

Bear Bibliography Nears 6000 References In Searchable Form

**By Fred Dean, Project Leader
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The bear bibliography project, supported by the National Park Service since 1976, is well along toward the arbitrarily selected "maintenance" level. The project is collecting references on bear biology and management into computer-searchable files.

Diane Tracy, Candy Anderson, and Fred Dean of the Alaska Cooperative Park Studies Unit's biology and resource management program, have been collecting, screening, verifying, and processing literature citations dealing with bear for more than four years.

Supported almost entirely by NPS funds, the project is a prime example of cooperation between several regional offices and the Washington Office. The Pacific Northwest Region has taken the lead, both in funding and in providing continuity, with critical support from Washington, Denver and San Francisco. The multiplicity of support reflects the Service-wide nature of bear management and preservation problems.

Recent stock-taking by project personnel indicated that over 5,600 references on the two species of greatest concern to National Park Service managers (brown or grizzly bears and black bears) are currently

on tapes in searchable form. Roughly 1,500 more citations have been added to the working files since last spring; these will be included with the searchable files as soon as practical. Biologists and bear managers from around the world are making use of the bibliographies, even in the current draft form. Printed copies are being sold at the cost of producing them (\$8.00 per species bibliography packet plus 15 percent handling, if carbon copies are acceptable); that includes the list of citations with keyword descriptors of the contents for those that have been indexed to date as well as an index and vocabulary lists which help in designing searches.

So far about 60 copies of the bibliographies have been requested, mostly by researchers and state and provincial management workers. National Park Service regional offices have distributed copies to many of the western "bear parks." The Alaska Cooperative Park Studies Unit is using an upgraded version of the U.S. Forest Service's FAMULUS computer programs to handle the processing and searching of the bibliographies. Since these programs are widely avail-

able, potential users may want to purchase tapes and do their own searching; however, to date most users have requested searches through the Alaska Cooperative Park Studies Unit. Several workers have conceded that even extensive searches costing between \$100 and \$200 have more than paid their way when balanced against the cost of time and salaries involved in doing the job manually.

The "maintenance" level mentioned above has been roughly set at having nearly all of the important brown and black bear references (both published and unpublished) on the files and perhaps somewhat over half of these read in detail for the assignment of keywords. The latter process varies from paper to paper, but in some cases as many as 40 descriptive terms are added to the citation to aid in information retrieval.

If you are interested in obtaining copies, having searches made, or simply learning more about the project, contact the Alaska Cooperative Park Studies Unit, 210 Irving Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701 (907/479-7672).

