

MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING BEAR INCIDENTS IN

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

121

Bear problems at Lassen Volcanic National Park have not been extensive or very serious. There have been no personal injuries reported since 1969 when annual summary reporting of bear incidents was begun. During the same period, 61 bear incidents involving \$770 in property damage were reported and one repeat offender was live-trapped and released outside the park.

Although current bear problems at Lassen are not extensive, the potential for a serious incident does exist. In order to minimize such an occurrence and to promote a more natural dispersal of bears in the park, it is proposed that garbage cans in known "bear incident" areas be provided with bear-proof covers. This solution is twofold because, in addition to removing a principal attraction to bears, it will also reduce deer incidents since they too are attracted to the food in garbage cans. Other elements of this proposal include continued cooperation with the California Fish & Game Department in relocating problem bears when necessary and in public education of proper behavior when in bear country.

To implement this proposal will require FY 1978 funding to bear proof those garbage cans located in areas where bear incidents have been experienced in the past. The areas are: Manzanita Lake, Butte Lake, Warner Valley, the Ski Area, and

roadside turnout areas along the Park Road. There are 197 cans located in those five areas and we estimate the cost of bear-proofing at \$19,000. The other elements of this proposal can be implemented without additional funding.

There are an additional 196 cans located at other areas in the Park (see attached listing of can locations and numbers). In the future some of these areas may require the same treatment as the initial five, since some shifting of bears to unprotected areas might be expected to occur.

Another option to the proposal outlined above would be bear-proofing all cans in the Park at one time. However, this does not appear justifiable since the need has yet to be demonstrated.

LOCATION

80 ✓  
35  
5  
25  
50  
8  
12  
4  
2  
10  
60 ✓  
10 ✓  
20  
12 ✓  
35 ✓  
25  
393