

8th International Bear Conference

"Future for Bears" was the theme of the 8th International Conference on Bear Research and Management, sponsored by the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) and held in Victoria, B.C., Feb. 20-25, 1989. Over 200 people from 10 countries attended. The fact that it was held outside the U.S. made it difficult for NPS personnel to attend.

Of the 76 papers, evening workshops, and poster sessions, much of the focus was on the black and brown bears of North America. Research covered in the accompanying article "Counting Grizzly Bears in Northwest Alaska" was presented at the conference.

One paper briefly covered all species of bears. Chris Servheen of USFWS presented *The Status and Conservation of the Bears of the World*. North American problems in bear conservation seemed small compared to those of the rest of the world. Of the eight bear species worldwide, only the black bear and polar bear are stable in most areas. For several species (the Asiatic black bear, sloth bear, sun bear, and spectacled bear) species biology and even basic distributional data are lacking. Servheen noted that these species (as well as the giant panda and the brown bear outside of North America) will require international cooperation to survive.

The IBA has been selected by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be the parent organization for the "Bear Specialist" group for non-polar bears of the world. An appeal was made for bear researchers to share information and to contribute to research on bears at the international level.

Conferences of the IBA are held every three years; the next will be held in Montana in 1992. The proceedings for the 8th Conference should be available within one to two years. Proceedings of past conferences are available from: Michael R. Pelton, Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, U/Tenn., Knoxville, TN 37901.

Conference #	Date	Cost
1st	1968	\$5.00
2nd	1970	Out of print
3rd	1974	Out of print
4th	1977	\$5.00 (Bargain)
5th	1980	\$28.00
6th	1983	\$30 (\$28 for members)
7th	1986	\$35 (\$32 for members)

Individuals interested in IBA membership should send a check for \$7.00 to Dr. Sterling Miller, Sec.-Tres., c/o Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *Bear News*. Checks for membership or past proceedings should be made payable to "IBA."