that workshop; information from the workshop on "Limitations for Releasing Rehabilitated Bears" held during the 2002 14th IBA conference in Norway; IUCN re-introduction guidelines; IUCN guidelines for the placement of confiscated animals; WAZA guidelines on the Acceptance of Seized or Confiscated Animals; and a reference list related to release and rehabilitation of bears. The latter is intended as the start of a more complete reference database.

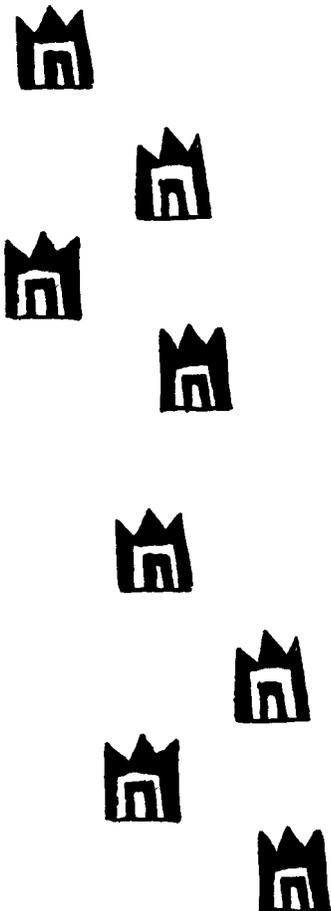
## “Go to Your Room!”

Diana Doan-Crider  
IBA Student Coordinator  
King Ranch  
Institute for Ranch Management  
MSC 137  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Kingsville, TX 78363-8202, USA  
Phone (361) 593-5407  
Email d-crider@tamuk.edu



### We'll See You in Italy!!

Be sure to stay tuned to the Truman List Serve to find out about updates and announcements regarding the Student Forum Brainstorming Session in Italy at the 16th IBA conference (pages 38-43)! If you have any questions, be sure to contact me as soon as possible at the address listed above. We hope to see you there!



### IBA Student? The List Serve is for You!

#### Sign up for the Student List Serve (Truman)

- For students only
- Discussions pertaining to bear biology, management, or study design challenges
- Assistance with proposals and study design through IBA professionals
- Job searches, announcements, information regarding the IBA and student membership
- Planning for IBA student activities and meetings
- IBA membership is *encouraged*, but not required for initial sign-up

#### Instructions

- Email Diana Doan-Crider at d-crider@tamuk.edu to enroll
- After enrollment, go to: <http://aristotle.tamuk.edu>
- Click on Agricultural Lists
- Click on Truman
- Enter your email address and the password "Bears01"
- Go to Create Message

Do NOT reply to list serve messages using your "reply" button. You must return to Truman and respond within the list serve or else other members will not receive your response.

When I was a kid, I was my father's worst nightmare. He hates to argue, but he ended up with a daughter who had to question everything from cleaning my room to taking ballet lessons when I wanted to be in a garbage dumpster-rock band instead. After an ensuing lengthy discussion on how, if given the opportunity, I would argue with a log, and my rebellious response confirming that I felt like I *was* arguing with a log, my dad would say, "Go to your room!" Because I spent so much time in there, my friends suggested that I install a toilet in the corner.

After becoming exasperated over my inability to convey that I was only looking for better solutions to both local and world-scale problems, over time I gave up and simply quit questioning. Unfortunately for my father, it was only after I moved out of the house, and fell into the mainstream of academia, and the world of theory and science. I have to admit, upon soaking up the volumes of scientific textbook theory, I simply assumed that the experts were right, and kept on floating downstream with everyone else. I guess I overlooked one of the most important fundamental scientific concepts, which was that hypothesis testing is an exercise in proving ourselves wrong instead of right.

Fortunately, after surviving numerous gut-wrenching masters and doctoral defenses, in addition to running my research through the IBA editorial gauntlet, I have learned that *questioning* can be a really good thing. Without it, we could be publishing some real trash, in addition to potentially misleading others into believing things that are simply not proven. Granted, the need to question does not give me

## “Go to Your Room!” cont’d.

free passage to question my boss on a daily basis (I’m trying to write this over the noise as the plumbers install a toilet in my office), but to *question* what we believe as scientists is a very necessary and healthy thing.

I will use an excellent example that I frequently ran across as I was initiating American black bear research in northern Mexico. For years, I read and heard that “overgrazing by cattle caused a decline in bear populations in Mexico and west Texas.” I simply assumed that the removal of grass resulted in some sort of reduction in bear populations, perhaps through ecosystem deterioration or the loss of succulent foods, although nobody ever really offered an explanation. After spending about 15 years working with cattle and bears in Mexico (in both overgrazed and well-managed areas), however, my ears started to perk up every time I heard the phrase repeated. What I actually noticed was that overgrazed areas experienced a dramatic encroachment of brush, cacti, and mast producing plants, i.e. important bear foods. On one occasion, we documented nine bears eating the fruits of prickly pear (an aggressive invader on precious grasslands) in an area that looked like it had been paved with cement because it had been so overgrazed. Undoubtedly, overgrazing is something that should be avoided at all costs, but is it really bad for *bears*? In South Texas, overgrazing caused dramatic brush encroachment that decimated the once lush grasslands reported in the area previous to the 1900s. However, white-tailed deer populations have since gone through the roof because they are a brush-loving species. Overgrazing didn’t appear to cause any declines with that species. Sounds to me like we might need to be a little more specific about what

really caused black bear declines in Mexico and Texas, otherwise we may mislead people.

Another recent issue came up during the recent black bear workshop in Mexico (see reports on pages 11 and 24). We actually know very little about the status and distribution of black bears in Mexico, or about how bears adapt to desert ecosystems. Because of the lack of information, the Mexican government classified the species as “endangered” as a safeguard. That was probably a good move, and they have been flexible to adapt as we uncover new information about black bears there. However, given what little information we do have, I am amazed at the statements I hear about the status of bears and the factors limiting their populations in Mexico. The words “corridors” and “fragmentation” are commonly heard as one of the principal concerns, and probably with due reason. However, speculations are now turning into “facts” in the literature and in the public eye, much like I saw with the issue of overgrazing. The simple fact is that we *don’t know* if and what types of corridors are important for bear expansion in desert ecosystems, or if fragmentation from a bear’s perspective is truly taking place. For example, if bears have lived in desert ecosystems for millions of years, exactly what kind of corridors did they need to cross from one biogeographically isolated mountain range to another? Was it vegetation, water, or simply a place to walk where they wouldn’t be killed? In addition, exactly what does

a bear consider fragmentation? Personally, I’d call it a road or a salt flat with no water. During our recent workshop, however, we were all stunned to see that bears are being reported (including females with cubs, indicating resident populations) in approximately three times the area in Mexico that we previously assumed based on past distribution maps. In particular, they are appearing in areas that we, as humans, previously considered as “fragmented” and “isolated.” Most people thought that bears in Mexico were going to hell in a hand basket, but perhaps we need to take a look at the big picture: 30 years ago bears were rarely reported, but now they seem to be coming out of our ears. So, what’s my point? There is a danger in posing assumptions, which are really hypotheses, as truth.

It is good to draw attention to red flags, or to tease through the potential meaning of any of our scientific results or observations. Ideally, that is how we design our research and test whether we are indeed right or wrong. However, we should always be open to the (usually high) probability that we may *be* wrong. Just because someone says it, or publishes it, does not mean that it should become a paradigm. You may risk being sent to your room, but as I found long ago, that’s a pretty good place to think and to formulate more questions. Until next time, and I hope to see you at the IBA conference in Italy (pages 38-43)!

## Student Spotlight: First Mexican Black Bear Workshop Students



© Diana Doan-Crider

Field trip participants enjoy a hike in the mountains of Nuevo Leon during the First Mexican Black Bear Workshop.

After the recent black bear workshop in Mexico (see pages 11 and 24), I found it impossible to select only one student to write about. Instead, I will be talking about an amazing *group* of students. Similar to many other IBA students who find themselves studying bears in places where money does *not* grow on trees, the level of perseverance and dedication of students studying bears in Mexico is astounding. Like bears coming to honey, students appeared at the workshop from 10 different Mexican states to learn about bears, and share their enthusiasm and experiences with each other. Many of them have been trying to develop their own proposals and studies, despite the fact that they have no funding, advisors,

or programs that can give them the direction they need to study such an “unstudied” species in Mexico. The workshop was timely in that students took the opportunity to team up with each other, develop some strong study designs, and approach some of the state and federal agencies for support. Only one month after the workshop, these students have formed several solid research initiatives and are already collecting data in regions that have not been investigated. Just yesterday I spoke with one student who returned from the workshop and immediately initiated an outreach program with the local communal land users (“ejidatarios”) to help minimize cattle conflicts, and is

asking for help on his study design to estimate bear numbers in the area. One thing that the students recognize is their need for training to handle bears, and have been asking for opportunities to volunteer on U.S. and Canadian studies so they can learn. While using volunteers from other countries sometimes can be a pain-in-the-neck for those of us running bear research projects, the opportunity would be well worth the investment. If you would like to invest in bear research and in the bears of Mexico, please contact me at the address above so I can facilitate visits. And to the students of Mexico who have made me so proud: “Adelante!”

## The Burned Paw

David Mather  
Mather Heritage Group, LLC  
45881 US Highway 169  
Onamia, MN 56359  
Phone (320) 532-5633  
Cell (612) 360-0699  
Email heritagegroup@frontiernet.net

Thirty years ago, an archaeological excavation in far northwestern Minnesota, USA, recovered several burned fragments from a bear's paw. The site, in Lake Bronson State Park, is near the eastern edge of the expansive Glacial Lake Agassiz plain. It is also close to the narrow strip of aspen parkland that once separated the Great Plains from vast coniferous forests stretching to the east. Lake Bronson's earthworks first drew attention to the site. They are long, linear burial mounds, some measuring more than sixty meters in length. The archaeologists found evidence that many bison were killed nearby, and their butchered remains are the most prevalent animal remains. The pottery found during the dig ranges in age from about 800 years to 2,000 years ago. The former occupants of the site may have been ancestors of the present-day Dakota, Assiniboine or Cree Indians, but it is impossible to be certain.

The bear bones were found in a small excavation unit, off to the side of the main dig. Most of the animal bone was found in association with an early type of pottery called Laurel, and radiocarbon dated to around 200 A.D. Laurel pots had a pointed base, smooth walls and lines of decorations around the rim. The bear bones were originally identified as grizzly due to their large size, and in recogni-

tion of early nineteenth century written records indicating that grizzlies were once present. Unfortunately, as exciting as it would be to have archaeological evidence for *Ursus arctos* in this part of North America, it appears that in this case the species identification was premature. A recent reexamination of the bones revealed that the size is consistent with a large American black bear, and that one small fragment of a claw was indeed present. The shape and size of the claw indicate that the black bear, formerly prevalent around the prairie-forest ecotone, is the more likely species.

Despite any disappointment about the species identification, the Lake Bronson bear paw was a very significant discovery. It was the first of what now appears to be a pattern of similar finds across northern Minnesota, and presumably the surrounding region. The burned bones of the paw, with the claws removed, are the final remnants of rituals associated with the slain bear. It seems likely that they related to processing of the bear carcass to remove the claws for other purposes, and may also have been associated with eating the meat of the paws.

On its own, the Lake Bronson bear paw was an intriguing find. Then burned paw fragments turned up at several other sites. The sites were all in northwest and northcentral Minnesota, and all had associations with Brainerd ceramics. This type of pottery may be the oldest in the state, with some radiocarbon dates extending back more than 3,000 years. Most Brainerd pots have distinctive markings of a fine-mesh net preserved in the fired clay. The pottery style was first identified near the city of Brainerd. This is "Paul Bunyan's Playground" and the heartland of lake cabin resorts. Incidentally, Brainerd was the setting for the Coen Brothers' 1996 film *Fargo*. Anyway, with a small series of sites with burned bear paws and Brainerd pottery (or contemporary radiocarbon dates), it seems that an archaeological pattern is emerging. This suggests a widely held set of cultural beliefs about bears, and shared traditions regarding treatment of the paw in particular.

While the Brainerd-related sites stand out, it is important to note that archaeological evidence for use of the bear's paw is not limited to this one period of time. Bears and humans have co-existed in Minnesota since the end of the Pleistocene glaciation approximately 10,000 years ago. The oldest direct, archaeological evidence for humans hunting bears is from the South Pike Bay site, on the southern shore of Leech Lake (part of the chain of lakes near the headwaters of the Mississippi River). This find is also a burned bear paw.



The excavation levels that contained the bear bones also produced radiocarbon dates ranging from approximately 7,500 to 7,600 years ago.

These bones, and many of those from the Brainerd sites, are actually calcined rather than burned. That is, they are intensely burned to the point where the bone fragments are chalky white, gray or blue. Technically, calcined bone is no longer bone, because the organic components are no longer present. Because of this, calcined bone is preserved at a site with acidic soil (like South Pike Bay) whereas any unburned bone was completely decomposed long ago. Calcined bone also provides direct evidence of human action, because it cannot occur through natural causes. A forest fire would not burn one location with enough intensity to calcine bone. An analogy for the process is the transformation of clay to ceramic by the firing process of making pottery. Bone that has been calcined was intentionally placed in a hot fire and left there to be consumed. This certainly may have been done with general food waste, but only the bones of paws from bears (generally without claws) have been found in these contexts (not other parts of the body). This implies that the burning is the last stage of a ritual act.

Archaeological evidence for special treatment of the bear's paw is also found at a "recent" site, a fur trading post of the North West Company that was occupied over the winter of 1804-1805 in eastcentral Minnesota. The journal of the trader provides a written record of the winter, but the archaeological finds fill in the picture, and reveal the life of the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Indian band that lived around the post, and provided the game that sustained the traders

through the winter. Most of the bones are white-tailed deer, but bear are also prevalent. Interestingly, the majority of the bear bones are either teeth, or bones of the paw. These are not burned, however. Some have traces of red ochre on the bone (a natural mineral paint). The only preserved claws are small and damaged. It appears that amidst other ceremonies for the bears that were killed, the paws were processed to remove the claws for other purposes.

Anthropologists such as A. Irving Hallowell have argued that the basic tenets of bear ceremonialism were shared by many diverse cultures around the world, and that they are derived from an ancient and possibly common source. If this is true, reverence for bears, and probably some aspects of the related rituals, is older than language differences, and older than the peopling of the New World.

This possibility broadens the context of the burned bear paws from Minnesota. The primary parts of the bear (or any mammal) used in a ritual or other practice are the pelt, the head (skull) or the paw. These are the parts of the animal that convey the essence of that being to onlookers. The head and the paw were (and in some cases, still are) the focus of many rituals in North America and Asia related to bear ceremonialism. In the case of the paw, it is easy to imagine this body part symbolizing the terrible power and strength of the bear. This is one aspect of the symbolism behind bear claw necklaces (whether black or grizzly) for many American Indian tribes. While

it would be very difficult to prove, I like the idea of an ancient, long forgotten connection between the paw rituals of the Minnesota region and other parts of the world, such as beliefs regarding bear paw soup in Southeast Asia

As with all archaeological questions, it can be fun to speculate, but hard data are scarce. Not only are we dealing with small samples of fragmentary information, but much of what has been excavated has never been identified or analyzed. Furthermore, in Minnesota at least, we're just getting past figuring out the general chronology, and are to barely to the point where we can start asking interesting questions about the past. The rate at which bear paws are recently turning up in Minnesota's archaeological record (where bear bones are notably scarce because of ancient ritual practices) makes me suspect that this pattern is quite widespread. I was thinking about just that recently while excavating on an island near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northeast Minnesota, feeling in my element because we were finding lots of animal bone fragments, along with pottery and stone tools from about 500 years ago. I was having a hard time keeping my eyes on my job, rather than the lake, when there they were: two fragments of the metacarpals from a bear's paw. It's amazing what we can find once we start looking.

## 16<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT Riva del Garda - Trentino - Italy Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005



INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
ON BEAR  
RESEARCH AND  
MANAGEMENT  
SEPT. 27<sup>th</sup> - OCT. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005  
RIVA DEL GARDA - TRENTO - ITALY

### Planning Committee

Maurizio Zanin, Chair  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Claudio Groff, Co-chair  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Piero Genovesi, Co-chair  
National Wildlife Institute  
Lorenza Agnoli  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Davide Dalpiaz  
Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali  
Carlo Frapporti  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Franca Pedrolli  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Marco Potrich  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento

### Scientific Committee

Piero Genovesi  
INFS-National Wildlife Institute, Italy  
Luigi Boitani  
University of Rome "la Sapienza," Italy  
Djuro Huber  
University of Zagreb, Croatia  
Marko Jonozovic  
Slovenia Forest Service, Slovenia  
Javier Naves Cienfuegos  
Universidad de Oviedo, Spain  
Ettore Randi  
INFS-National Wildlife Institute, Italy  
Joerg Rauer  
WWF, Austria  
Jon Swenson  
Norwegian University of Life Sciences,  
Norway  
Lisette Waits  
University of Idaho, USA

### Conference Program

The conference begins Tuesday morning September 27 and ends Saturday afternoon October 1. Program details are posted on the conference website and are updated regularly. A tentative schedule is on page 41.

Conference participants are welcome to attend IBA Council and Bear Specialist Group meetings.

### Website and Updates

For more information on the conference program (pages 38-41) and registration (pages 42-43), use the conference website [www.provincia.tn.it/foreste/16IBAconference](http://www.provincia.tn.it/foreste/16IBAconference) or [www.bearbiology.com/workconf1.html](http://www.bearbiology.com/workconf1.html).

### Registration

We encourage participants to register online. Use the form on the conference website or on pages 42-43.

### Conference Fees

Conference fee is 320 euros. Student fee is 150 euros. The fee includes coffee breaks but not the conference banquet.

### Banquet

The conference banquet is scheduled for the second day of the conference, September 27, in the Toblino Castle, about 20 km from Riva del Garda. This is one of the most beautiful castles in Trentino (XII-XVI century), on a lake shore surrounded by a Mediterranean forest of evergreen oaks (*Quercus ilex*).

### Excursions

Visit the website excursion page for more information.

### Hiking in Bear Habitat

Enjoy the Tovel Valley, where the last native bears survived and Slovenian bears are being translocated. Organized in cooperation with the Adamello-Brenta Natural Park, the trip visits the very heart of the park in the wonderful Brenta massif, one of the most beautiful areas of the entire Alpine arch. Look for wildlife including chamois, red deer, roe deer, marmot and golden eagle. Participants can choose between two different options, both leading to the amazing Lake Tovel, where lunch will be served. Bring hiking shoes and rain clothing.

Hike A) is about 12 km long, and requires good physical fitness and some practice.

Hike B) is much easier and involves a one hour walk along the shore of Lake Tovel.

Euro 30.00 fee covers transport by coach and lunch. Led by an English-speaking park ranger.

## 16<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT Riva del Garda - Trentino - Italy Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005



### Venice

A three-hour tour of the city of Romanesque-Byzantine origins which has eight monuments proclaimed UNESCO Heritage of Humanity sites. The program includes a visit to Piazza San Marco, the Basilica, the Ducal Palace, the prisons and the world famous Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs).

Eat lunch at Do Spade restaurant and wine cellar, located just a few meters from the Rialto and active since 1400. With his style, charm and dadaistic spirit, the owner will recommend Venetian dishes and good red wines.

Euro 90.00 fee covers travel by coach, lunch, English-speaking guide and entry to museums (minimum 15 participants).

### Art, History (and Wine)

Tour the new, beautiful Contemporary Art Museum (MART) in Rovereto, and visit Isera, an agricultural village opposite Rovereto on the banks of the Adige River.

Lunch at the Casa Del Vino includes tasting genuine Trentino cuisine together with prized autochthonous wines produced by the adjoining cellar.

Visit Trento, a beautiful Renaissance city and capital of Trentino Province, whose colors and buildings make it unique among Alpine cities. It was the seat of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) and has always been a meeting point between Italian and Central European cultures.

Euro 50.00 covers travel by coach, lunch, English-speaking guide and entry to museums (minimum 15 participants).

### Post Conference Trip Abruzzo, October 2-6

In cooperation with the National Forest Service, we are organizing a visit to the Abruzzo Mountains which has one of the very few remnant bear populations (30-50) in Western Europe. The range of this highly threatened bear population is primarily located within the Abruzzo National Park, in the beautiful mountains of Central Italy.

Euro 30.00 fee covers one way coach travel from Riva del Garda to Abruzzo. Other costs (accommodation, meals, local transportation, return trip) will be paid to local organizers in Abruzzo (minimum 15 participants).

On Sunday October 2 we will travel by bus from Riva del Garda to Abruzzo (700 km). From the 3rd to the 5th we will visit some of the most beautiful sites within the bear range, including the Abruzzo National Park (<http://www.parcoabruzzo.it/>), the Majella National Park ([http://www.parcomajella.it/en\\_home.htm](http://www.parcomajella.it/en_home.htm)) and one national forest. On the 6th (or evening of the 5th) transport to the international airports of Rome (200 km) and Verona (600 km) will be arranged.

### Ursus Submissions

Submission of a full manuscript to *Ursus* (the peer-reviewed journal of the International Association for Bear Research and Management) is encouraged and will be a factor in selecting papers. Authors of poster presentations also are encouraged to submit full papers to *Ursus*. Applicants are asked to indicate whether their presentation will be accompanied by submission of a manuscript to *Ursus*. Consult the journal website ([www.ursusjournal.com](http://www.ursusjournal.com)) for instructions to authors and other information.

Authors submitting *Ursus* manuscripts are reminded that page charges (US\$90/printed page) are their responsibility, and are encouraged to budget accordingly. Typically 2.5 pages of double-spaced manuscript equals one page of final printed text.

An application can be made to the IBA for a publication grant to fully or partially cover page charges for papers from projects where these charges cannot be met. A letter to the IBA Treasurer (address on page 48) outlining the request for an exemption from page charges should be made as early as possible.

continued...

# 16<sup>th</sup>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Riva del Garda - Trentino - Italy Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005

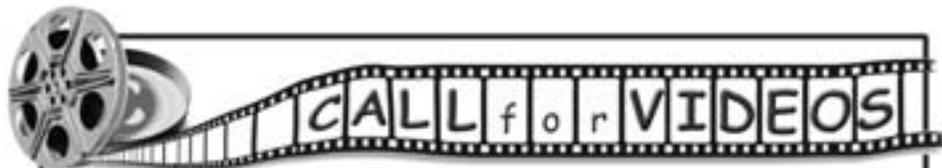


## Presentations

The review committee (Piero Genovesi, Luigi Boitani, Djuro Huber, Georg Rauer and Jon Swenson) evaluated all submitted abstracts, following the criteria developed by the IBA for evaluating and scoring abstracts, including: geographical significance, significance and originality, study design, intellectual contribution, writing.

The review was completed in July, and the final decision on acceptance and type of presentation (poster or oral) has been communicated to authors. Due to the high number of abstracts that were submitted (about 200) and to the limited number of slots for oral presentations (about 53), many abstracts proposed as oral presentations were moved to posters.

Since many interesting studies will be presented as posters, we have done our best to increase their visibility. Posters will be displayed from September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, in a room very close to the main conference hall.



## Submit Your Video by September 5th!

For the public event scheduled on the evening of September 30<sup>th</sup> we will present an original video montage of bears from all over the world.

We are collecting non-professional/commercial videos to edit short clips of the least known bear species, and interesting bear behaviors.

Please contribute your non-commercial videos. We will use the most interesting clips for preparing the montage.

Of course, no commercial use will be made of the montage. At the conference, we will return all the contributed videos.

Please send a copy in VHS or DVD format of the material you are willing to share with us by **September 5th** to:

Claudio Groff  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Servizio Foreste e Fauna  
Via Trener n. 3  
38100 Trento  
Italy

For technical support, please contact Davide Dalpiaz at [d.dalpiaz@mtsn.tn.it](mailto:d.dalpiaz@mtsn.tn.it)

## Information and Suggestions for Authors

### Poster

Maximum size for posters is 90 x 150 cm. Please include a picture of yourself in the poster so people who wish to discuss your work or ask questions can identify you. Double-coated adhesive tape will be available in the poster room.

### Oral Presentation

Oral presentations are allotted 15 minutes (plus five minutes for discussion and changeover time). For presentations, we encourage use of PowerPoint for PC. If you need other media (PowerPoint for Mac, slides, video, overhead transparencies, etc.) or you have any additional technical requirements, please contact Davide Dalpiaz ([d.dalpiaz@mtsn.tn.it](mailto:d.dalpiaz@mtsn.tn.it)).

Please remember that most attendees are not native English speakers. Speak slowly and clearly.

Slides and graphs must be well designed, simple, and readable by everyone in the audience. Use as few slides and graphs as are really needed and can be discussed in the time allotted. Illustrate major points or trends, not detailed data. Of course avoid showing long or complicated formulas or equations.

Use the minimum number of words in the title, subtitles, and captions.

Standard abbreviations are acceptable. Tables are usually difficult to read and should be avoided. Whenever possible, present data using bar charts or graphs instead of tables. If a few tables are really necessary, use as few columns and horizontal lines as possible. For graph preparation, do not use more than one or two curves on one diagram. Label each curve; do not use symbols and a legend.

# 16<sup>th</sup>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Riva del Garda - Trentino - Italy Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005



## Tentative Program

### Monday 26 September

Registration  
IBA Council Meeting  
Ice Breaker

### Tuesday 27 September

Registration  
Welcome  
Town Mayor  
President of Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Opening remarks  
Minister, Environment and Protection of Landscape  
Head, Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division, Council of Europe  
President, Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica  
President, IBA  
Session: Bear Conservation in Europe  
Session: Bear Conservation in Europe II  
Workshop: Human Dimensions in Bear Conservation in Europe hosted by  
Alistair Bath and sponsored by Council of Europe

### Wednesday 28 September

Session: Bear Translocations  
Session: Conflict Management  
Session: Population Management  
IUCN Bear Specialist Group Teams Meetings  
Poster Session  
IBA Business Meeting  
Gala Dinner in Castel Toblino

### Thursday 29 September

Excursions

### Friday 30 September

Session: Conservation Genetics and Non-invasive Genetic Monitoring  
Student Session  
IUCN Bear Specialist Group Meeting  
Visit to Valle dei Laghi Wine Cellars  
Public Event: Bear Video Show (see call for videos on page 40)

### Saturday 1 October

Session: Conservation of Bears in Asia and Latin America  
Session: Bear Biology  
Workshop: Non-invasive Genetic Techniques: Case Studies, Problems,  
Potentialities hosted by E. Randi, L. Waits, P. Taberlet  
Awards Ceremony, *Ursus* Editor Comments, IBA President's Closing Remarks

### Sunday 2 October

Post Conference Trip to Abruzzo

continued...



**INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
ON BEAR  
RESEARCH AND  
MANAGEMENT**  
SEPT. 27th - OCT. 1st 2005  
ROVA DEL GARDA - TRENTO - ITALY

## Registration Form

- Payment by credit card is only possible with online registration.
- If you register by mail/fax, you can pay either by bank transfer or by check.

Please fill in, print and return this form,  
together with check or receipt of bank transfer, to the organizing secretariat:

**Orikata organizzazione congressi**  
Via Zell, 138050 COGNOLA (TN)  
Phone + 39 0461 234411  
Fax + 39 0461 233282

**Bank account:** OriKata organizzazione congressi  
BANCA BOVIO CALDERARI  
Filiale Top Center Trento (Italy)  
Account Number 052443850130  
ABI 03064CAB 01802  
IBAN = IT49 N 03064 01802 052443850130

### Fill in the form (PLEASE USE ALL CAPITAL LETTERS):

First Name \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip code \* \_\_\_\_\_ State/province \* \_\_\_\_\_  
City \* \_\_\_\_\_ Country \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* = required information

### Conference Registration Fees:

Registration Fee  320.00 euros  
Student Fee  150.00 euros  
To be entitled to pay the reduced fee, students  
must provide evidence of university registration  
by sending a registration certificate by fax to +39 0461 233282.

No registration fee is required for companions.

TOTAL CONFERENCE AMOUNT: Euro \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration for the Gala Dinner on September 28, 2005:

• Gala dinner euro 35.00 each      Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Euro \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration for the Mid-conference Trips on September 29, 2005. I am interested in:

- **Hiking in the Bear Range**

Fee includes transport, lunch and guide. euro 30.00 each      Number of Participants: \_\_\_      Total\_\_\_\_\_

- **Excursion to Venice**

Fee includes all transport, lunch, museum entrance fees and an English speaking guide.  
euro 90.00 each      Number of Participants: \_\_\_      Total\_\_\_\_\_

- **Art, History (and Wine)**

Fee includes all transport, lunch, museum entrance fees and an English speaking guide.  
euro 50.00 each      Number of Participants: \_\_\_      Total\_\_\_\_\_

## Post Conference Trip

- **Transfer to Abruzzo**      euro 30.00 each      Number of Participants: \_\_\_      Total\_\_\_\_\_

Fee only includes bus transport to Abruzzo. Accommodation, meals, local transports and return trip costs shall be paid in Abruzzo.

## Hotel Reservation

A reservation fee equal to one night's stay per person will be charged for hotel booking placed using the registration form. The remaining amount can be paid by cash, credit card or check at the conference.

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Total Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Rates (VAT included) — B&B per person, per night:

Rooms will be assigned in chronological order of booking. Should the requested category be fully booked, we will book you in a different one. The confirmation will be sent from the Organizing Secretariat by fax or email.

Category	Double as single use room	Double room	Total	Reservation Fee (= 1 night)
A (4 star/3 star sup.)	euro 78.80	I pay the rate for one person only, euro 58.85, and I will share the room with:		
		I pay for two persons, euro 117.70.		
B (3 star)	euro 56.75	I pay the rate for one person only, euro 39.90, and I will share the room with:		
		I pay for two persons, euro 79.80.		
C (2 star)	euro 38.35	I pay the rate for one person only, euro 27.30, and I will share the room with:		
		I pay for two persons, euro 54.60.		
Hostel		I pay the rate for one person only, euro 18.00, and I will share the room with:		
		I pay for two persons, euro 36.00.		

**TOTAL AMOUNT: euro** \_\_\_\_\_

## Cancellation/Refund

Written cancellations received before September 1, 2005 will receive a full refund subject to a 20% processing fee.

## Privacy Information

In accordance with the Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003, Orikata will use your personal data only for purposes related to the IBA Conference and is therefore responsible for its use. Should you wish to cancel or change your address at any time, please contact Orikata: Organizzazione Congressi - Via Zell, 1 I-38050 Cognola di Trento (TN), Italy, email orikata@orikata.it.

## Events

### American Zoo & Aquarium Assn. Annual Conference

September 13-18, 2005  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

The AZA (American Zoo and Aquarium Association) 2005 annual conference is being hosted by the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

For information go to AZA's website: [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org).

#### Interested in the Program?

The draft program is available at: [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

#### Need to Register?

Deadline for early prices is August 5th. Online registration is available for credit card payments only. Otherwise, the registration form is available for downloading on the AZA website ([www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)).

#### Need a Hotel Reservation?

Don't delay in making your reservation:

Hilton Chicago  
720 South Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60605  
Phone (312) 922-4400  
Fax (312) 922-5240  
Group code: AZA

Discounted rates are guaranteed until August 5, 2005. Please note that one night's deposit is required when making a reservation. Reserve online: [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/private\\_groups/chich\\_aza/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/private_groups/chich_aza/index.jhtml)

#### Need a Flight?

American Airlines offers 5-7% discounts on lowest published fares to Chicago O'Hare. Call (800) 433-1790 or a travel agent. Discount code: 8095AC.

### First European Congress of Conservation Biology

August 23-27, 2006  
Eger, Hungary

Owen T. Nevin, Secretary  
European Section  
Society for Conservation Biology  
Email [europe@conservationbiology.org](mailto:europe@conservationbiology.org)

The European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology is pleased to announce the First European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB). We are determined to promote the development and use of science for the conservation of European species and ecosystems, and to make sure that conservation policy is firmly supported by the best available scientific evidence. For this reason, and because of the multi-disciplinary nature of conservation biology, we aim to attract a wide array of academics, students, policy makers, stakeholders, natural resource managers, and media and NGO representatives from all over Europe. We hope to establish a multi-disciplinary network of conservationists across Europe drawing on global expertise in conservation biology. The ECCB will also be hosting a meeting of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe enabling you to gain the greatest benefit from your travel budget! Below is the timetable for the submission of symposium proposals and abstracts:

August 31, 2005

Deadline for Symposium Proposals

September 2005

Call for Abstracts

February 2006

Deadline for Abstracts

For current information, visit the ECCB web page ([www.eccb2006.org](http://www.eccb2006.org)).

### Ninth Western Black Bear Workshop

April 19-22, 2006  
Raton, New Mexico, USA

The Ninth Western Black Bear Workshop will be held April 19-22, 2006, at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico, USA. Conference fees will be US\$120 (US\$65 for students). Attendees will be responsible for their lodging and meals. The Whittington Center has limited space and is approximately US\$45/night, single occupancy. Room sharing is encouraged. Some primitive "bunk houses," camping, and RV sites will be available. The town of Raton is only 15 minutes from the conference center and has ample lodging. Field trips will be offered on Saturday, April 22.

For more information, please contact (email preferred):

Rick Winslow  
Large Carnivore Biologist  
New Mexico Game and Fish Department  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, USA  
Phone (505) 268-6347  
Email [RWinslow@state.nm.us](mailto:RWinslow@state.nm.us).

## 17th International Conference on Bear Research and Management October 2-6, 2006 Karuizawa Town, Nagano, Japan

Toshiki Aoi, Planning Committee Chair  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Iwate University  
3-18-8 Ueda, Morioka-city  
Iwate 020-8550, Japan  
Phone & Fax +81 19 621 6136  
Email [aoi@iwate-u.ac.jp](mailto:aoi@iwate-u.ac.jp)

&  
Koji Yamazaki  
Planning Committee Secretary General  
Zoological Laboratory  
Ibaraki Nature Museum  
700 Osaki, Bando-city  
Ibaraki 306-0622, Japan  
Phone +81 297 38 2000  
Fax +81 297 38 1999  
Email [yamako@j.email.ne.jp](mailto:yamako@j.email.ne.jp)



# IBA 2006 Japan

The 17th IBA conference will be the first IBA conference held in Asia. The planning committee has been coordinating with government agencies, NGOs, and local organizations to arrange for a successful meeting. We hope that the conference will inspire more research and effective management plans for bears in Asia.

### Conference Venue

Karuizawa is a popular resort town located in the central part of Japan. Half of the town is within the Jyoshin-etsu Plateau National Park which has 2,000 m mountains, several volcanoes, and many hot springs. The park has a rich natural environment. Large mammals, such as Japanese black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*), wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), Japanese serows (*Capricornis crispus*), and Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*), have healthy populations.

Since the 1990s, bear-human conflicts have been a major concern in Karuizawa. Food-conditioned bears repeatedly visit garbage stations in residential areas. In 1998, efforts to manage garbage bears were organized and started by a private institute established by a resort company.

The conference site, Hotel Bleston Court of Hoshino Resort, has sophisticated facilities. There are many other types of lodging nearby. Leisure opportunities include: hiking and bicycle trails, tennis courts, golf courses, shopping malls, art museums, and historic sites.

Using the super-express, travel time is about 2.5 hours from Narita International Airport to Karuizawa.

### Websites and Updates

More information about the conference will be announced in upcoming issues of *International Bear News* and on the conference website (<http://www.japanbear.org/iba/>). For more details on Karuizawa town, visit <http://www.town.karuizawa.nagano.jp/html/English/index.html>

continued...

## Events

### 17th International Conference on Bear Research and Management October 2-6, 2006 Karuizawa Town, Nagano, Japan, cont'd.

#### Call for Papers and Posters

The conference will cover all aspects of bear biology and conservation. Presentations on the biology, conservation, culture, and conflicts with human of the six bear species in Asia (polar, brown, Asian black, sloth, sun, giant panda) are especially encouraged.

#### Presentation Types

In addition to invited presentations, three types of presentation are open for submissions: oral, poster A, and poster B.

(1) Invited presentations (20 minutes and 5 minutes for questions).

(2) Oral presentations (15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions) intended for publication in *Ursus*.

(3) Poster presentation A: intended for publication in *Ursus*.

(4) Poster presentation B: not intended for publication in *Ursus*.

The program committee will select presentations and determine if they will be oral or poster presentations.

#### Abstract Submission Schedule

Abstracts for presentations (oral and poster) will be accepted beginning **October 1, 2005** via the conference website: <http://www.japanbear.org/iba/>.

The deadline for submission is **March 31, 2006** for all presentation types. Any questions on presentations should be sent to the program committee at email: [iba2006\\_oa@japanbear.org](mailto:iba2006_oa@japanbear.org).

#### *Ursus*

Submission of a full manuscript to *Ursus* (the peer-reviewed journal of the International Association for Bear Research and Management) is encouraged and will be taken into account in selecting presentation types. Consult the journal website ([www.ursusjournal.com](http://www.ursusjournal.com)) for instructions to authors and information.

#### Call for Workshops

Six workshops are planned during the conference. Two workshops have already been scheduled: 1. Conflicts Between Humans and Bears, and 2. Trade in Bears and Bear Parts. We invite four additional workshops on other topics.

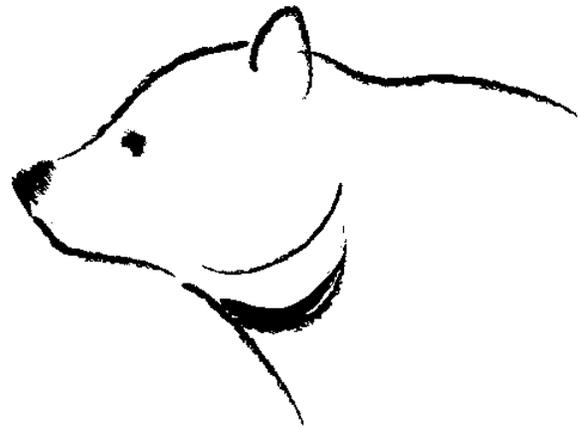
Please contact the program committee to schedule workshops and other meetings during the conference. Requests should include an abstract, outline, and size of workshops or meetings. Deadline for requests is **December 31, 2005** to email: [iba2006\\_ws@japanbear.org](mailto:iba2006_ws@japanbear.org).

#### Registration

Participants can register online for the conference beginning **October 1, 2005**. There is a discount for early registration.

#### Field Trips

After the conference we will offer several enjoyable, reasonably-priced excursions. Some trips will visit bear habitat guided by Japanese researchers. Now is the time to plan your schedule to attend the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Japan!



**IBA 2006**  
**Japan**

## 18th International Conference on Bear Research and Management Fall 2007 Monterrey, Mexico

Diana Doan-Crider  
King Ranch Inst. for Ranch Management  
MSC 137

Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Kingsville, TX 78363-8202, USA  
Phone (361) 593-5407

Fax (361) 593-5404  
Email d-crider@tamuk.edu

&  
David G. Hewitt  
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Inst.  
MSC 218

Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Kingsville, TX 78363-8202, USA  
Phone (361) 593-3963

Fax (361) 593-3924  
Email david.hewitt@tamuk.edu

&  
Rodrigo Medellin L.  
Centro de Ecologia  
Universidad Autonoma de Mexico  
Apartado Postal 70-275  
04510 Mexico, DF, Mexico  
Email  
medellin@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx  
Phone +52-5-5622-9042  
Fax +52-5-5622-8995

Monterrey, Mexico's third largest city (two hours south of the USA), is beautifully situated in the Tamaulipan thornscrub/Chihuahuan desert at 800 masl next to the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains which rise dramatically 2,000 m to pine/oak forests. Autumn promises bear activity and pleasant weather.

Nearby increasing bear-human conflicts make interest in bears high. Bear research and management has state and federal attention, but there is no active conservation strategy. This conference will focus attention on bear conservation at a critical point, and will encourage biologists to seek bear research and management training.

Monterrey is very progressive, and conference facilities are ideal. An international airport has 250 daily

direct flights from major cities. The Monterrey Office of Conventions and Visitors (OCV) has coordinated UN meetings at the CINTERMEX Conference Facility, and will help organize the IBA conference at the same venue ([www.cintermex.com.mx/](http://www.cintermex.com.mx/) and [www.parquefundidora.org/](http://www.parquefundidora.org/)) including translation services (Spanish, Russian, Japanese, et al), field trips, travel permits, and logistics. Five-star lodging (US\$80/night/2004) is connected to the 350-acre enclosed site, which includes an eco-park, museums, banks, restaurants, family areas and an immaculate, newly renovated international hostel (225 beds, US\$6/night/2004). Cheaper hotels (US\$30-45/night) are within a five-minute metro-ride. Corporate sponsorship should support conference meals, field trips, and special events, keeping registration costs at a minimum. The OCV is funding organization and printing.

Monterrey's two distinguished universities are assisting so student participation should be high. Direct communication with the Mexican Consulate will ensure smooth travel for non-North Americans. Canadian and USA visitors need a Tourist Visa on entry which requires a passport or birth-certificate (2004 regulations).

Nearby are the historic downtown, natural, and scenic areas. Field trips will include Chipinque, Sierra los Picachos, and Cumbres National Parks (American black bear study areas), Garcia Caves, Horsetail Falls and Mina Archeological Area. Nature watching includes red-fronted parrots, migratory songbirds and monarch butterflies. The OCV will also coordinate discount travel for those wishing to visit more of Mexico.



# IBA Officers & Council

**Harry Reynolds, President\***

PO Box 80843  
Fairbanks, AK 99708, USA  
Phone (907) 479-5169  
Email [ibapresident@bearbiology.com](mailto:ibapresident@bearbiology.com)

**Jon Swenson****Vice President for Eurasia<sup>^</sup>**

Department of Ecology and  
Natural Resource Management  
Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Postbox 5003  
N-1432 Ås, Norway  
Phone 47 64 94 85 30  
Fax 47 64 94 85 02  
Email [jon.swenson@umb.no](mailto:jon.swenson@umb.no)

**Karen Noyce****Vice President for Americas\***

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources  
1201 East Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744, USA  
Phone (218) 327-4432  
Fax (218) 327-4181  
Email [karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us)

**Joseph Clark, Secretary\***

U.S. Geological Survey  
Southern Appalachian Field Laboratory  
University of Tennessee  
274 Ellington Hall  
Knoxville, TN 37996, USA  
Phone (865) 974-4790  
Fax (865) 974-3555  
Email [jclark1@utk.edu](mailto:jclark1@utk.edu)

**Frank van Manen, Treasurer\***

U.S. Geological Survey  
Southern Appalachian Field Laboratory  
University of Tennessee  
274 Ellington Hall  
Knoxville, TN 37996, USA  
Phone (865) 974-0200  
Fax (865) 974-3555  
Email [vanmanen@utk.edu](mailto:vanmanen@utk.edu)

**Andrew Derocher\***

Department of Biological Science  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada  
Phone (780) 492-5570  
Fax (780) 492-9234  
Email [derocher@ualberta.ca](mailto:derocher@ualberta.ca)

**Isaac Goldstein<sup>^</sup>**

Wildlife Conservation Society  
PO Box 833  
IPOSTEL Merida  
Estado Merida, Venezuela  
Phone 58-414-7176792  
Email [igoldstein@wcs.org](mailto:igoldstein@wcs.org)

**John Hechtel\***

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4  
Palmer, AK 99645, USA  
Phone (907) 746-6331  
Fax (907) 746-6305  
Email [john\\_hechtel@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:john_hechtel@fishgame.state.ak.us)

**Djuro Huber<sup>^</sup>**

University of Zagreb  
Biology Department, Veterinary Faculty  
Heinzlova 55, 10000 Zagreb  
Republic of Croatia  
Phone 385 1 2390 141  
Fax 385 1 244 1390  
Email [huber@mavef.vef.hr](mailto:huber@mavef.vef.hr)

**Ole Jakob Sørensen\***

Nord-trondelag University College  
Faculty of Social Sciences and  
Natural Resources  
Box 2501  
N-7729 Steinkjer, Norway  
Phone +4774112052  
Fax +4774112101  
Email [ole.j.sorensen@hint.no](mailto:ole.j.sorensen@hint.no)

**Michael R. Vaughan<sup>^</sup>**

Virginia Cooperative  
Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
148 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321, USA  
Phone (540) 231-5046  
Fax (540) 231-7580  
Email [mvaughan@vt.edu](mailto:mvaughan@vt.edu)

**Koji Yamazaki\***

Zoological Laboratory  
Ibaraki Nature Museum  
700 Osaki  
Iwai-city, Ibaraki 306-0622, Japan  
Phone +81 297 38 2000  
Fax +81 297 38 1999  
Email [yamako@j.email.ne.jp](mailto:yamako@j.email.ne.jp)

**Teresa DeLorenzo (non-voting)****International Bear News Editor**

10907 N.W. Copeland St.  
Portland, OR 97229, USA  
Phone (503) 643-4008  
Fax (503) 643-4072  
Email [ibanews@bearbiology.com](mailto:ibanews@bearbiology.com)

**Diana Doan-Crider (non-voting)****IBA Student Affairs Coordinator**

King Ranch Institute  
for Ranch Management  
MSC 137  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Kingsville, TX 78363-8202, USA  
Phone (361) 593-5407  
(361) 593-5401 KRIRM Office  
Fax (361) 593-5404  
Email [d-crider@tamuk.edu](mailto:d-crider@tamuk.edu)

**Richard B. Harris (non-voting)****Ursus Editor**

218 Evans  
Missoula, MT 59801, USA  
Phone & Fax (406) 542-6399  
Email [rharris@montana.com](mailto:rharris@montana.com)

<sup>^</sup>term expires 2005

\*term expires 2007

# IBA Membership Application

Please Complete Both Sides of Form. Mail or Fax to Address Below.



Oso	Urs
Bär	Ours
Björn	МедВедь
Orso	Бса
Björn	Medved
Samxe	Beer
熊	Shash
熊	Bèruang
Bhalou	Karhu
Αρκτος	Bear

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP+4 or Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal  Address Change  You may share my membership information with similar organizations.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Standard Membership US\$50.00/year, US\$45.00/year for three or more years.  
 Includes *International Bear News* & *Ursus*. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please donate my copy of *Ursus* to a library or deserving recipient.
- Institutional Membership US\$100.00/year, US\$250.00/three years. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- For those who cannot afford a Standard Membership, US\$25.00/year.  
 Includes *International Bear News*. If needed, a free copy of *Ursus* may be requested. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send *Ursus*. I have no access to it, need it & cannot afford Standard Membership.  
 Donation (if possible!) included to help defray costs of sending *Ursus*. US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Gift Standard Membership US\$50/year, US\$45/year for three or more years.  
 Includes *International Bear News* & *Ursus*. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Gift Institutional Membership US\$100/year or US\$250/three years. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Gift Low-cost Membership US\$25/year. Includes *International Bear News*, not *Ursus*. # Years \_\_\_\_\_ US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ IBA Please Choose a Deserving Gift Recipient.

- Tax Deductible Contribution to IBA General Fund. US\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Tax Deductible Contribution to IBA Bear Conservation Fund. US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order in US\$ payable to IBA.  MasterCard  VISA

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

(government cards include customer #) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:** Joseph Clark, IBA Secretary  
 USGS-SAFL, University of Tennessee  
 274 Ellington Hall, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA  
 Fax (865) 974-3555 or Email [jclark1@utk.edu](mailto:jclark1@utk.edu)



OFFICE USE ONLY

August 2005 Vol. 14, No. 3

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received \_\_\_\_\_ Start Issue \_\_\_\_\_ End Issue \_\_\_\_\_ Date Entered DB \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete both sides of form! Download form at [www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com).

# IBA Member Application, cont'd.

**Please Complete Information on Both Sides of Form!**

**Please check columns in which you have expertise and/or are willing to assist/advise IBA:**

	1. Expertise	2. Advise/Assist IBA		1. Expertise	2. Advise/Assist IBA
Accounting			Legal		
<b>American Black Bear**</b>	years		Legislative Processes		
<b>Asiatic Black Bear**</b>	years		Life History		
<b>Andean Bear**</b>	years		Management		
Awards*			Member Concerns*		
Bear-Human Conflict			Media Relations		
Bears in Culture			Mentoring/Training*		
Behavior			Newsletter*		
Bylaws*			Nominations*		
<b>Brown Bear**</b>	years		Nuisance/Damage Management		
Conferences*			Nutrition		
Conservation*			Organizational Development		
Disease			Pathology		
Economic Development*			Physiology		
Education/Outreach*			<b>Polar Bear**</b>	years	
Enforcement			Policy*		
Ethics*			Population Dynamics		
Evolution			Quantitative Analysis		
Field Research			<b>Sloth Bear**</b>	years	
Financial Management			Strategic Planning*		
Food Habits			<b>Sun Bear**</b>	years	
Genetics			Toxicology		
<b>Giant Panda**</b>	years		Travel Grants*		
GIS			<i>Ursus</i> Journal*		
Grant Review*			Veterinary		
IBA History/Archive			Website*		
Habitat Evaluation			Wildlife Rehabilitation		
Husbandry/Zoo			Other—Specify		

\*\*Please indicate number of years of experience with each species      \*Indicates an IBA committee

Please check all academic degrees earned: BA/BS \_\_\_\_\_ MA/MS \_\_\_\_\_ PhD/DVM \_\_\_\_\_ Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list major field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all countries in which you have worked with bears. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list languages in which you are fluent. \_\_\_\_\_

What changes/improvements would you like to see in the IBA (newsletter, *Ursus*, conferences, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How can IBA better serve its membership and/or help you? \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to include your name in the IBA member directory \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing the survey, please tear out and mail or fax!**

# IBA Publications Order Form

<i>Ursus Journal &amp; IBA Conference Proceedings*</i>	Cost*	Quantity	Total
4th 1980 Montana 1977	\$30.00	_____	_____
5th 1983 Wisconsin 1980	\$30.00	_____	_____
6th 1986 Arizona 1983	\$30.00	_____	_____
7th 1987 Virginia/Yugoslavia 1986	\$35.00	_____	_____
8th 1990 British Columbia 1989	\$40.00	_____	_____
9th (1) 1994 Montana 1992	\$45.00	_____	_____
9th (2) 1997 France 1992	\$25.00	_____	_____
10th 1998 <i>Ursus-Alaska/Sweden '95</i>	\$40.00	_____	_____
11th 1999 <i>Ursus 11</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
12th 2001 <i>Ursus 12</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
13th 2002 <i>Ursus 13</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
14th 2003 <i>Ursus 14 Volumes 1 &amp; 2</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
15th 2004 <i>Ursus 15 Volumes 1 &amp; 2</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
16th 2005 <i>Ursus 16 inc.w/ Std. Membership</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
*40% discount for 3 or more volumes, except <i>Ursus 13, 14, 15 &amp; 16.</i>		Less 40% Discount	(-\$) _____

**Eastern Black Bear Workshop Proceedings, USA**

10th 1991 Arkansas 1990	\$15.00	_____	_____
11th 1992 New Hampshire 1992	\$15.00	_____	_____
13th 1996 Vermont 1996	\$15.00	_____	_____
14th 1997 Mississippi 1997	\$15.00	_____	_____
15th 2002 Massachusetts 1999	\$15.00	_____	_____
16th 2001 South Carolina 2001	\$15.00	_____	_____

**Western Black Bear Workshop Proceedings, USA**

4th 1993 California 1991	\$15.00	_____	_____
5th 1995 Utah	\$15.00	_____	_____
6th 2003 Washington 1997	\$15.00	_____	_____
7th 2001 Oregon 2000	\$15.00	_____	_____

**Safety in Bear Country Videos**

<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country</i>	\$20.00	_____	_____
<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country &amp; Working in Bear Country</i>	\$30.00	_____	_____
<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country Public Performance Rights</i>	\$69.00	_____	_____
<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country/Working in Bear Country PPR</i>	\$129.00	_____	_____

**Monographs of the IBA**

<i>A Proposed Delineation of Critical Grizzly Bear Habitat in the Yellowstone Region</i> (#1, 1977)			
By F. Craighead	\$10.00	_____	_____
<i>The Status and Conservation of the Bears of the World</i> (#2, 1989)			
By C. Servheen	\$10.00	_____	_____
<i>Density-Dependent Population Regulation of Black, Brown and Polar Bears</i> (#3, 1994)			
Edited by M. Taylor	\$10.00	_____	_____
<i>Population Viability for Grizzly Bears: A Critical Review</i> (#4, 2001)			
By M. Boyce, B. Blanchard, R. Knight, C. Servheen	\$10.00	_____	_____

Make US\$ Check or Money Order PAYABLE to IBA      TOTAL US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ or VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Customer # (for government cards) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax & Email \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO** (Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery): Terry D. White, Southern Appalachian Field Laboratory, 274 Ellington Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA; Fax (865) 974-3555

Please fill out form legibly!



TM

Form also available at [www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com).



Oso  
Bär  
Björn  
Orso  
Bjørn  
Samxe  
熊  
Bhalou  
Αρκτος

Urs  
Ours  
МедВедь  
Bca  
Medved  
Beer  
Shash  
Béruang  
Karhu  
Bear

### **International Bear News**

The Newsletter of the International Association  
for Bear Research and Management (IBA)  
10907 Northwest Copeland Street  
Portland, Oregon 97229-6145, USA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT NO. 1992

## **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 (USA tax # 94-3102570) organization open to professional biologists, wildlife managers and others dedicated to the conservation of all bear species. The organization has over 500 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, member ships, 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 November 2005 issue is October 15, 2005**

*printed with soy-based ink on Vanguard Recycled Plus chlorine-free, acid-free, 10% hemp or flax, 90% post-consumer waste paper*