



Oso
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Béruang
Karhu
Bear

International Bear News

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

August 2006 Vol. 15 no. 3



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Polar bear at the San Diego Zoo interacting with her keeper.
See our four stories on captive bears, including captive bear introductions,
zoos' bear conservation education efforts, a zookeepers forum, and
upcoming bear exhibits, starting on page 15.

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Cover photo courtesy of Jenny E. Ross, www.jennyross.com

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Editorial Policy

International Bear News welcomes articles about biology, conservation, and management of the world's eight bear species. Submissions of about 750 words are preferred, and photos, drawings, and charts are appreciated. Submissions to 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 2006 issue is October 5, 2006

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. Artwork is copyrighted – do not reproduce without permission.

Membership

Use the form on page 35 to order or renew memberships, make donations, and/or update member information.

From the President

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It's July as I write this, the middle of the active season for northern brown and black bears. The brown bears of Alaska's McNeil River are gorging on abundant salmon to build fat reserves for the winter. In Europe, they are searching for ants and other calorie-laden foods. However, in most places around the globe, life is not so easy for bears. Human development increasingly encroaches on their habitat and their quest for food brings them into conflict with man. Bears and humans **can** and do co-exist in harmony in many areas, but doing so requires application of the science-based management, on-the-ground experience, and a willing acceptance of the presence of bears by local people. IBA members have built this expertise and are eager to share their knowledge in the cause of bear conservation. Let's keep it up.

Roaming Bear Killed in Germany

Many of you have been following the story on the death of a young brown bear that wandered into Germany and was later killed by authorities. This was particularly unfortunate because the young male bear had been part of an effort to reintroduce a small and viable population to previously occupied habitat in Italy. To avoid such situations in the future, the IBA Council provided suggestions to competent authorities in the region, including the need for a coordinated policy and contingency plans for effective management of bears that reoccupy trans-border habitats in the alpine countries (<http://www.bearbiology.org/policy.htm>).

Funding Bear Conservation

To maintain today's bear populations far into the future, and to bring bears back to areas where they could be re-established and co-exist with humans, science-based research, management, and education are crucial. In some areas, these needs are met through funding and oversight by governmental or non-governmental organizations. However, funding needs for conservation in many areas are far in excess of availability.

IBA has depended upon donations from members, with some occasional help from IBA's treasury, to fund worthy conservation projects around the world. For years, the primary source of funds for the IBA Research and Conservation Grants (RCG) has come from the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Foundation. More recently, IBA established the Bear Conservation Fund to provide donors with another avenue to benefit bear conservation by pursuing IBA programs; this venue has been supported by a few generous donors who believe strongly in our science-based goals. More recently, the Homer's Bear Conservation Fund established an endowment to provide funding for international bear conservation projects. IBA programs and grant recipients continue to make a real difference for bears, but the needs still exceed the funds. All applications for grants will still go through the evaluation and rating process of the IBA Research and Conservation Grant Committee. If you have questions about any of these, please contact me or Karen Noyce for details.

See you in Japan!

If you haven't already registered to attend IBA's first-ever conference in Asia, there is still time. (See page 29.) This conference, held in Karuizawa Town, Japan, on October 2-6, is splendidly organized. It promises to provide timely and very useful information on conservation issues, research advances, and management

approaches, and all in a beautiful setting. On top of all this, our Japanese hosts have organized great mid-conference and post-conference venues that should be worthwhile to any person interested in bears.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Research and Conservation Grants

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Reporting

Each recipient of an IBA grant agrees to submit progress reports and a final report. Many of you have been very responsible about these obligations, but some need to give more attention to reporting. Reports are critical in several ways.

- They help keep the grants committee up-to-date about recent work and findings, thus helping us when we are assessing needs for new information and awarding new grants.
- The reports provide a means of showing the donors of the funds that support grants what their gifts are accomplishing.
- Regular reports let the committee judge the performance of the grantees. This is especially important when a worker is building a professional reputation or will be seeking continuing grant support.

All recipients of IBA grants, even in past years, should review the commitments that they made and be sure to fulfill these. Self-motivation will avoid the necessity of reminder notices and embarrassment.

References with Grant Proposals

The instructions for submitting proposals include a request for letters of reference about the proposal. There are some things that applicants should keep in mind.

- These references should be about the specific proposal, not just a general reference about the person submitting the proposal. This means that the person writing the reference needs time to study the proposal before writing their assessment of it. It is very unprofessional and discourteous to request a reference without giving the reviewer adequate time to do the job.
- Ask for reviews from people who know you and your work, but also ask those who are well-qualified to judge the specifics of the particular proposal.
- Since the submission deadline comes during the end-of-year holiday period, those submitting proposals would be well-advised to actually prepare the proposal well before the deadline; get confirmation from the prospective reviewer that they will agree

to do the review and also be able to do it promptly.

- Some people may not be able or willing to do the review as requested. Allow time to locate an alternate.

Nature of the Proposal

It is important for us to know if a particular proposal is being submitted as a group proposal by, and with, the explicit support of either an Expert Team (ET) or the Bear Specialists Group (BSG). We expect to be able to provide grants for a few group proposals, and they may be given a certain degree of higher priority than proposals from individuals. If the person submitting a proposal is a chair or co-chair of an ET or the BSG, there is a special need to the nature of the proposal to be made clear. Is it from the group or from an individual? Group proposals should be accompanied by some evidence of group review and group assigned priority and approval.

In the past, we have become aware that a few individuals chose not to submit a personal proposal that might be seen to be in competition with a group proposal. Since there are many factors affecting our selection process, including global and regional

priorities, the amount of available grant money, donors' conditions, etc. I would suggest that individuals who are involved in groups such as the ETs or the BSG not hesitate to submit personal proposals. The Research and Conservation Grants Committee will have a better grasp of the broad picture and the possibilities of "weaving" the possible grants among the many proposals submitted than most applicants. Additionally, we can always query the applicants about relative priorities if necessary. However, if personal participation in a successful group proposal would make it impossible to complete work proposed in a personal proposal, this should be noted in the personal proposal.

It should be noted that there is a better and better chance for group proposals to receive grants that are larger than our usual limits. Expect to have to provide very thorough justification for these, however.

Reminder

There are good suggestions about proposal preparation in the *International Bear News*. See Doan-Crider, Diana. 2002. Your proposal is your friend. IBN 2002 (2):28-31.

Bear Specialist Group

Workshop on Rapid Assessment to Determine Presence and Habitat Use of Andean Bears

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Thanks to a contribution from Antwerp Zoo, Antwerp University (Belgium), Cleveland Metroarks Zoo, Cleveland Zoological Society (USA) and the Centre of Biodiversity and Genetics (Bolivia), eleven bear-students from four countries were trained to

carry out rapid assessment surveys for Andean bears to detect presence and examine habitat use. The eleven days of training (June 2-14, 2006, Comarapa, Santa Cruz de la Sierra – Bolivia) involved both theory (e.g., how to design surveys) and application of this methodology during a field visit to "El Piritial" (a site on the border with Am-boro National Park). Approximately 5.4 km of bear trail were surveyed and 46 bear signs encountered.

Training Need

In order to design effective policies for Andean bear conservation, accurate information on its distribution and habitat use are needed. Its wide distribution, large home range, and difficult terrain (access and forest complexity) make data collection difficult.

Conventional methodology to evaluate presence/absence usually requires surveying a large portion of an area. Game trail surveys, on the

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Determining potential sites for survey

other hand, are focused on assessing specific places where animal use is typically high (e.g., ridge lines). This methodology developed and successfully applied by WCS-Andes del Norte in several sites along the Northern Andes was primarily used to evaluate presence (or absence) but also provided information about activity, seasonality, food habits, resource availability, and population genetics.

The Southern Andes (Peru, Bolivia and Argentina) is the lesser studied region of the Andean bear distributional range. Better information on presence/absence is needed. This workshop was prompted by the need to train bear biologist from these countries to collect information on wild Andean bear populations using a more effective methodology.

Theory

The theory phase of the workshop started with an introduction about methods to evaluate presence/absence, distribution models, and cartography. During this part of the workshop, we learned how to handle and read maps, calculate slopes, and determine directions and distances. We

had a whole day devoted to the use of GPS. We then reviewed the natural history of the Andean bear, types of habitats that they use, and different signs that they leave. The last day of this theoretical phase was devoted to the analysis of the study area (El Piritial), determining potential survey locations and routes to follow.

Application

Fieldwork was carried out for five days in El Piritial in an area of approximately 4.5 km². During the first day of fieldwork, 19 marked trees and one nest were found. The signs were old, and no re-marking was identified. The second day was devoted to surveying a ridge line. We followed cattle trails for the first 1000m, and later we identified

a primary bear trail with two secondary bear trails branching off of it.

On the third day, we chose a different ridge line to survey. Food remains were identified, but none was considered "new/fresh". On the fourth and fifth days, trails identified on day two were revisited, but this time a larger area was surveyed.



Bear trail

Signs

We identified a total of 46 bear signs, of which 33 were on bear trails (trail 1: 13 signs/km; trail 2: 11 signs/km; trail 3: 2 signs/km). The number of bear signs observed was higher than observed by Eulert (1995), who detected only five bear



Participants & Instructors (from top left to bottom right): Alejandra Valdivia (Bolivia), Jorge Moreno (Argentina), Lorena Araoz (Bolivia), Alejandro Hernandez (Colombia), Ximena Velez-Liendo (Bolivia), Victor Guerrero (Venezuela, Instructor), Laura Secada (Peru), Diego Penaranda (Bolivia), Jessica Amanzo (Peru), Fernando del Moral (Argentina), Isaac Goldstein (Venezuela, Instructor), Robert Marquez (Venezuela, Instructor), Gabriela Tavera (Bolivia) and Federico Valdivia (Bolivia)

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signs in this area. Eulert searched for bear sign all over Amoro National Park and found mainly food remains (Table 1). We found four food items from feeding sites: two bromeliads (*Puya sp.*, *Pitcarnia sp.*), one fern-tree (*Dicksonia sellowiana*) and a cow (*Bos taurus*). These were the main food items of Andean bears listed by Eulert (1995) for the entire park.

In addition to Andean bear signs, we identified signs of deer (*Mazama sp.*), a large felid (either jaguar or puma), and one monkey species (*Cebus lividinosus*).

Conclusions

Application of this methodology in an unexplored site was effective in terms of data collection, time, and cost. We hope to employ this method to delineate the area(s) inhabited by



Collecting bear sign data

Table 1. Bear signs observed during five days of fieldwork in El Piritial (4.5 km²) compared with signs encountered by Eulert (1995) for the entire, adjacent Amoro Park (1800 km²) over 9 months.

Sign	Eulert 1995	Workshop 2006
Hair	0	9
Tree marks	13	20
Nest	4	1
Food remains	32	16
Trails	0	6
Footprints	23	*
Scats	7	0

* We identified several footprints on trails, but just tallied number of trails.

bears in northern Argentina, to designate potential sites for further research in southern Bolivia, and to update bear distribution in Peru. Additionally, this experience has highlighted new options to improve data collection (e.g. genetic samples) in projects already started, such as the Andean bear project in Amoro National Park (Velez-Liendo).

The chief benefit of this workshop was the shared knowledge and experience among participants and development of a standardized methodology. The workshop

provided the opportunity to learn about each other's work, to make contacts, and moreover to promote research on this species. The response from potential students in the Southern region was massive (more than 70 applications), showing that there is great interest in this type of activity.

Literature Cited

Eulert, C. 1995. Evaluación del estado actual del oso Andino (*Tremarctos ornatus*) en el Parque Nacional Amoro, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Tesis de grado, Licenciatura en Ciencias Biológicas, U. A. G. R. M. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. 89 pp.

Bear Country Germany?

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The title of this piece is also the title of one of our topic-oriented exhibit signs (see photo) at the brown

bear enclosure in the Cologne Zoological Garden, Germany. Text and figures refer to the past — the extinction in 1835, when the last brown bear was shot in Bavaria (Germany's southernmost state) — as well as the present, including the bear's role in current culture as a favorite symbol in commercials, from gummi bears to Teddy bears, this in contrast to a

certain segment of the German public that travels elsewhere to hunt bears. A future scenario is also outlined: the potential return of the species by immigration from the growing bear populations in Austria and Italy, which originally came from Slovenia.

The information placard ends with speculations about reactions of the public in case bears come back and

leave telltale signs like destroyed beehives and partly eaten livestock. When our educational department developed and mounted this sign almost six years ago, we did not expect to have the opportunity to actually witness these reactions in less than a decade. However, in the second half of May 2006, it happened – a young male brown bear migrated from Northern Italy via Austria (Tyrol) into Southern Germany. Until he was shot on June 26, he roamed between Bavaria and Tyrol.

During his romp through Germany, the bear indeed left traces like broken beehives and chicken coops, sheep predated in pastures, and rabbits taken out of their cages. The bear, first called “Mister X”, and later “Bruno”, was not only seen near remote farms and at the edges of villages, he also walked in the evening or early morning through settlements. Once he even made a short rest opposite a police station before sauntering along his route again.

Not avoiding human settlements and being highly mobile were his notable characteristics; he walked 20-30 km per night and never returned to a location where he had fed before. Most probably JJI, Bruno’s official name, had learned these behaviors from his mother, Jurka, one of the Slovenian bears released in Trentino, Italy, several years ago. Those who attended the IBA conference in Riva last year perhaps remember her from a video presented by our Italian colleagues, where they attempted to use aversive stimuli to dissuade her from approaching settlements in search of food.

Bruno’s activity and space use patterns made it extremely difficult to catch him alive. He never entered the baited traps and the hunting dogs flown in from Finland could not stay on his track and corner him. Thus, the wildlife vet called in by the Bavarian Government could not get the chance to immobilize him.

Sympathy for the first wild bear in Germany after a lapse of 170 years was high from the very beginning, even after the first sheep were killed. This began to shift at the end of the first week when farmers who lost animals started to complain and when tourists, particularly elder ones, questioned whether they could still hike in the forests. However, the growing negative sentiment remained restricted to a few locations in the region the bear had visited. The Bavarian Minister of Environment and Nature Conservation issued a hunting permit, but the hunters that were called in refused to kill the bear.

The decision to hunt the bear drew sharp criticism against the minister and the advising team of German and

Austrian wildlife and bear biologists by political opponents and the news media. Public outrage about the decision seemed to be much more intense than toward the just-passed tax increase, the highest in Germany since the Second World War. Even high representatives of the Catholic Church in Munich (capital of Bavaria) took a pro-bear stance. They interpreted its occurrence at this time in Bavaria as a sign, noting that the coat-of-arms of the current pope, who was born in Bavaria, contains the Korbinian’s bear (in reference to the legend about St. Korbinian, who used the bear that had killed his pack horse to carry a load from Germany to Rome).

The hunting license was thus withdrawn, and a team of bear biologists, the vet, and the dogs with their owners started to search for the bear; however, it always stayed some steps ahead, and his route was unpredictable. Unsuitable weather conditions also contributed to the failure to catch him. Each escape by the bear appeared very much to the pleasure of most Germans. Various media,

Bärenland Deutschland?

Ausgerottet...
Deutschland war einst ein Bärenland. Die Urwälder waren reich an Bären. Die Jäger töteten sie. Heute sind die Bären in Deutschland ausgestorben. Doch die Bären sind nicht ausgestorben. Sie leben in den Wäldern der Alpen und in den Wäldern der Karpaten.

...doch bewundert und geliebt wie kein anderes Tier
Der Bär hat seinen Platz in der Natur gefunden. Er ist ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Natur. Die Bären sind nicht ausgestorben. Sie leben in den Wäldern der Alpen und in den Wäldern der Karpaten.

Nur tote Bären sind gute Bären
Die Bären sind ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Natur. Sie sind nicht ausgestorben. Sie leben in den Wäldern der Alpen und in den Wäldern der Karpaten.

Heimkehr der echten Bären?
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Es liegt an uns!
Die Bären sind ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Natur. Sie sind nicht ausgestorben. Sie leben in den Wäldern der Alpen und in den Wäldern der Karpaten.

Ein neuer Bärenkult ist gefragt

Bear Specialist Group

including newspapers, TV, and radio reported daily about the state of the vain attempt to catch the animal. Even during the soccer World Cup the bear was a regular topic in the news. Many specials and extra pages were added to newspapers to cover stories about the bear. Some popular papers, which in general do not miss an opportunity to tell stories of the bloody and dangerous, remained amazingly objective and tried to inform the public about bear biology and about the risks that this particular bear posed to the public. Internet blogs with computer games about "Bruno the bear" were established, and fan clubs with Bruno T-shirts came on the market. Bruno seemed to become a mass hero of sorts, "ignoring the rules of an over-regulated state."

Finally, once again, the Bavarian minister, along with authorities on the Austrian side, issued another hunting permit. The decision was based on recommendations in the Austrian bear management plan related to problem bears. For a lot of people,

it was difficult to categorize Bruno's behavior as that of a "problem bear." They did not recognize that the main problem was not so much his behavior to predate livestock, but his increasing habituation to human settlements and thus the danger of close encounters with people. Also, his curious habit of never spending more than a day in an area prevented the chance for teaching him to avoid villages and houses in the future.

It is still not clear why the number of sightings (reported in the media) seemed to increase just at the time the hunt was open. Was this an effect of increasing habituation to humans, or was it caused by the intense search effort?

As the co-chair of the Captive Bear Expert Team of the BSG, I regret that it was not possible to catch the bear alive. The animal welfare organization, Vier Pforten, offered large bear enclosures of several hectares in both countries, Germany and Austria. Had it been possible to bring the bear into

captivity, Bruno's widespread attention and popularity could have been put to use to correct misconceptions and misinformation about bears and to convey educational messages about habitat requirements of wild bears, which are likely to someday again wander into Germany.

The case of Bruno shows that it is high time to assess potential bear habitat in our country, to prepare the public for the immigration of large carnivores and the consequences for human activities and behavior, and to set up a management plan with clearly defined steps, definitions, and options in order to deal with situations like these. This also includes guidelines for aversive training based on the principles of learning theory.

Facilities for keeping brown bears can provide a platform to spread messages about bear conservation. I have the impression that in the last few weeks many more visitors to our zoo stopped and read the information placard about bears.

Eurasia

The First Bear to Enter Germany in 170 Years Shot: The Story of JJ1 (Bruno)

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By now, due to worldwide media coverage, all those reading this newsletter likely know the story of JJ1 (or Bruno, as he has been called in Austria and Germany). JJ1 was a male

brown bear cub born in 2004 and offspring of two brown bears, Jozé and Jurka, both captured in Slovenia and released in the Italian Alps in 2000 and 2001 as part of the bear reintroduction project. JJ1, together with his mother (Jurka) and his brother, caused a lot of property damage in the reintroduction area. Their behavior was such that they appeared not to fear humans, frequently entering villages near the reintroduction area to look for food. Apart from feeding on garbage, they often entered henhouses to prey on hens. On several occasions, use of rubber bullets and standard aversion techniques were employed on each bear by the emergency team of the Trento Province. Additionally,

several electric fences were provided to the local farmers to prevent further damage.

Prior to April 2006, JJ1 roamed the area around Garda Lake (near the venue of the 16th IBA conference). However, by the end of April, he started to move northward, passing through South Tyrol (the northernmost Italian region) and entering into Austria on May 5th. He roamed in Austria and Bavaria (southern Germany) for several weeks, causing damage to henhouses and beehives and attacking several sheep.

While roaming in Austria and Germany, JJ1 frequently entered human inhabited areas, in turn creating concern among local authorities. As

a result, authorities decided to trap the bear and fit it with a radio collar, enabling them to keep a closer watch on him in hopes of reducing risk to human safety. WWF Austria, having considerable long-term interest and experience with bear management, lent their support to this work by Austrian and Bavarian authorities. Based on its behavior and ability to locate food in and around human settlements, JJ1 was judged by authorities as high risk.

By late May, the authorities of Bavaria and Tyrol decided to remove the animal in order to avoid the possibility of a bear-human encounter ending in a human injury or fatality. Italian authorities had initially planned to remove the bear by shooting it; however, due to strong opposition from local individuals and organizations they decided to continue with efforts to capture and move JJ1 to a captive facility.

Capturing JJ1 turned out to be a much more difficult task than anyone had imagined due to his continuous movement and habit of never returning to the same locations. Eventually, the Bavarian authorities even requested the assistance of Finnish hunting experts, flying them and their team of trained dog to Austria. However, even these experts were unable to capture the bear. In the end, Bavarian and Tyrolean authorities decided to reissue a permit to shoot the bear, and on Monday, June 6, 2006, at 4:15 a.m., JJ1 was shot close to Spitzingee, in Bavaria.

The plight of JJ1 received considerable attention from European, and even North American, media outlets. Many people could not believe that a bear, bears having been absent in Germany for decades, was shot by hunters holding a permit issued by the State. Even the Italian Minister of Environment wrote a letter of protest to his colleague in Germany, raised the case at the European Council of Ministers of the Environment, and formally asked the European Commission to open a case file against Germany.

Apart from raising a considerable political debate, the story of JJ1 clearly demonstrated the need of more effective coordination by authorities at the Alpine scale and of the urgent need to work out a clearer cross-border policy on bear management in the region. Bears do not recognize international boundaries and different management strategies should not be applied to individual bears when those individuals move from one country to neighboring countries. An additional concern raised during the debate following the shooting of JJ1 was whether or not it is appropriate for any management policy to include the possibility of removal of problem bears if those individuals pose credible risks to human safety or create unresolvable conflict. However, in the case of very small bear populations (e.g. the Central Alps population, which presently consists of six adults and 17–18 cubs), removal of even a single individual can significantly reduce the long-term probability of success in their reintroduction. Therefore, particular care must be taken in making the decision to remove a bear and should only be made after all possible alternative measures (e.g. aversive conditioning and/or capturing and radio tracking the animal in order to increase the ability to deal with critical situations) have been considered and/or attempted.

The case of JJ1 also highlighted the need for greater international coordination in management of bears living in transboundary areas and resulted in a meeting having been held this past July 4th in Trento, Italy, between relevant authorities from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. In the meeting, it was agreed that we need to establish a bear coordination committee for the Alpine region and jointly develop technical protocols to aid decision-making processes in the event of similar future cases. A decision was made to reconvene in September in Chur, Switzerland, to develop these technical protocols.

If there was a lesson to be learned from the story of JJ1, it was that countries of the Alpine region need to foster better cooperation in bear conservation and management. We hope that in the future other - and possibly more peaceful - ambassadors of the Italian recovery efforts will enter into Austria, Germany, and Switzerland and find a more friendly welcome.

The IBA Council drafted a letter regarding the case of JJ1 which provided suggestions to competent authorities in the region encouraging the involved countries to foster coordination, with the aim of developing harmonized policies at the supranational level. For further information and to view the letter, direct your browser to <http://www.bearbiology.org/policy.htm>.

Rare Footage from Greece of a Female Bear with Two Cubs

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Capturing a glimpse of the rarest and most endangered carnivore in Greece is a special treat, not only for bear aficionados. However, capturing such moments on film can bring a bear biologist into bear nirvana!

On July 3, 2006, rare film footage was taken of a female bear and her two cubs in a wheat field. The footage shows, among other things, the mother and one of her cubs feeding in the field, the two cubs engaging in a playful fight, the mother suckling her



two cubs, and the family group leaving the scene. The footage was taken in the Prefecture of Grevena, in the Pindos mountain range, and is part of a television company sponsored effort to document the life and scientific research of this species in the country. The area where the particular footage was taken is the study site for my doctoral research in the Department of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which aims to study the marking and rubbing behavior of brown bears on power poles (For more details, see Karamanlidis 2005). This area is also the location of a large project aiming to mitigate the effects from construction of the Egnatia highway on the local ecosystem (For more details, see Karamanlidis and Mertza-

nis 2003). Since the first phase of this latter project, aimed at assessing the environmental status of the area prior to construction of the highway, has come to an end, heavy machinery and construction companies have moved into the area and started construction. The effects of such activities on the local ecosystem, and particularly on bears, should be closely monitored. Preliminary results from my research on marking behavior of brown bears in the area indicate that once frequently used poles in the proximity of intense human activity have been abandoned. Unfortunately, human disturbance is on occasion even more directly observable. For example, this unique video session was abruptly terminated when the drivers of a

construction company truck, having seen the bear family from a distance, decided it was most appropriate to greet them by honking. While there is still no law in Greece prohibiting honking in the forest, a little more consideration towards an endangered species should be expected from the employees of an environmentally friendly project.

The unique video footage provides additional evidence supporting the significance of this area to the survival of the species in Greece, as well as testimony that habitat in the area is still in good condition. Additionally, this exciting footage should provide conservationists an important tool in their effort to initiate a study to monitor for affects from construction

on bears and the environment, as well as, hopefully, remind construction company decision-makers that an environmentally friendly label is not earned simply by going strictly by the book but occasionally going beyond it and, for example, requesting that their

drivers not honk horns while working in an environmentally sensitive area, even though it's not technically illegal.

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bears in Greece. *International Bear News* 12 (3): 8-9.

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Errata

In the February 2006 issue of *International Bear News*, Vol. 15 No. 1, the article under the Americas section titled "Preliminary Studies of a Black Bear Population in the Sierra de Gomas and the Sierra de Milpillan in Nuevo Leon, Mexico" was mistakenly published with errata. The authorship should be listed as **Gilberto Salgado de los Santos, Fernando Gonzalez Jimenez, Pedro Viviano Moreno Chacon, and Jorge Gabriel Villareal Gonzalez**. Enrique Guadarrama was not affiliated with the project but submitted the report as an IBA correspondent.

North Central U.S.

News from the North Central U.S. provided by:

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Wisconsin

Influence of hunters' baits on behavior of black bears

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In northeastern Wisconsin, American black bears (*Ursus americanus*)

have available to them a substantial quantity of bait from the time they emerge in spring until they den in winter. As part of the University of Wisconsin Green Bay (UWGB) - U.S. Forest Service Black Bear Research Project, a graduate study will document the degree to which it influences bear movements.

As opposed to the competitive acquisition of a Class A license to harvest a bear in the fall, anyone may purchase a US\$14 Class B license to bait bears from mid-April into October. A hunter may leave up to ten gallons (44 liters) of food per visit, and many have maintained dozens of bait sites for decades. While bait cannot contain animal products, most contents include ice cream cones and candy. A hunter survey will be conducted this summer to better quantify the types, amount, frequency, and distribution of bait in the region.

Utilizing more than 30,000 locations acquired from Televilt GPS collars (TVP Positioning AB, Lindesberg, Sweden) since 2003 and an additional 20,000 locations anticipated this season, GIS analysis is expected to reveal the frequency at which collared bears visit bait sites. A GIS layer reflecting the locations of bait sites is being developed this summer by means of road surveys and revisiting clustered and randomly selected points downloaded from the collars.

To complement GIS data, six remote cameras are being deployed at bait sites to document visitation by collared bears, unmarked bears, and the hunters dispensing bait.

The habitat of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will also be integral to the study. Because the first study area was found to be predominantly lowland forest types with no oak stands, a second study area was established to compare bait use once acorns become available. The phenology of natural bear foods will be monitored in both study areas, and bear locations downloaded in previous years or remotely in the field will be surveyed for basic habitat characteristics.

The project is being conducted by Marci Johnson, a Master's Degree student who has worked on several bear projects and has been a member of the IBA since 1995. In addition to project personnel and UWGB faculty, the work has been made possible by the IBA, the 1923 Fund, and the Ray Anderson New Hope Trust. With particular gratitude toward the IBA Bear Conservation Fund, the Scandinavian Brown Bear Project, and numerous IBA members for their assistance, it is hoped that this research will provide important information for managers upon its completion in the Spring of 2007.

Michigan

The following update was provided by David Bostick - Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The MDNR has adopted a bear hair snare mark-recapture method for estimating the number of bears in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. We are expecting the results of the bear hair survey conducted in 2005 sometime

in late August. This was the second time this technique has been used in the northern Lower Peninsula, and we're eager to see the results.

We have committed to completing a state-wide Black Bear Species Management Plan over the next 18 months or so. This plan will incorporate input from a series of public and stakeholder meetings in various cities around the state. The plan will identify issues and include all aspects of bear management in the state. It is intended to be a long-term strategic document, but will also include some operational details, especially relating to topics such as the restructuring of bear management units and hunting regulations.

Over the past several years, we have had to deal with increasing numbers of orphan bear cubs. We established a den monitoring and surrogate mother program two years ago. We are doing some limited live-trapping this summer to add a few females to our surrogate mother program. We have successfully released three cubs over the last year back into the wild. We are also working with a rehabilitator who will be constructing a temporary bear holding facility for orphan cubs. The intention will be to hold cubs for short periods without habituating them to people, with the goal of releasing them back into the wild.

We are also cooperating with a joint National Park Service (NPS) / U.S. Forest Service study involving (in part) testing of aversive conditioning methods on problem bears at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Grand Island National Recreation Area. NPS Biologist Jerry Belant is the primary investigator for this project.

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Project to Develop Better Understanding and Protection of the Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in Venezuela

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Based on a previous feasibility study, we designed a project to educate children in the Bolivarian School, Evelio Jose Aponte Las Cuibas, in the Parish Agua Viva, of the Palavencino Municipality, in the State of Lare, Venezuela, about the Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and its conservation.

The project was organized into two parts. Part I described the problems

and protection of the Andean bear. Therefore, in Part II, we developed a school program called "The wild is our friend, we take care of it" that was presented in the schools. The "wild" in this case is the Andean bear, which is how people in the local community refer to the bear.

The program involved conversations, games, and drama plays, as well as exhibitions of art work that have the Andean bear as a theme. Scientists, students and their parents as well as school representatives participate.

Some of the activities included:

1. a workshop during which problems and conflicts associated with the Andean bear in



associated with the conservation of the Andean bear, the history, the legal underpinnings, the definition of the terms and basic concepts, the methodology, and conclusions and recommendations.

One of the recommendations of the project is to design activities that may promote the conservation

- the Terepaima National Park were discussed, as well as ways to promote its conservation;
2. a visit by local farmers to the school during which they talked to the students about the challenges of living and working side-by-side with Andean bears; at the end of the visit, the



children wrote a story or made drawings based on what they learned from the talk;

3. a two-week-long discussion on Andean bears, for which the

farmers' visit was a stepping stone; and, finally,

4. a student music exhibition with songs evoking the species and its importance, for preschool through sixth grade.

Project to Reduce Habitat Fragmentation and Promote Conservation of the Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in Venezuela

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This project was conducted in Cubiro, Parish Diego de Lozada, Jiménez Municipality of the State of Lara, Venezuela, and utilized workshops and results of previous work. The primary goals of the project were, through use of results of a previous feasibility study and a workshop, to develop a list of actions for the local community that would lead to a

reduction in fragmentation of Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) habitat

and to promote a greater awareness of bear conservation.

The project was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, we described the problems associated with the conservation history and legal status of the Andean bear, provided definitions of basic environmental terms and concepts, designed workshop methodologies, and developed conservation recommendations.

The first phase of the project resulted in the following recommendations:

1. to substantially reduce illegal hunting in the area,
2. to protect Andean bear habitat in a sufficient amount and distribution to maintain viable wild populations,
3. to increase the local communities scientific understanding, &
4. to increase public awareness of bear conservation.

In the second phase of the project, we developed a public program designed around the theme "Protect Forests and Care for Bears". Thirty-five locals from the Cubiro Parish Diego de Lozada, Jiménez Municipality of the Edo Lara, participated. During the program, investigators emphasized the importance of interactions between the community, environmental groups, and community associations from surrounding areas.



Emphasis during the public program was placed on community participation. The program consisted of activities to encourage discussion of the importance of conservation as well as promote greater participation of locals in finding solutions to environmental threats in their communities. Attendees participated in a discussion of the importance of protecting Andean bears and their cloud forest habitats within the park. An important goal was to highlight the importance of the Yacambú National Park and promote greater local participation in protection of Andean bear habitat within this park. Additionally, participants were taken into the field and introduced to types of equipment and techniques used in field investigations of Andean bear.



Pedagogical Congress in Jiménez, Lara Region, Venezuela: Education as a key to protect the Andean bear

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A Pedagogical Congress was held in the City of Quibor, Jiménez, in the Lara Region, Venezuela, between June 19 and 20, 2006. The Congress was coordinated by Lic. Carlos Goyo, Municipal Director of Education, and his staff. The Congress discussed education in Venezuela and the way

it ties to the life and needs of people in Jimenez. Several panel discussions were held in which different local, as well as state-wide, educational approaches were tackled. Professor Waldo Lovera, environmental activist from Cubiro, and Imarú Lameda, Environmental Studies degree student at University Yacambú, discussed the importance of environmental education to protect the high mountains in the Lara Region, as well as the Andean bear, which is a symbol of the Andean cloud forests and wetlands.

Professor Waldo Lovera discussed the importance of joint projects for the conservation of the Andean bear and its habitat through programs in schools and the participation of local communities. He also talked about the Bolivarian School, August Graterol Partidas, in Cubiro, which several years ago cooperated with the local community in carrying out activities to protect the Andean bear.

Imarú Lameda discussed experiences with the environmental education project, "Fronti, the Andean bear,



comes to your school,” funded by the University Yacambú and local communities. This project introduced, through classroom lessons and joint activities, the importance of environmental education at all levels, from elementary to university. Imarú also presented information on the Andean bear and its habitat, including the conservation plan, “SPICY”, for the Andean bear and the proposal for the Plan of Action for the conservation of the Andean bear in Venezuela.

This congress offered a valuable opportunity to discuss a wide range of activities relating to conservation of Andean bear in Venezuela. The panel discussions elicited many comments from the participants. Some participants discussed reservations about bear conservation education while others suggested activities to improve the environmental education curriculum.

Participants were also given an opportunity to comment on the proposal

for the Plan of Action to improve the conservation of the Andean bear, which was later submitted to the local and regional boards of education. This proposal is very important since education is the key to the conservation of the Andean bear.

This congress provided excellent opportunities to not only discuss ideas for the conservation of the Andean bear but to discuss the importance of this species to the conservation of entire ecosystems.

Captive Bears

Successful Captive Bear Introductions: Working with a Bear's Expectations

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One of the most stressful events that a bear can experience in captivity is the introduction of another bear into his/her living space. In the wild, bears can usually choose to interact (or not) with other bears based on environmental, familial, or safety considerations. In captivity, the choice is an animal management decision often based on a compromise between cost, space demands, and the bears' well-being. Most stressors for captive bears derive from the absence of personal choice; the inability of a bear to express his/her deeply rooted genetic urges.

The captive community recognizes this and has been evolving towards behavior-based husbandry over the last two decades working with an animal's expectations rather than opposing them. The overall procedure for a successful bear introduction is the same for all bear species. The details vary depending on species-specific needs.

Prior to a bear introduction, a realistic introduction plan and time line must be developed and discussed by all staff involved including caregivers and managers. The plan must take into consideration the bears' species, age, sex, natural/veterinary/and personal histories, and enclosure limitations. The objective of planning is to lessen stressors. Flexibility must be built in to accommodate problems that arise. Unaccounted for issues will arise!

The most successful introductions are made during a time when the bear would naturally expect to meet other bears. As a rule, non-breeding adult introductions are best made near the end of the breeding season. At this time, the highly-charged, intense breeding behaviors have waned but the bears are still in the meet-and-greet mode. Bear biologists have observed breeding bears and non-breeding bears lingering together after peak breeding season. In captivity, bears often show interest in meeting opposite and same sex bears at this time. If the introduction is between a cub and a female, the female should have reached sexual maturity. Even so, this may not guarantee success of locking into some vestiges maternal

behavior if she has been human raised and not mother raised.

It is vital to have a comprehensive environmental enrichment program in place for a successful bear introduction. Enrichment events such as scatter feeds, clean bedding and branches to build nests with, and puzzle-feeders help to take the stress out of the introduction by allowing the bear an opportunity for displacement behavior. Bears often go about their business turning over logs or feigning interest in some insignificant thing in the dirt while they consider their options in the face of another bear. It is a non-aggressive behavior designed to take the stress out the situation. If the bears are in an environment where they have nothing else to interact with, then the attention remains on the introduction, and the stress builds.

The first step in the introduction is to give the bears nose-to-nose access to each other separated by fencing. Giving the bears enrichment activities at this time allows the bear to casually observe how the other bear behaves while appearing non-aggressive and busy himself. Staff must be making behavioral observations at this time. If the bears are at the fence jaw snapping and grabbing at each other, then clearly this introduction will take some time and serious reconsideration. The reason for their aggression must be identified before they are put together.

Captive Bears

Prior to being given access to each other, all bears must know every hiding place and exit in all of the enclosures used. This can be done before or during the nose-to-nose introductions. This familiarization with the entire terrain should go on for a series of days depending upon the speed and attention to detail of the investigating bear(s). Negative enclosure features, such as dead ends where a bear can be cornered, or positive enclosure features, such as exits, pools, and platforms, can be highlighted by the placement of food treats to ensure the attraction of the bears' attention.

There are only two motivators for mammals – food and reproduction. Food is of primary concern, and reproduction is of secondary concern. The reproduction issue is either the cause of the introduction or it can be negated by neutering either or all bears. The attraction of opposite sex bears is often used to advantage in non-reproductive introductions such as the interest of intact females towards a vasectomized male.

The availability of food is of primary concern to every bear at all times. Therefore, it is vital that each bear understand that food is plentiful and that there will be enough food to allow for another bear to join the group. On any given day, captive bears are fed according to how many bears are currently in that enclosure. The bear comes to understand that x amount of food appears every day, which is enough to feed those currently in the enclosure but not enough to feed additional bears. A week before the intended introduction, the bear(s) must be given additional amounts of food presented in enrichment style such as scatter-feeds. This usually coincides with the nose-to-nose introductions. Foods must be plentiful and interesting. Generally, each bear will eat until he/she is super-satiated. As the week passes, the bears come to

understand that this food availability may not be a one or two day fluke. It appears that this could continue. Bears must never be introduced on an empty stomach! It is better that they be temporarily overfed. Once the introductions are complete and the bears settle into a peaceful



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co-existence, the food amounts can be returned to normal but continue to be presented in enrichment style to promote food gathering and preparation behaviors.

Introductions are most successfully done in the morning to allow bears the whole day to acclimate to each other. Before they are put together, each bear must be overfed and the enclosures to be used for the introduction must be supersaturated with foods that the bears love (not just an overabundance of the usual omnivore chow and the same old apples and carrots) and enrichment objects and events. In the wild, when food is overly plentiful, bears can be very tolerant of each other as long as they have the opportunity to respect each other's immediate feeding space. For example, grizzly bears meeting at salmon spawning runs, black bears berry picking in the fall, brown bears and polar bears in feeding vicinity of each other at a beached whale carcass, or, sadly, any species at the town garbage dump!

The bear that is the least aggressive is usually given access to the introduction site first, otherwise the dominant bear might not let the subordinate bear into the introduction enclosure. The subordinate bear, who has likely begun to eat, must be given notice that the new bear is about to be given access to the same enclosure. Some

facilities train their bears so they can give fair warning that the bear gate is about to be opened. "Opening door" is a standard phrase often used. If the bears have not been trained, then drawing attention to your intentions by rattling the gate and calling to get the bear's attention can work.

Staff must have equipment such as fire hoses ready for use in the event of a serious fight, but such devices should be used only in extreme emergencies. The bears will be working out a living agreement often negotiated in short skirmishes through jaw snapping, posturing, guttural growls, smacking or by purposefully ignoring each other. Separating the bears at night to prevent injury to the bears has been practiced at some facilities. The problem with this practice is that the bears do not learn to get along during the day. They learn that they only have to get through the next 8-10 hours with the new bear and then they can be by themselves again. This practice prolongs the period of time it takes for the animals to settle into a serious hierarchy agreement. It is often more productive to have staff observe the bears all night.

Medications to "take the edge off" of the introduction have also been used. This practice leads to improperly introduced bears where the stress levels are prolonged and hierarchy issues are not properly negotiated. The problem is apparent by the presence of constant mini skirmishes, jaw snapping, and arguing in the group. This is often an underrated, very dangerous situation that can lead to the death of an animal up to one or two years down the road. Tension in the group simply continues to build until a bear snaps and attacks. The uses of mentally dulling medications is often considered when the feeding and reproduction concerns of the bears have been overlooked and remain unaddressed.

A successful low stress introduction procedure sets a tone for a positive living arrangement between the bears.

Conservation Education

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Behind the Scenes – Bear Awareness Week

National Bear Awareness Week was officially observed during the week of May 14th of this past year. I was always a bit conflicted with the notion of relegating bear conservation education initiatives to one week out of the year. In fact, some zoological parks designated a weekend or a just a day during this past spring to celebrate this national bear conservation education campaign. But keep in mind impact is about quality, not quantity.

Traditionally, zoo-sponsored bear awareness events were intended to educate frequent zoo patrons, bear enthusiasts, and the general public about bears, bear conservation efforts, and, more recently, the global concerns over human–bear conflicts in developing regions of the world. Zoos also address human–bear confrontations closer to home, which, as of late, have elicited quite a bit of press, for better or worse. Zoo-sponsored bear awareness activities have included invited guest lecturers and natural history presentations featuring staff (e.g., interns, zoo education staff, volunteers, docents, etc.), as well as naturalists and biologists from local agencies and other entities.

However, most keepers today will tell you that Bear Awareness Week at the zoo has evolved. Today, keepers not only direct the programs, but they produce them as well. They play an integral role in every aspect of this educational endeavor. Although the

events may be held during a designated week out of the year, the solicitation of sponsors and guest lecturers from the scientific and conservation communities takes several months. The keepers may spend a year devel-

oping exciting, innovative programs which address current conservation issues and progressive animal husbandry programs. They play a key role in marketing these events to the demographic of interest and may coordinate activities with maintenance, grounds, horticulture, concessions, and retail staff at their respective zoos. The keepers' primary objectives are to make a big impact in a relatively short amount of time and connect with as many people as possible.



If we peer behind the scenes, as it were, I can share with you the fantastic, highly innovative and novel programs that keepers have planned, which in many cases took a year in the making. For instance, my colleagues, Susan Shepard at the Houston Zoo and Nancy DeFiesta of Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, really impressed me with events they hosted at their respective facilities this past spring.

Bear Awareness Week 2006 at the Houston Zoo offered presentations by Nathan Garnier, a wildlife biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife on black

staff, all worked tirelessly to produce a very informative and entertaining program for both the zoos patrons and the zoos Andean bears. One demonstration included offerings of “enrichment provisions” for Andean bears. This highlight gave the Andean bears an opportunity to investigate some novel enrichment items – furniture more commonly encountered by their peri-domestic cousins to the north. This demonstration served to educate patrons on safety issues while camping in bear country and well-complemented the wildlife biologist's presentation, as well as other concerns regarding the mitigation of human–black bear conflicts.

Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo maintains polar bears, Andean bears, and Malayan sun bears in their carnivore collection. They also manage two subadult American black bears along with an orphaned yearling, the featured bear ambassadors for the zoo's 2006 Bear Awareness program. The event featured keeper presentations along with scheduled food enrichment demonstrations (e.g., offerings of ice

offerings of ice

Captive Bears



© Susan Shepard, Houston Zoo, Inc.

treats, piñatas, fish, and coconuts). Zoo docents greeted patrons at educational display tables, and gift shop personnel devoted an entire window display to bear-related merchandise. The zoo received both TV and newspaper coverage and is already planning for a bigger event next year.

Meet the Keeper – Bear Awareness Everyday

I would be remiss to suggest that the keepers and conservation educators designated just a few hours or days out of the year to promote bear awareness. In fact, I know that many keepers hold “Meet the Keeper” sessions twice a day or more throughout the year. Some keepers entertain questions and others offer formal presentations or demonstrations in an attempt to address topics such as behavioral enrichment and training, environmental enrichment, or perhaps even animal introductions. In the winter, when crowds were not quite so overwhelming, I might offer a demonstration on target training if I had a bear or bears in an off-exhibit outdoor holding pen. Although keepers will tell you that some visitors would just find the feeding of bears to be the most exhilarating experience and others would simply be satisfied to know the “names” of the animals, an engaging discussion of day in the life of a bear keeper can captivate a rather

large audience and last for a good part of an afternoon.

The traditional opportunity for a zoo visitor to “Meet the Keeper” has indeed evolved. These are opportunities to share information about *ex situ* conservation management programs and perhaps *in situ* conservation efforts that they themselves have participated in.

Many keepers have been awarded grants to conduct or assist in field research and conservation projects around the world. Sharing this additional perspective with zoo patrons really projects the image of today’s animal keeper. These dedicated zoo professionals not only serve as primary caregivers for our bear ambassadors, but they represent a new contingent of conservationists and stewards of our wildlife heritage. I can’t think of a better role model in the conservation arena to educate, inspire, and influence patrons of our conservation centers in the U.S. and beyond.

How You Can Help

I urge you to visit your local zoos and find out how you can contribute or participate in a collaborative effort to educate zoo patrons about bears and bear conservation. For more information about Bear Awareness events at zoological parks, please visit <http://www.bearkeepers.net/menuconservationeducation.htm>.

Bear Keepers’ Forum

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Questions about Hot Grass, Boar to Boar Introductions, Diet, Target Training?

The Bear Keepers’ Forum is a new listserv for bear husbandry professionals. We currently have 83 subscribed members from captive bear holding facilities around the world.

Anyone working with bears in zoological parks (public and private), sanctuaries, rehabilitation facilities, as well as academic laboratories, is more than welcome to join. We also invite bear enthusiasts interested in husbandry and health programs for captive bears. In addition to the links available on the group page, there are also resources available on www.bearkeepers.net, which caters to husbandry and training professionals, conservation managers, conservation educators, wildlife health practitioners, and field researchers.

Although we primarily address husbandry, training, enrichment (behavioral and environmental), propagation, exhibit design, clinical medicine, preventive medicine, nutrition, hand rearing, and *ex situ* conservation research initiatives, we invite field researchers, naturalists, conservation educators, and wildlife managers to join this forum.

Group Addresses

Related Link:
www.bearkeepers.net
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Bear Exhibits

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Recent Bear Exhibit Openings

Sun bears at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

The first phase of "Asia Quest," the newest exhibit at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, was opened for patrons on June 21, 2006. This naturalistic exhibit features fauna endemic to the Himalayas, Southeast Asia,

and Russia. The first phase of the new exhibit includes displays of four carnivore species native to distinct zoogeographic zones of Asia. Along with Amur (Siberian) tigers, Pallas' cats, and red pandas, sun bears are now in residence at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. With these additions, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium hosts one of the most comprehensive collections in the country, featuring a diversity of mega-fauna representing six continents. A polar bear exhibit is in the planning stages. Polar bears have been absent from the Columbus Zoo for several years, and their return is eagerly anticipated.

Plans for Future Bear Exhibits

Polar bears at the Calgary Zoo

The Calgary Zoo is planning to open "Arctic Shores" in 2010. The exhibit will feature polar bears and other arctic fauna.

Grizzly bears at the Memphis Zoo

The Memphis Zoo plans to open "Teton Trek" in 2009. This exhibit will feature grizzly bears in an expansive enclosure, along with displays of species native to the Yellowstone basin and the Tetons.

Next Issue

Polar bears at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium

The Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium's "Waters Edge" exhibit, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2006, will feature polar bears.



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Student Forum

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Japan Is Just Around the Corner

Time is running short to make your plans to attend the 17th Conference on Bear Research and Management in Nagano, Japan, this fall. Rumiko Nakashita is coordinating a session where students will be able to visit with IBA professionals, ask questions regarding research methods, and get some help on their proposals. As usual, our faithful IBA Council has come through to help with some of the costs of our student luncheon, so

please thank them when you get the chance. If you plan on attending the meeting and would like to help out, please contact Rumiko at nakasita@qc4.so-net.ne.jp. Meanwhile, the North American conference is just around the corner. It will be held in Monterrey, Mexico (yes, Mexico is in North America), November 4-10, 2007. Start saving your money and making plans to attend!

Pushing Boulders Uphill

There once was a young man who had a run of bad luck. It started from an early age when his family was forced out of their home, and he was forced to go to work as a child. When he was nine years old, his mother died. He then got a job as a store clerk, but was fired when he was 20 years old. He desired to go to law school but didn't have the education to qualify.

So he ran for the legislature ... and lost. When he became engaged to be married to his first love, his sweetheart died and his heart was broken. He then had a nervous breakdown and spent six months confined to his bed. He decided to go into business with a partner, but when the partner died, he was left with a debt that took him 17 years to repay. He ran for the legislature again and, this time, won. He remarried and had a son, but the boy died when he was only four years old. The man ran for re-election but failed to be re-elected. The pattern of winning and losing continued through a series of offices, all the while suffering with depression and other personal problems with his wife. But he somehow mustered up the courage to keep on trying. He decided to take another leap and ran for Vice-President...but lost. Where he got the courage to face failure again at the age of 51, I'll never know. But



Are you an IBA Student?
Then you need to belong to the
Student Forum List Serve!

- 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

- Contact 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*
- If you're a new member, please submit a paragraph about your project and include your contact information so we can all get to know you.

**New IBA Students -
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Other Important IBA Student Links

- www.bearbiology.com
- Global Bear Research Program Links page —
<http://www.bearkeepers.net/GraduatePrograms.htm>

he was then elected President of the United States and went on to change our country forever. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

There seems to be a common vein that runs through people who can get knocked down so many times but keep getting up with more determination than ever. I call it "pushing boulders uphill," and for some people, it seems endless. Worse, some of us finally reach the top to seemingly find that it was the wrong hill and the wrong boulder. I wonder how many times Abraham Lincoln thought that his life was a complete failure. What would have happened to this nation if he had quit? Hannah Johnson, the mother of a northern black soldier in the Civil War, wrote this to President Abraham Lincoln about the Emancipation Proclamation, July 31, 1863, "When you are dead and in Heaven, in a thousand years that action of yours will make the Angels sing your praises." I agree.

By now, many of you have already figured out that your choice of career was probably not the most comfortable or easy of the 10,000 options you were given by the career counselor in high school. While in your heart of hearts, you want to be out in the boonies studying bears out of some cozy cabin next to a river and actually getting paid to do it, reality and the small demand for jobs like that will force some of you into compromise. Many of you will probably end up in a nice office job that does provide a secure paycheck. Worse, some of you will all-out quit and take a position at your brother-in-law's brake pad factory so you can have some sort of security for your family and retirement. A few of you, however, will have the determination to finish the race and die knowing that you fulfilled your dreams and left your mark.

When I was 23 years old (a long time ago...), I had an accident that injured my knees. I had surgery, but unknowingly, my doctor went on vacation right afterwards. Due to some unusual miscommunications and oversights, I got a staphylococcus

infection in my left knee that went undetected by the hospital staff for five days. By the time my dad rattled enough chains to get some help, the doctors told us that it was best to amputate the leg since the infection had reached the joints and destroyed all of the cartilage and part of the bone. Even in my Morphine-stunted state of mind, I pleaded with the doctors to give it their best shot to fight off the infection and try to clean up the mess. I wanted to be a bear biologist, and had plans to move to Montana so I could learn about bears and start my own bear study in Mexico. Even though the doctors told me I would not be able to walk comfortably and would never be able to do field work in the rugged mountains of Mexico, I guess some of that Abraham Lincoln stuff kicked in and I muffled my ears to the thought of failure. One year and 13 knee surgeries later, I was released from my doctor's care and, although hobbling, I set off for Montana. I spent the next 20 years studying bears in Montana and in Mexico despite insurmountable odds, and if I died tomorrow, I'd be happy. I reflect back on that determination, and am using that experience to muster up some courage that I need right now to forge ahead to my next mountain.

I guess the question we all have to ask is, "Do I have what it takes or would I rather quit pushing?" Do I have what it takes to start over even after I push and push, only to find out it *was* the wrong hill? There are plenty of easy, comfortable places where you can get lost in mediocrity, and find yourself with a deep hole of regret because you did give up and never saw what was at the top of the last and final hill. I just spent the last two years settling for comfort, and am scratching like a cat in a box to get out and get back onto the path that has tugged at my heart since I was a little kid. I'll be leaving this position and starting with a *new* boulder up a *new* hill to pursue my dreams despite my age and the fact that everyone thinks

I'm nuts to leave such a good office job.

While most of you aren't facing physical problems, you are facing other steep hills that seem impossible to climb. I'm talking to my friends in less developed countries, like Ximena, Naim, Alexandros, Enrique, Harendra, and many others for whom I have the *highest esteem* for their determination to work with bears. I have been amazed at their endless determination, despite continuous rejections for funding, hardships, and political unrest. For those of us who think it's tough in the U.S. or Canada to get a job working with or doing research on bears, try Bolivia or India, where the average monthly pay of the few biologists in those countries is probably less than what we make in a couple of days. Available funding for wildlife research is about .05% of what we have here in the U.S. or Canada. But the research needs are the greatest in these countries where we know the least about bears and their diminishing populations.

While I know that we all have to be realistic and pay the bills (especially if you have families), I encourage you to resist the temptation to get comfortable and let your dreams roll down to the bottom of the hill. Keep on pushing despite failures, rejections, and difficulty, because, at some point, you *will* reach the top and leave your mark. Whatever you do, don't give up, because ultimately, what will *we* do if you quit?

Student Spotlight – Robin Rigg, Slovakia

You might have already noticed Robin's name in the IBA newsletter – he has been a correspondent for the Carpathian countries of Central and Eastern Europe since 2004. I first started hearing from Robin a few years back when he began corresponding with me about bear predation on livestock. Since then, I have enjoyed learning about his involvement in Slovakia and his determination to work

Student Forum

with bears. He started working on European brown bears several years ago as part of his Master's degree on "The extent of predation on livestock by large carnivores in Slovakia and mitigating carnivore-human conflict using livestock guarding dogs." He received his M.S. in 2005 and has since been working as a zoologist for the Slovak Wildlife Society and as project manager for the B.E.A.R.S. Project - Bear Education, Awareness and Research in Slovakia (see the project website at www.medvede.sk). Along with his peers, they launched this project in 2003 with a survey of public opinion, knowledge and attitudes, which were presented at the last IBA conference in Italy. He remains very involved in distributing various education materials that they've produced, such as a teacher's manual, postcards, and a photo exhibition. They are also preparing to install bear-proof garbage bins at sites with human food-condi-



tioned bears. Robin is getting ready to search for funding to do his Ph.D. as part of this project, continuing with the Slovak Wildlife Society's project on the Protection of Livestock and Conservation of Large Carnivores. Robin's research interests include bear diet and how it relates to bear-human conflicts, non-lethal methods of conflict resolution, and prevention as well as factors affecting public opinion. Keep on pushing, Robin! You are doing a great job!

Bears in Culture

Archaeological Finds of *Ursus arctos* in Minnesota, U.S.A.

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Grizzly bears were eliminated from much of their range in the continental United States at the time of Euro-American settlement (roughly the mid-nineteenth century for American Midwest). In the modern day, they are regarded by many as symbols of true wilderness and legends of the former frontier. Grizzly bears continue to loom large in the American psyche despite, or perhaps because of, their absence from most of the country.

At the northern border of the Midwest, the State of Minnesota is home to a large population of American black bears, which has dramatically expanded in range and numbers within the last few decades. The current popularity of bear hunting and general visibility of bears generates a great deal of public interest about these animals. Managers receive occasional questions about whether grizzly bears were once present here and on rare occasions calls from individuals who claim to have seen one (none credible).

It is assumed that the former range of grizzly bears once included parts of Minnesota, since the western part of the state was originally prairie. This was one of three major biomes, with the deciduous and boreal forests, that converge in Minnesota. By the early

twentieth century, most of the prairie had been converted to agriculture, just as much of the forested areas had been logged off. Black bears were once present throughout the state, but they were most common in the forests. Their range shrank toward the northeast during decades of over-hunting and habitat loss.

In 1804, fearsome descriptions of grizzly bears reached the Lewis and Clark expedition from the time they left St. Louis. Meetings with American Indians on their way up the Missouri River (passing near to, but not within, Minnesota) provided opportunities to examine the claws and teeth of the great bears, but they did not actually see one until they reached the vicinity of present-day Bismarck, North Dakota, approximately 320 kilometers to the west.

At the same time, however, fur trader Alexander Henry wrote that black bears were common in the prairie and floodplain forests around his Red River post, at the present-day western border of the Minnesota. He also stated that he occasionally saw grizzly bears. Henry has been considered to be a reliable witness, and his account is the basis for scientific estimates that the original grizzly range once included western Minnesota. Given the natural ecology of the state, it certainly makes sense. Proving it is another question, however, and physical remains of the bears themselves are the best hope.

All of the known skeletal remains of Minnesota bears, other than modern scientific collections, are from archaeological sites. Therefore, they are a by-product of human activities and must be interpreted through the lens of past cultural traditions. Most finds are individual canines or claws, which, as Lewis and Clark's experience shows, were very portable without the rest of the bear.

With few exceptions, the known Minnesota remains are all from black bears. Burned fragments of a bear's paw found thirty years ago at Lake Bronson, in the northwest corner of the state, were originally identified as grizzly. Sadly, for purposes of this question, it appears to me that they are actually from a black bear based on a claw fragment that was overlooked in the original analysis.

Several undisputed grizzly bear claws were found about fifty years ago in a burial mound on the Rainy River, which forms part of Minnesota's northern border with Canada. As mentioned above, however, claws were favored trade items, and the age of this site favors that hypothesis. The first burial mounds in Minnesota were constructed approximately 2,000 years ago, as part of a religious and economic transformation centered in present-day Ohio, roughly 1,100 kilometers to the southeast of Minneapolis – St. Paul.

Minnesota's participation in the Hopewell Interaction Sphere, named for the type-site in Ohio, began about 2,000 years ago. In addition to the introduction of burial mounds, this period saw the first manufacture of pottery and cultivation of domesticated plants. A vast trading network extended across much of North America, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, and westward to Yellowstone. Prized materials were traded through Minnesota, including obsidian and grizzly bear canines. Knife River Flint, a distinctive stone from western North Dakota, was found in the same Rainy River mound as the claws, demonstrating contact with undisputed grizzly country at that time.

Much to my surprise, I recently identified a grizzly bear bone from Minnesota, which may be a better indication of former grizzly presence in the state. The bone was from the Lincoln Mounds site, in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It is important to point out that this was a rare project. Burial mounds no longer a focus of archaeology in Minnesota, and the state's cemetery law rightly protects mounds from archaeologists as well as bulldozers. This excavation was termed a "burial rescue," and was carried out under the supervision of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and Dakota (Sioux) leaders from three communities.

Pioneering archaeologist Theodore Lewis mapped the five earthworks of the Lincoln Mounds in 1882. At least one other had already been removed by that time. The next investigation of the site did not occur until 1998, when I led a crew through the suburban sprawl to see if any of the earthworks were left.

We didn't expect to find anything intact, but a topographic rise in the yard of a home on the Minnesota River bluff proved to be a remnant of Lewis' Mound 4. We restored that mound and built a new mound for reburial of human remains recovered from the excavation.

Finding that remnant provided an anchor for Lewis' map on the modern landscape. We could then confirm that Mound 5 had been destroyed at some point in the past. We could also tell that the locations of Mounds 1, 2 and 3 were outside of the 1998 project area, to the north. That area consisted of suburban roads, parking lots and office buildings, except for one small parcel, which was a park with flower gardens and picnic tables. No mounds were visible there.

The park was to be affected by another development in 2004, and a search began for human remains and mound remnants, again under the direction of American Indian leaders. Even though no above-ground portions of the mounds survived, we were surprised to find remnants of two sub-mound burial pits, which had been disturbed by the former Lincoln farm and modern landscaping. The pits contained secondary burials representing at least 55 people. These were not complete skeletons – this type of burial involved exposing the body first on a scaffold or in a tree. Bones were gathered later and bundled up to be buried in the mound.

Few artifacts were found with the burials, but radiocarbon dates determined that the burials were approximately 2,000 years old, within the period of the Hopewell Interaction Sphere. The animal bone fragments included muskrat, swan, raccoon, bullheads and other tiny fish remains, representing food offerings and other ritual activities.

The single bear bone was a surprise, and it was almost not recognized in the analysis. The fragment itself was small, but includes one end of the bone with a central ridge and other diagnostic features. It was found under a bundle burial. The size and curvature initially suggested a humerus (upper foreleg bone) of a small- to medium-sized mammal such as a badger or raccoon. But the top of a humerus is smooth, and the ridge did not fit with those possibilities. The only bones with a ridge like this are

Bears in Culture

inside the paws of five-toed mammals – animals including dogs, cats, bears, weasels and rodents. These animals have five bones inside each paw, which correspond to the bones inside a person's hands (metacarpals) and feet (metatarsals). The ridge is part of the joint with the finger or toe. The problem with this piece was that the ridge and end of the bone were far too large to correlate with the metacarpals or metatarsals from any of the expected animals, based on the ecology of the site area. Badgers are the largest members of the weasel family, and they are far too small for this piece. The same went for beavers and other rodents. The paw bones from dogs are too straight and small, even those of wolves and large domestic dogs.

The bone was also much bigger than the paw bones from an adult black bear, but some of the metatarsals matched it in shape and curvature. This indicated that it could be a bear, but possibly a different species. A big black bear today weighs about 140 kilograms, although some males have been known to get much larger. Luckily, a grizzly bear comparative skeleton was available at the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota. The skeleton is from an old male, and the bone fragment from Mound 1 is significantly larger, but consistent in shape. To illustrate the size of the Lincoln Mounds bear, this bone was similar in size to that of a polar bear, and larger than a tiger.

Both black and grizzly bears are sacred animals to the Dakota people. The claws of grizzly bears are symbols of power, and are portable either in necklaces or as individual trade items. This bone was from inside the body of the paw, however, so it would not have been transported with a claw or necklace. Three possibilities are that a grizzly bear was present and killed in the vicinity of the Lincoln Mounds, that a complete paw was brought to the site, or perhaps bones from a grizzly bear were present on a burial scaffold (here or elsewhere), and this fragment was inadvertently collected when human remains were bundled for eventual burial within Mound 1.

Publications

Ursus Volume 17(2) 2006

Perspectives, Essays and Reviews

1. The role of American black bears and brown bears as predators on ungulates in North America • Pete Zager and John Beecham
2. On the allure of noninvasive genetic sampling – putting a face to the name • David L. Garshelis

Food Habits

3. Grizzly bear use of pink hedgesarum roots following shrubland fire in Banff National Park, Alberta • Ian Pengelly and David Hamer
4. Summer food habits of brown bears in Kekexili Nature Reserve, Qinghai–Tibetan plateau, China • Xu Aichun, Jiang Zhigang, Li Chunwang, Guo Jixun, Wu Guosheng, and Cai Ping

Genetics and Methods

5. Detecting genotyping errors and describing black bear movement in northern Idaho • Michael K. Schwartz, Samuel A. Cushman, Kevin S. McKelvey, Jim Hayden, and Cory Engkjer
6. An empirical test of DNA mark-recapture sampling strategies for grizzly bears • John Boulanger, Michael Proctor, Stefan Himmer, Gordon Stenhouse, David Paetkau, and Jerome Cranston

Management

7. Recent trends and harvest in Finland's brown bear population • Ilpo Kojola, Ville Hallikainen, Tuire Nygren, Mauri Pesonen, and Vesa Ruusila
8. Use of a garbage dump by brown bears in Dillingham, Alaska • Kellie N. Pierce and Lawrence J. Van Daele

Short Communications

9. Cub adoption by a translocated Louisiana black bear • John F. Benson and Michael J. Chamberlain
10. Observations of a denning-related dermatitis in American black bears • Cecily M. Costello, Kathy S. Quigley, Donald E. Jones, Robert M. Inman, and Kristine H. Inman
11. Status and distribution of sun bears in Manipur, India • N.P.S. Chauhan and R.K. Jagdish Singh



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Communications

Movie to Feature Bears – Involvement Encouraged

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With helpful insight and guidance from several bear research colleagues around the world, a new bear conservation project is taking shape. BEARTREK is a campaign and feature film about bears, the biologists who are studying them, and the human cultures that affect their conservation. We're currently researching different

Communications

research, conservation, and education projects that are ongoing on the ground in order to select the best four to five stories to profile in the movie.

This international non-profit project is designed to bring attention to the world's bears and their conservation stories. It will also generate funding for some of the priority bear research, education, and conservation projects that have been identified (in part by the IBA/BCF).

BEARTREK will provide broad exposure for bears and the rich cultural elements that surround them globally. The theatrical release film will become an eye-catching product, attracting donors to support bear conservation through the associated campaign and fund-raising efforts (prior to, and following production of the movie). Over and above production costs, we hope to generate \$400,000, which will be donated to five to ten bear projects (those profiled in the movie and other projects identi-

fied as conservation priorities). In addition, any profits later generated by the movie will also be contributed to conservation.

We are also developing ideas for comprehensive educational components that will incorporate web, video podcast notes from the field, classroom education and involvement etc.

One of our first steps is to select a series of interesting locations and bear species where there are good stories to tell about bears and people, some interesting characters, and also opportunities to obtain decent natural history footage of bears in the wild. We're going for the unusual and would like to focus our efforts on locations and species that generally receive less attention. Some of the locations we're currently considering are India (sloth, Asiatic, brown), Peru (Andean), China (giant panda), Japan (brown, Asiatic), Svalbard (polar), Borneo (sun). *We're also interested in any other locations and species that have a good story to*

tell. If you have ideas, please let me know.

We recently received a generous private donation to pay for production of a promotional film that will help generate support for the full film and campaign. We intend to start filming the promo in late 2006/early 2007, most likely in Asia.

I'm very happy to be working with accomplished wildlife filmmakers Joe Pontecorvo and Chris Palmer whose combined work to bring wildlife conservation to the masses through film spans over 40 years. We wish to give an enormous thank you to J. Taylor, J. Lewis, and R. Yellowlees for their generosity, help, and guidance.

We're hopeful that this imaginative approach to assisting bear conservation will pay great dividends, and your input and involvement is encouraged.

For more information about our approach, please see our provisional website at www.BEARTREK.org

Events

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

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The 17th IBA Conference will be the first IBA conference held in Asia.

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

Websites and Updates

More information for the conference will be announced on our conference website, <http://www.japanbear.org/iba/>. For more details on the town of Karuizawa, visit the town's website, <http://www.town.karuizawa.nagano.jp/html/English/index.html>

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 features 2000m mountains, several volcanoes, and many hot springs. A rich natural environment in the park includes healthy population of 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*).

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

The conference site, Hotel Bleston Court of Hoshino Resort, has sophisticated facilities. There are a variety of accommodations nearby. Leisure activities available in the area include hiking and bicycle trails, tennis courts, golf courses, shopping malls, art museums, and historic sites.

Using the super-express rail from Narita International Airport, it takes about 2½ hours to reach Karuizawa (The fare is about ¥7,000).

Conference Program

Oral Presentations (tentative)

October 2nd

Session 1: Invited Papers "Challenges to the study of bear biology and conservation in Asia"

Special Workshop: "To Understand Asian bears for their future" (Sponsored by Japan Fund for Global Environment)

Part 1: Present status and conservation

Part 2: Tentative summary on the conservation of bears in Asia

October 3rd

Session 2: Population

Session 3: Habitat Model

Session 4: Ecology and Behavior

October 4th

Session 5: Management and its Arts

Session 6: Ethology and Physiology in Bears

October 6th

Session 7: Conservation Biology of Asian Bears

Session 8: Phylogeny and Conservation

Closing Session

Jon E. Swenson: "Brown bear conservation and management in Europe"

Dave Garshelis: "The future of bear conservation in Asia: do small populations matter?"

Koji Yamazaki: "What is the priority for bear conservation and management in Japan?"

Public Events

Public Event 1: October 2nd 2006, 19:00-21:40

History of Relationships between Humans and Bears in Japan: Especially, around the case of The Northeastern Japan
Hiromi Taguchi (Tohoku University of Art and Design)

Public Event 2: October 4th 2006, 13:00-15:30

Thinking About Our Lives and Bears in Our Towns: Widening the Circle of Coexistence with Bears

Mid-Field Trips

The conference site is located near the base of Mt. Asama, an active volcano, and is surrounded by forests dominated by larches, oaks, and chestnut trees. Asiatic black bears, serow, macaques, and more than 80 species of birds inhabit the surrounding area. Full or half-day trips will be offered in the middle of the conference period and include hiking in the forest, serow watching, visiting sites where human-bear (or macaque) conflicts occur, and visiting Japanese sake cellars. Nature guides or bear management staff will guide you on the trips. Please check the website <https://entry.jtb.ne.jp/me/registrye/registrye.asp?id=0497> for details and reservations.

1. Visit human-bear (or monkey) conflicts area

Touring around the place where the friction is being caused by the appearance and harm of the bears and the monkeys in the town. Your guide will be special staff taking local measures against this problem. You might meet a pride of wild monkeys.

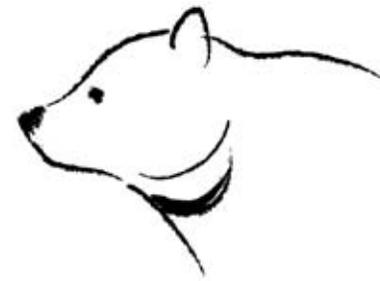
Capacity: 60 persons (Minimum number of participants required: 10 persons)

Fare: ¥5,600 (including lunch and transportation expenses)

Time: 9:00-13:00

2. National forest walking

In autumn as the harvest season, bears and many other animals are



**IBA 2006
Japan**

running around in a hurry to get ready for the severe winter. You will walk in the colorful forest in autumn seeing the traces of those animals with the local guide.

Capacity: 90 person (Minimum number of participants required: 10 person)

Fare: ¥3,100 (including lunch)

Time: 9:00-12:30, 13:00-16:30 (two times)

3. Bear forest trekking

Autumn is the important season for the black bears to get ready for hibernation. In the forest, you can see traces of their living in any number of places. You will enter the bear forest with special staff working for conservation and administration of the black bears in Karuizawa. You may meet wild animals (monkeys, wild boars, serows etc.) living in Karuizawa.

Capacity: 20 person (Minimum number of participants required: 10 person)

Fare: ¥10,600 (including lunch and transportation)

Time: 9:00-17:00

4. Japanese serow watching

The base of Mt. Asama is beautiful with autumn colors located high above sea level, where the turn of colors begins a little earlier. You will search for the Japanese serows eating the grasses leisurely at the place called "Serow Plain", where the rock face raises up very sheer. You can also get close to the active volcano, Asama Mt.

Events

Capacity: 20 persons (Minimum number of participants required: 10 persons)

Fare: ¥10,600 (including lunch and transportation)

Time: 8:00-17:00

5. Japanese sake cellar

Take a tour of a Japanese sake cellar and while at the cellar, you can of course try tasting and buy what you like.

Capacity: 60 persons (Minimum number of participants required: 10 persons)

Fare: ¥3,600 (including lunch and transportation)

Time: 9:00-12:30, 13:00-16:30 (two times)

Post Conference Tours

A variety of tours will be offered following the conference including trekking in bear habitat, learning about traditional hunting culture in Japan, and visiting a zoo. Tours will be three or four days long and guided by bear researchers. Please see the website <https://entry.jtb.ne.jp/me/registrye/registrye.asp?id=0497> for details and reservations.

IUCN Bear Specialist Meeting Rangewide Mapping Workshop

The Bear Specialist Group (BSG), in coordination with the Wildlife Conservation Society, will be conducting a workshop on October 7 to refine distributional range maps for four species of Asian bears (brown, Asiatic black, sun, and sloth). Anyone interested in attending this workshop, whether a member of the BSG or not, and whether from an Asian country or not, is welcome. There is no charge, and it will last all day.

A tentative range map for each species is being produced prior to the meeting, and the workshop setting will be used to refine these maps. The workshop procedure is patterned after that used on many other species of animals worldwide and may be useful to anyone interested in distributional mapping and range-wide conservation

priority setting. For example, the exercise would be valuable for future range mapping of bears in Europe and South America.

The goals are to:

1. produce maps useful for future range monitoring (to determine population trend),
2. delineate populations and conservation units,
3. identify areas where presence/absence of bears is uncertain and in need of verification,
4. identify areas where conservation actions are urgent, and
5. establish rangewide conservation priorities.

Contact Dave Garshelis (dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us) with questions.

Please do not forget to include this meeting in your travel schedule!

Date: October 7, 2006

Time: 9:00-18:00

Venue: Shion Karuizawa (five minute walk from the conference site)

Conference Registration

We encourage participants to register online. Please use the registration form on the conference website at <http://www.japanbear.org/iba/>.

You may also use the registration form on page 29. Fax registration is available only with an International Postal Money Order. Please facsimile the registration form to the following number:

Fax: +81 297-38-1999

IBA 2006 Planning Committee
Secretary General: Koji Yamazaki
Ibaraki Nature Museum

Please send the required amount to the address indicated below. Only Japanese yen (¥) are accepted for the payment.

Beneficiary Name:

Koji Yamazaki
IBA 2006 Japan Secretary
General

Beneficiary Address:

Ibaraki Nature Museum

700 Osaki, Bando-city, Ibaraki
306-0622 Japan

Please note that the participant should pay all the outgoing and incoming handling fees. You may be asked to pay the balance for any unforeseen fees associated with the receiving of postal money orders.

The deadline for registration through this site is 12:00 noon of September 6, 2006, Japan Standard Time (GMT+9). After that, only online registration and on-site registration are possible.

Banquet, mid-field trip, and/or post excursion application will not be accepted after September 21, 2006.

Mid-field trip fee, post conference excursion, and accommodation fees are not included.

Students must provide evidence of university registration by presenting their Student Identification Card to the Registration Desk on the day of IBA 2006 conference.

Travel Grants

Application for travel grants are no longer being accepted.

Accommodations

Reservations can be made and information on room rates for accommodations near the conference site can be found on the following websites.

Hotel at the conference site:
<http://www.hoshinoresort.com/IBA/lodging.html>

Another accommodation near the conference site: <https://entry.jtb.ne.jp/me/registrye/registrye.asp?id=0497>

Room rates range from ¥5,000 to ¥19,000 per night, and there are more inexpensive accommodations and dormitories for students. We are going to offer free breakfasts for students and inexpensive lunches during the conference.



IBA 2006 Japan

IBA 2006 Japan Registration Form

Please facsimile to:
IBA 2006 Planning Committee
Secretary General: Koji Yamazaki
Ibaraki Nature Museum
Fax: +81-297-38-1999

PLEASE USE ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

* = required information

Name*	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name:
Affiliation*	
Address*	
Postal Code*	
Country*	
Above address is*	<input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> HOME
Phone*	
Fax*	
Email*	
Title*	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Registration Type*	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular (On or Before March 31, ¥19,000 On or After April 1st, ¥24,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (On or Before March 31, ¥10,000 On or After April 1st, ¥15,000) Total*:¥_____

Registration for the Banquet:

Banquet*	<input type="checkbox"/> Will Not attend <input type="checkbox"/> Will attend
Number of Accompanying Persons	
Participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant (¥5,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Person-1 (¥5,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Person-2 (¥5,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Person-3 (¥5,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Person-4 (¥5,000) <input type="checkbox"/> Accompanying Person-5 (¥5,000) <p style="text-align: right;">Total*: ¥_____</p>
Accompanying Person-1	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name: Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Accompanying Person-2	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name: Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Accompanying Person-3	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name: Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Accompanying Person-4	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name: Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
Accompanying Person-5	First Name: Middle Name: Family Name: Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.

TOTAL AMOUNT*: ¥_____

18th International Conference on Bear Research and Management

**November 4-10, 2007
Monterrey, Mexico**

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Monterrey, Mexico, has been chosen as the next North American site for the 18th International Conference on Bear Research and Management, which will be held November 4-10, 2007. The IBA meetings will also coincide with UNESCO's Universal Forum of Cultures, which will take place September-December 2007. While Monterrey is Mexico's third largest city, it is beautifully situated at the head of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain chain. Monterrey is located only two hours south of the U.S. border and rests in the Tamaulipan thornscrub/Chihuahuan desert at approximately 800m above sea level. The Sierra Madre dramatically rises up to pine/oak forests at 2000 m

within one mile of the city's edge. The September-October dates were chosen because of potential to see high bear activity and experience pleasant weather conditions.]

Several key bear areas are within a 1-hour drive of the city. Due to habitat encroachment, an increasing bear population, and possibly drought-related bear movements, reports of, and conflicts between, bears and humans are increasing. Interest about bears is high, both publicly and within managing agencies. Bear research and

and Los Angeles. The recent United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey at the CINTERMEX Conference Facility, where they hosted over 50 heads of state. The Monterrey Office of Conventions and Visitors (OCV), which coordinated the UN Summit, will also be helping us to organize the IBA conference at the same conference facilities (See <http://www.cintermex.com.mx/> and <http://www.parquefundidora.org/>). They will be assisting us with services



management in Mexico is an issue that has recently received attention at both the state and federal level, but an active conservation strategy is lacking. This conference will bring attention to bear conservation at a crucial turning point and will encourage biologists to seek training in the area of bear research and management.

Monterrey is a very progressive city, and conference facilities are ideal for the IBA's conference needs. Monterrey has an international airport with 250 direct, daily flights from Mexico City, Dallas, Houston, New York, Chicago, Memphis, Atlanta,

such as language translation (Spanish, Russian, Japanese, and others), field trips, immigration permits, and logistics. Five-star lodging facilities (US\$85/night) are connected to the 350-acre enclosed conference site, which also contains a large eco-park, museums, banks, restaurants, and family areas. Less expensive hotels (US\$30-45/night) are within a five minute metro-ride of the park. In addition, a newly renovated and immaculately clean international hostel within the park contains 225 beds and costs only US\$6/night (2006 prices). Corporate sponsorship is expected to

cover expenses for conference meals, field trips, and special events; registration costs, therefore, will be kept at a minimum. The OCV has also committed funding, which will be used for conference organization costs and printing. There are two distinguished universities in Monterrey, and both have committed to assisting with the conference; student participation should be high. Collaboration with NGO's and governmental agencies is also high. Through our contacts at the CKWRI and the Mexican government, we will have direct communication with the Mexican Consulate to ensure that immigration procedures go smoothly for non-North American visitors. American and Canadian visitors simply obtain a tourist visa at the border (or upon arrival at the airport), which only requires either a passport or a birth certificate (2004 regulations).

The conference site is also close to the historic downtown area, as well as natural and scenic areas. Field trips will include the Chipinque National Park, the Sierra los Picachos, and Cumbres National Park (black bear study areas). Garcia Caves, Horsetail Falls, and the Mina Archeological Area are also close by. Birdwatching opportunities include a large population of red-fronted parrots and migratory songbirds. Monarch butterflies should also be migrating along the Sierra Madre during that time. The OCV will also coordinate discount travel opportunities for conference participants wishing to travel to other parts of Mexico before or after the conference.

Website information regarding this conference will be posted in the next newsletter.



Arnad Roy © Zoo Outreach Organisation

5th Conference of the Conservation Society for Japanese Black Bears in the East Chugoku Mountain Range

Main Themes of the Conference

The 5th Conference of the Conservation Society for Japanese Black Bears in the East Chugoku Mountain Range will be held on October 8th and 9th, 2006. The main themes of the conference are management of Japanese black bears in the East Chugoku Mountain Range and the roles that environmental education may play in the preservation of wildlife, especially Japanese black bears.

Our Society, the Conservation Society for Japanese Black Bears in the East Chugoku Mountain Range, hopes the coming conference will be a place where issues concerning the management of Japanese black bears, the values of environmental education, and the effective techniques of environmental education will be fully clarified, recognized, and explored.

Date: October 8th and 9th, 2006

Place: W-322 Lecture Room on the third floor of Faculty of Agriculture Main Building in Kyoto University Yoshida North Campus.

Host: The Japanese Black Bear Conservation Society in the East Chugoku Mountain Range. Laboratory of Forest Biology Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University.

Schedule

Sunday, October 8 - Symposium

12:00 Reception

13:00 Special Lecture:

- Roles that environmental education can play in promoting the conservation and protection of black bears and their coexistence with humans

- Malcolm Fitz-Earle Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, Capilano College North Vancouver BC Canada, Visiting Professor, School of Policy Studies, Kobe - Sanda Campus, Kwansei Gakuin University Sanda, Hyogo
 - English and Japanese
 - Bear bark stripping damage and its control in Japan
 - Atsushi Takayanagi, Kyoto University, Kamoshika Association, Kansai
 - Japanese only but there is a summary in English
 - Environmental education using wildlife as materials
 - Takeshi Kobayashi, Gifu Academy of Forest Science and Culture
 - Japanese only but there is a summary in English
 - Field museum activities to enhance understanding of biodiversity
 - Mr. Tsutomu Kanaizuka, Hiroshima Field Museum
 - Japanese only but there is a summary in English
 - Outreach programs for the conservation of Japanese black bears
 - Mr. Yoshikatsu Mochizuki, The Japanese Black Bear Conservation Society in the East Chugoku Mountain Range
 - Japanese only but there is a summary in English
 - Discussion by all participants
 - English and Japanese
- 18:15 Closing Session

Monday, October 9 - Excursion

Excursion to Ashiu Research Forest of Kyoto University.

Registration

Please access our website at http://www.h5.dion.ne.jp/~minaguro/syukai5_English.htm

Inquiry

Any questions about the symposium or our society would be appreciated.

ated. Please contact us by email at black_bear@k9.dion.ne.jp, Yoshikatsu Mochizuki the Conservation Society for Japanese Black Bears in the East Chugoku Mountain Range.



© Djuro Huber

4th International Symposium on Trade in Bear Parts, Nagano

Most of Asia's wild bear populations are threatened with extinction by a number of factors including habitat loss, conflict with human activities, and trade in bear parts and products, although there is a lack of detailed information concerning their actual habitat situation. Bear parts, including bear paws and gall bladder, are traded for meat and medicine to supply markets in Asia and elsewhere, and bear gall bladder is particularly sought after, mainly for medicinal use in Asia.

TRAFFIC, with the support of the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group and WWF Japan, is organizing the Fourth International Symposium on Trade in Bear Parts, which will take place in Karuizawa, Japan, on October 4, 2006.

Topics

- A global overview of the conservation status of bears
- Trade in bear and bear parts in Southeast Asia
- Trade in bear parts from the Russian Federation
- Reports from countries exporting and consuming bear gall

Meeting Venue: Mampei Hotel, Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan (150 km from Tokyo, 65 minutes by bullet train).

Recommended Hotel: Mampei Hotel, <http://mampei.co.jp/> (only in Japanese). A block of rooms has been reserved and a special discount available only for participants to the bear symposium. Please contact Mr. Tamai by e-mail (tamai@mampei.co.jp) for room rates and reservation.

Language: English (simultaneous translation available)

Admission Fee: ¥4000 (approximately US\$34) including conference materials, simultaneous translation service (Japanese-English), refreshment, and lunch. A

registration form is available from <http://www.trafficj.org/kuma/symposium2006/> Please check the site for the latest information.

Enquiry: Akiko Ishihara
Email: traffic@trafficj.org
Phone: +81 3-3769-1716
Fax: +81 3-3769-1304

10th Western Black Bear Workshop Spring 2009

The 10th Western Black Bear Workshop will be hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife in the Reno/Tahoe area, U.S.A., Spring of 2009. Please fill free to send suggestions on a theme, comments on past workshops, or any other information you feel is important. Exact dates are to be determined, but we are hoping to avoid conflicts with other pertinent conferences. Contact Carl Lackey at cdembears@aol.com or +1 775-720-6130.



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Events

Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America

October 24-25, 2006
Field trips October 26, 2006

Columbia Mountains Institute
of Applied Ecology
Revelstoke Community Centre
Revelstoke, British Columbia,
Canada

Bears and people face a fast-changing world. Bear habitat is changing directly due a variety factors such as roads, rural settlement, and resource

extraction. Indirectly, climate change has the potential to fundamentally alter the context in which both bears and humans coexist. The past decade has seen rapid advances in ways professionals can gain insight into bear biology through a variety of research tools including DNA fingerprinting, isotopic analysis, telemetry, and G.I.S.-related data modelling. Through a combination of presentations, panels, field trips, and opportunities for informal dialogue, this conference will help professionals keep pace with these changes and anticipate emerging issues in bear conservation and management.

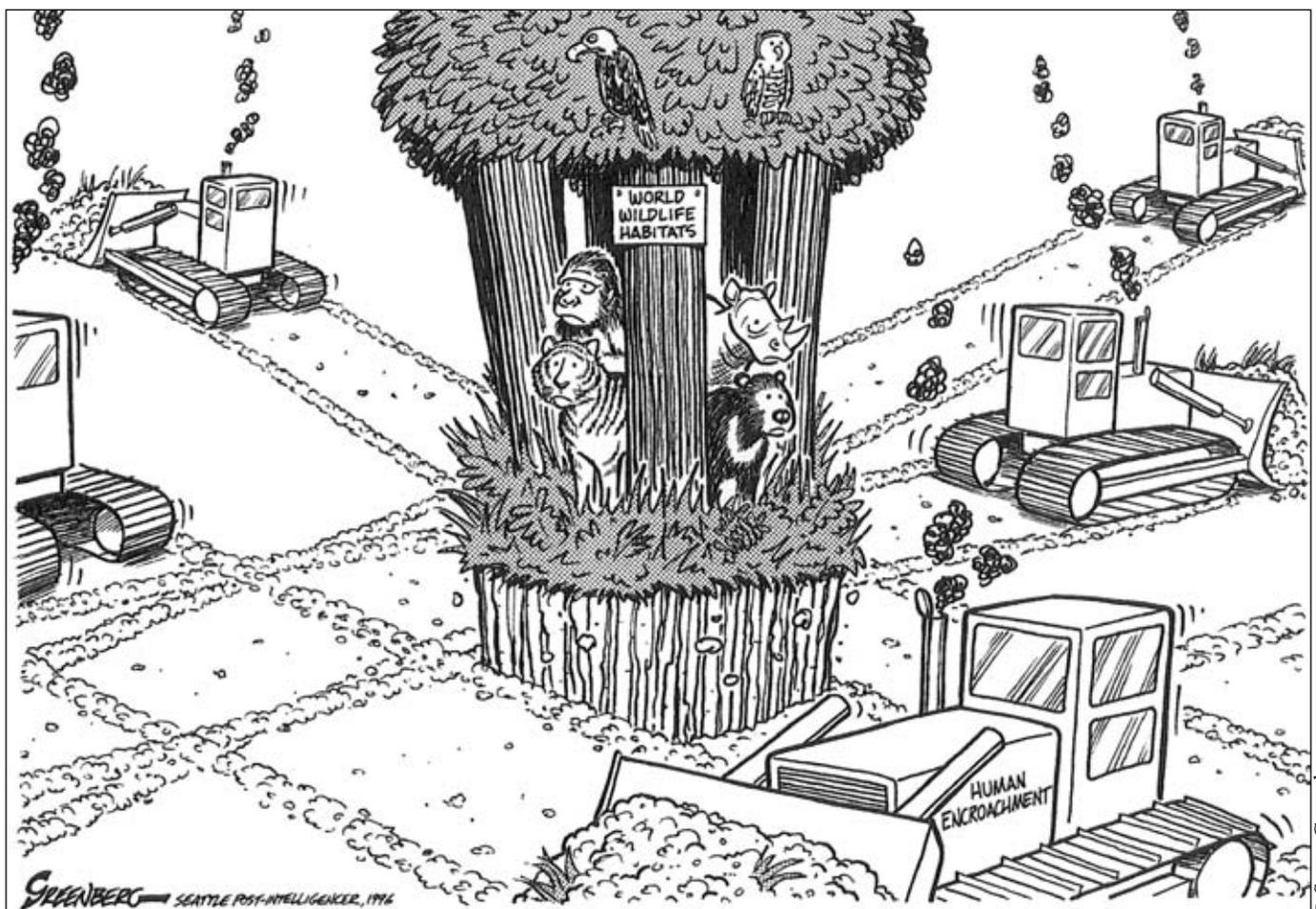
For details and to register, visit www.cmiae.org.

BIERZS 2007 – Captive Bear Husbandry and Welfare Symposium

The Bears Informational Exchange for Rehabilitators, Zoos, and Sanctuaries (BIERZS) Symposium is tentatively scheduled for August or September of 2007.

Co-chairs: Else Poulsen and Jordan Schaul .

Updates will be posted on www.bearkeepers.net/bierzs.htm.



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TOTAL AMOUNT US\$ _____

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

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Card # _____

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Signature _____ Expiration Date _____



SEND TO: Joseph Clark, IBA Secretary
 USGS-S AFL, University of Tennessee
 274 Ellington Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA
 Fax: +1 (865) 974-3555 or Email: jclark1@utk.edu

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Safety in Bear Country Videos

<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country</i> with Public Performance Rights	\$69.00	_____	_____
<i>Staying Safe in Bear Country & Working in Bear Country</i> with Public Performance Rights	\$129.00	_____	_____

Monographs of the IBA

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

US\$ Check or Money Order - Make Payable to: IBA **TOTAL US\$** _____



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University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37996, USA, Fax: +1 865-974-3555

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery

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Form also available at www.bearbiology.com.

Ursus

Volume 16(2) 2005

An Official Publication of the International Association for
Bear Research and Management



Ninth International Conference on Bear Research and Management
Monograph Series No. 3

Density-Dependent Population Regulation of Black, Brown, and Polar Bears

Edited by Mitchell Taylor

with contributions from
David L. Garshelis on black bears
Bruce McLellan on brown bears
Andrew Derocher and Mitchell Taylor on polar bears

An invited paper presented at the Ninth
International Conference on Bear Research and Management

MISSOULA, MONTANA, USA
February 23-28, 1992

Ursus

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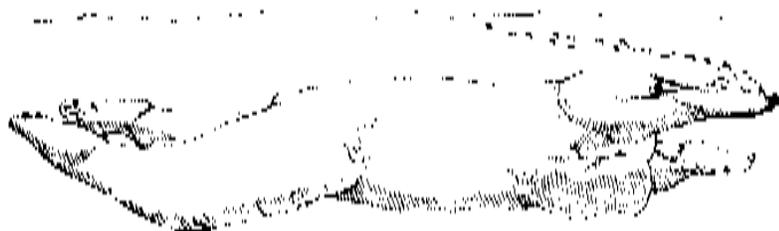
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About the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization (USA tax #94-3102570) open to professional biologists, wildlife managers, and others dedicated to the conservation of all bear species. The organization has over 550 members from over 50 countries. It supports the scientific management of bears through research and distribution of information. The IBA sponsors international conferences on all aspects of bear biology, ecology, and management. The proceedings are published as peer-reviewed scientific papers in the journal *Ursus*.

IBA Mission Statement

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

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

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

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