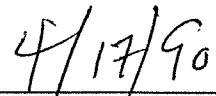


Bear Incident Management Plan

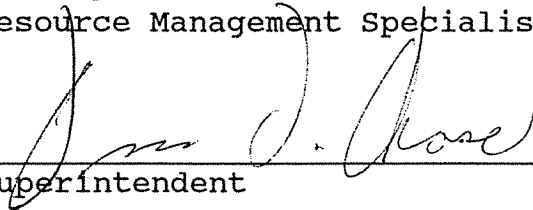
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve



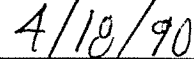
Resource Management Specialist



Date



Superintendent



Date

Bear Incident Management Plan
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

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Bear Incident Management Plan

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

I. INTRODUCTION

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve provides habitat for populations of both black and grizzly bears. In the preserve's enabling legislation, Congress directed the National Park Service to protect habitat for and populations of all resident wildlife, specifically mentioning grizzly bears. It also provided for sport and subsistence hunting under state of Alaska regulations.

The overall management policy is to maintain natural populations of bears. This wildlife resource is important for viewing, sport hunting and subsistence use. Since local residents actively hunt them, bears in the preserve are wary of humans. Few human/bear interactions have been reported; however, bears could obtain improperly stored food, inadequately disposed garbage, or unattended food/garbage at subsistence, backcountry and employee camps or cabins. This can result in dangerous confrontations between people and bears, and lead to the unnecessary destruction of bears.

The primary purpose of this Incident Management Plan, as identified in the preserve's Resource Management Plan, is to perpetuate the natural distribution and behavior of black and grizzly bears as free of human influences as is possible for hunted populations. This can best be accomplished by reducing the opportunities for bears to alter their behavior by associating humans with food. Modifying the behavior of individual conditioned bears is less desirable but may become necessary in specific cases.

The objectives of the bear incident management program at Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve are:

- To provide for visitor and employee safety by minimizing human/bear interactions through strict standards of food storage and garbage handling.

- To recognize and quickly respond to situations that could lead to potential problems or conflicts between humans and bears.

- To provide employees with an escalating guide of operations to mitigate interactions between humans and conditioned bears.

To standardize record-keeping of unusual observations and bear-related incidents.

To establish a consistent program of visitor education and employee training.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

State of Alaska:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of sport and subsistence hunting within game management units which occur within the preserve.

Destruction of a nuisance animal is authorized by 5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.410 Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property. It reads, in part:

(a) Nothing in this title prohibits a person from taking game in defense of life or property if

(1) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by harassment or provocation of the animal or an unreasonable invasion of the animal's habitat;

(2) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by the improper disposal of garbage or a similar attractive nuisance; and

(3) all other practicable means to protect life and property are exhausted before the game is taken.

5 AAC 92.410 also describes requirements for disposition of the carcass, notification of the Department of Fish and Game, and report requirements.

Except in the case of emergency taking of a bear to prevent an immediate threat to human life or property, the Superintendent will consult with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game before authorizing destruction of individual bears.

Persons to contact are:

Dave Kelleyhouse
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Tok, Alaska
Phone: 883-2971

Chuck Thorsrud
Fish and Wildlife
Protection
Tok, Alaska
Phone: 883-9471

Recurrent bear problems reported on private inholdings should be referred to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

National Park Service:

The National Park Service is responsible for managing bear habitat, ensuring that populations are healthy, and removing individual bears which threaten visitor safety and property on public land within the preserve.

Superintendent:

The Superintendent will:

1. Incorporate requirements for bear proof food and waste handling procedures into permits, licenses and contracts when appropriate.
2. Assure the compliance of National Park Service employees and contractors with all regulations and directives.
3. Designate employees qualified to carry out aversive conditioning and destruction of bears.
4. Make the final decision to destroy a bear based on the recommendation of a Board of Review convened to evaluate the facts of the situation.

Resource Management Specialist:

The Resource Management Specialist has overall authority for the bear management program including:

1. Update and revise the Bear Incident Management Plan.
2. Coordinate research, and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
3. Compile bear incident reports.
4. Recommend and carry out aversive conditioning or destruction of a bear.
5. Develop guidelines for permits and special use.

Chief Ranger:

The Chief Ranger has overall responsibility for assuring that visitors, employees, cabin permittees, businesses, mine operators, and contractors comply with all pertinent regulations and directives. The Chief Ranger will:

1. Correct conditions which are out of compliance with permits or regulations.

2. Assure availability of current interpretive literature and its posting at designated sites.
3. Assure that all visitor contacts include information on bear awareness.

Coal Creek Camp Manager:

A Coal Creek Camp Manager will be designated whenever two or more employees use Coal Creek Camp. Visitor groups using Coal Creek Camp will be encouraged to appoint a Camp Manager. The Camp Manager will assure compliance with food/garbage handling and storage directives, and immediately report noncompliance to the Chief Ranger or a supervisor.

All Employees:

It is the responsibility of all employees (including Volunteers, RAP Students, SCAs, and others) to comply with the guidelines established by this plan, including:

1. Maintain living quarters, camps and work sites in litter-free condition with food, garbage and other bear attractants properly stored at all times.
2. Immediately attempt to correct unsafe conditions, and report them to a supervisor.
3. Report infractions, confrontations with bears or any concerns related to safety to a supervisor.
4. Prepare case incident reports when required.

Interpretation and Visitor Protection:

All park rangers, and other employees who may contact visitors incidental to other duties, will inform visitors and subsistence users about bear awareness, food storage responsibilities, and precautions to take to avoid confrontations.

Interpretive personnel will also:

1. Write and update visitor handouts about bear awareness and safety.
2. Incorporate bear safety messages into programs.
3. Clearly advise visitors and permittees of their responsibilities while visiting the preserve.

Law enforcement commissioned rangers will:

1. Enforce all regulations and directives.
2. Investigate and document visitor reports of bear-related incidents.

Maintenance Employees:

Maintenance employees will design and maintain bear proof structures, fences, trash containers, storage facilities, and burn barrels. They will also recommend to the Superintendent methods to correct sanitation problems which could attract bears.

III. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Improper food and garbage handling is the most significant factor in attracting bears to people and their camps. When a bear obtains a reward of unattended food or garbage, it quickly learns to return for more. This conditions the animal to visit other camps and cabins which it might normally avoid. The bear associates human activity with food; this can lead to unwelcome intrusions and, ultimately, dangerous confrontations between people and bears.

Many of the black bears that frequent areas around cabins or subsistence camps in the preserve are harvested, since they are prized locally as food. Neither the state nor the National Park Service has received complaints regarding "nuisance" bears in the preserve since establishment.

A. Legal Requirements

36 Code of Federal Regulations 2.10(d):

Food storage. The Superintendent may designate all or portion of a park area where food, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food must be.....suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk, or other object, or shall be stored as otherwise designated. Violation of this restriction is prohibited.

The Yukon-Charley compendium will contain food and game carcass storage provisions for Coal Creek Camp, Slaven's Roadhouse and other high public use areas as needed.

5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.410:

Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property. This regulation also applies directly to garbage disposal. The state requires proper disposal of garbage or other attractants before any action may be taken against a bear.

The Alaska Game Regulations note that game taken by hunters is not "property" in the sense of this regulation. It is not legal to shoot a bear to defend a game carcass.

B. Incident Prevention Guidelines

Whenever possible, passive methods (bear-proof structures, proper food and garbage handling, closures, avoidance of potentially dangerous situations) and education will be used to help prevent conflicts that result in the need for responsive management.

Coal Creek Camp

Food odors at Coal Creek Camp have, in recent years, attracted black bears. Frequent use of this area by employees and groups necessitates strict adherence to common-sense guidelines.

1. Directives:

All employees or groups using Coal Creek Camp will receive, read and follow Superintendent's Order 89-01 (Coal Creek Camp Use Guidelines), which will also be posted at the Mess Hall. (See Appendix for that portion of the directive dealing with food storage and garbage management.) The Resource Management Specialist will evaluate the adequacy of the directive annually and make recommendations for its revision to the Superintendent.

2. Food Storage:

The tin shed across from the mess hall is designated for the storage of food and non-burnable garbage. Refrigerators and storage containers (locking barrels) will be located in this building. No food may be stored anywhere else in camp, and food must be prepared and eaten in the mess hall. Between meals, and especially when the camp is unattended, all food will be removed from the mess hall into the storage shed and secured.

Emergency rations and spices will be left in locking barrels in the storage shed when the camp is unattended. Employees will remove all other food from Coal Creek Camp on termination of their duties there.

Doors and windows of the mess hall and all buildings used as sleeping quarters will be kept in good repair. Steel mesh will be used to reinforce mess hall windows.

3. Garbage Disposal:

Presently, there are no bear-proof trash containers at the camp. All trash containers used to deposit organic matter or food scraps will be kept in the mess hall during meal preparation. Cans will be rinsed and crushed. Wet garbage, unburnable food packaging and cans will be bagged separately and kept in sealed plastic buckets in the storage shed.

The Camp Manager will assure that all burnable trash will be burned daily and wet garbage transported to Eagle as often as possible.

Slaven's Roadhouse

Visitors are required to store food and other bear attractants on the second floor of the cabin or suspend it at least 10' above the ground in the yard. The cabin will be kept clean, with all spilled food residue promptly wiped up. A barrel will be available for visitors to burn trash. Employees visiting Slaven's Roadhouse will burn any items still in the barrel and remove organic residues, garbage or unburned items.

Employees stationed at Slaven's for work projects will store all food and garbage in locked barrels or cabinets in the garage.

The Chief Ranger will assure that current literature about bear safety and awareness is posted at Slaven's Roadhouse.

Closures

To prevent potentially dangerous interactions between bears and humans, the Superintendent will temporarily close public use areas in the following circumstances:

1. Sow with cubs is persistently using the area.
2. A bear has cached food near a trail, road, cabin or camp.
3. After a bear attack causing injury or death, until the bear is destroyed or cannot be located for ten days.

Closed areas will be signed and marked on maps at preserve headquarters.

Backcountry Use

1. Directives:

All employees will receive, read and follow Superintendent's Order 88-02 (See Appendix). The Resource Management Specialist will make recommendations annually to assure that this directive reflects current information in regard to carrying appropriate food, handling food and garbage properly, minimizing odors on clothing and backcountry equipment, and avoiding surprise encounters with bears.

2. Temporary camps will be moved if hazing does not deter a bear from approaching the camp.

Public Information Program

1. Publications:

National Park Service bear safety brochures will be available for visitors at NPS headquarters in Eagle, and will be posted at Coal Creek Camp, Slaven's Roadhouse and other public use cabins as needed. The preserve handouts on hunting and low impact camping will also carry bear safety messages.

2. Verbal messages:

All visitors contacted in the preserve or at headquarters will receive verbal information on safety and responsibilities while travelling in bear country. Rangers contacting visitors, subsistence users and permittees in the preserve will recommend specific actions to minimize bear attractants on public lands.

3. Demonstrations:

The interpretive staff will maintain an outdoor exhibit showing methods of hanging food out of reach of bears at the Eagle visitor center. Aversive spray and a variety of bear-proof containers will also be on display.

IV. RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

The basic program for minimizing bear/human confrontations at Yukon-Charley Rivers is founded on preventive management strategies. Unfortunately, despite all best intentions and human effort, a few bears may become bold enough to cause property damage and endanger human life. This requires an active response to bear-related incidents.

Preserve staff have neither the equipment, facilities or expertise to effectively carry out a program of physical control and relocation of "nuisance" bears. The effectiveness of this approach is questionable. Therefore, an escalating program of hazing, aversive shotgun conditioning and, as a last resort, destruction of specific animals will be implemented depending on circumstances.

A. Definition

A bear-related incident is defined as an incident in which one or more of the following conditions has occurred:

1. Direct contact with a bear or aggressive action by a bear injures or kills a person.
2. Property owned by a visitor, landowner, concessioner, permittee or the government is significantly damaged or destroyed by a bear. Significant damage implies that further use of the property is difficult or impossible until repair is made.
3. A bear frequents a public, administrative or subsistence use area, buildings or private property often enough to cause concern for the safety of the human occupants or the welfare of their property.
4. A bear has displayed enough aggressive behavior to cause people concern for their safety.
5. A bear is seriously injured or killed by any person when legal hunting is not involved.
6. A bear is destroyed by employees carrying out the provisions of this incident management plan.

A. Aversive Conditioning - Hazing

Bears at Yukon-Charley Rivers are generally wary of people. Hazing a curious bear that wanders through camp for the first time reinforces its natural caution. Hazing promotes an unpleasant association with people, and may be all that is needed to discourage the bear from returning.

The bear should be chased from the area by the use of loud sounds, thrown rocks, or cracker shells, the area double-checked for attractants, and the incident reported including a detailed physical and behavioral description of the bear.

A 24 hour watch will be posted to deter the bear from returning.

A. Repellents

Experiments with capsicum spray suggest that it may be an effective deterrent to bears when used at close range. Field tests, however, have been inconclusive. It is not effective when sprayed into the wind. The spray is temporarily debilitating and has no harmful residual effects when sprayed into the face or eyes of a bear.

The preserve has a supply of capsicum spray ("Counter Assault") which employees may carry with them on backcountry trips. It should be used only in the event that a bear seems attracted to people themselves, and closely approaches them despite hazing.

Employees wishing to carry repellent must receive training and a demonstration of its use.

C. Aversive Shotgun Conditioning

The goal of aversive conditioning with non-lethal slugs is to teach a bear to associate an unpleasant experience with its unacceptable behavior involving people or their food and garbage. The need to use a shotgun for aversive conditioning means that humans have failed to keep bears from associating people with food.

Situations When Appropriate:

1. Bear obtains food or garbage.
2. Bear breaks into building or causes other significant property damage.
3. Bear persists in remaining in public use area or camp, particularly during daylight hours, and refuses to leave despite hazing.
4. Bear displays unusual or aggressive behavior that causes concern for human safety.
5. Same bear (paint-marked or individually identifiable) repeatedly visits camp, with or without food reward.

Procedures:

1. Any of the above situations will be documented on a case incident report and reported to a supervisor or the Resource Management Specialist, who will designate two employees to monitor the area for four days following the incident.
2. Only employees specifically trained in the technique will carry out aversive conditioning with a shotgun.

3. Rubber shot or plastic slugs will be used, followed by a cracker shell to reinforce the effect. A second employee armed with a shotgun loaded with lethal rounds (rifled slugs) will serve as back up.
4. If possible, the bear will not be shot at until it exhibits the same behavior that led to the original incident. A bear will not associate a painful experience with obtaining human food, for example, if it is hit while wandering around outside camp.
5. The bear will be shot at only from the side or diagonally from the rear. When using rubber buckshot, the point of aim should be approximately 1 foot behind the animal to strike it with the edge of the pattern and minimize the chance of injury. When using a plastic slug, the bear will be shot in the hindquarters. Because bears frequently turn their heads to the side when moving away, a bear that is facing directly away will not be shot at because of the possibility of hitting its eyes.
6. The ideal range is 15-20 yards with rubber shot and 20-30 yards with a plastic slug. An escape route, preferably into cover, must be readily available to the bear.

D. Destruction

Destruction of a bear requires prior authorization of the Superintendent unless human safety is in immediate jeopardy.

1. The Superintendent will convene a Board of Review composed of three knowledgeable employees. The Board will evaluate all past incidents involving the bear and determine if its continued presence will pose unacceptable danger to humans. The Board will also consult with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to assure that destruction of the animal and disposition of the carcass complies with all State of Alaska requirements.
2. The Superintendent will document the decision process on a case incident report and notify the Alaska Regional Office. A copy of this report will accompany the salvaged parts of the animal to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3. The Superintendent will designate an employee to shoot the bear out of sight of visitors. A second employee will act as Safety Officer and back up.

4. 5 AAC 92.410: The hide (with claws attached) and skull of a bear will be removed, salted and turned over to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game within 15 days. The case incident report written by the Superintendent must accompany it. Refer to contact persons and address on page 2.
5. The following information will be recorded: sex, approximate age, approximate or measured weight, body length, girth, and general condition. Any abnormalities or unusual characteristics will be noted on the case incident report.
6. If feasible, the meat of a black bear will be salvaged and preserved for consumption by the Native community at Eagle Village or Circle City.

Contacts are:

Ethel Beck

Phone: 547-2218 or 547-2243 (Eagle Village Clinic)

Eagle Village Council

Phone: 547-2271

Danzhit Hanlaili (Circle)

Phone: 773-1280

7. Grizzly carcasses, unsalvaged portions of black bears, and meat of black bears that is not accepted for village use will be disposed of a minimum of four miles from a residence, camp, or public use area. Under no circumstances will meat or any other portions of a bear be used by employees or distributed to families, friends or acquaintances of employees except those designated to receive meat by the Village Councils.
8. The Superintendent will assure that the Alaska "Defense of Life and Property Report" is completed and returned to the Department of Fish and Game.

E. Firearms

The 12 gauge shotgun with 1 ounce slugs is the only firearm that will be carried during duty hours specifically for protection from bears. All employees will qualify on the Alaska Region Shotgun Qualifications Course (see appendix) before assignment in the field. Employees have the option of carrying a shotgun at their discretion unless specifically instructed by their supervisor.

Handguns for employee protection in the preserve are discouraged. Handguns carried by employees other than law enforcement personnel should be unloaded and secured out of sight during duty hours.

The Superintendent may approve requests for handguns to be carried on duty for protection from wildlife on a case-by-case basis. Employees wishing an exception to established policy must submit a written explanation of the circumstances warranting potential handgun rather than shotgun use.

Handguns carried on duty must meet all NPS-9 standards. Employees must first show their proficiency with the weapon and qualify on a course to the Superintendent's satisfaction.

V. EMPLOYEE TRAINING

All National Park Service employees will receive training concerning bear safety, bear management policy, and standards that apply while in the preserve. All employees will also receive copies of the Superintendent's Orders relating to bear safety, backcountry use and Coal Creek Camp guidelines.

Seasonal Orientation - all employees

The Resource Management Specialist will address the following topics at the annual seasonal orientation:

1. Employee responsibilities in the bear incident management program.
2. Bear biology and behavior.
3. Precautions to take in bear country.
4. Overall history of past incidents, and management responses to address potential problem areas.
5. Objectives and strategies of aversive conditioning and other bear management techniques.
6. Food and garbage handling methods to decrease bear/human interactions.
7. Orientation to and demonstration of deterrent spray.

The Chief Ranger will:

1. Administer the Alaska Region Shotgun Qualifications Course for protection from wildlife. Firearms qualifications will be documented on a case incident report.
2. Discuss effective use of the shotgun for bear management actions.

Aversive Shotgun Conditioning Training - selected employees

The Resource Management Specialist or designee will train certain employees designated by the Superintendent in aversive conditioning shotgun techniques.

1. Employees designated to perform aversive shotgun actions will be required to demonstrate their proficiency in firing consistent patterns with buckshot from a 12 gauge shotgun after qualification on the Alaska standard NPS course.
2. Several rounds of rubber buckshot, plastic slugs and "cracker shells" will be fired to demonstrate effective range and pattern.
3. They must also demonstrate familiarity with the Bear Incident Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Resource Management Specialist and, if feasible, carry out bear management actions involving use of firearms under the direct supervision of the Resource Management Specialist or Chief Ranger.
4. All aversive conditioning training will be documented on a case incident report and a list of names of designated employees attached to this plan annually. (Appendix E)

VI. INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

Employees will document all bear-related incidents on a case incident report within five working days. Employees will also notify supervisors immediately.

In addition, a case incident report will be completed for any of the following incidents:

1. An employee, subsistence user, visitor, or permittee violates 36 CFR 2.10(d), permit requirements or these guidelines regarding food storage or garbage handling.
2. An employee observes garbage handling practices (such as an open pit) that could serve to attract bears on public lands. Reports of bears attracted to garbage on private lands should be referred to the State of Alaska.
3. Employees discover bear baiting stations.
4. Observations of sick or wounded bears, or of bears exhibiting unusual behavior.
5. Complaints by visitors of bear-related incidents should immediately be referred to a ranger for investigation and documentation.
6. Any instance of hazing, aversive shotgun conditioning or destruction of a bear.

Reports will contain a detailed description of the bear (species, sex if known, color, size, cubs, scars, unusual or identifying markings) as well as its behavior. Human behavior or other factors which may have attracted the animal or contributed to the incident will also be described.

The Resource Management Specialist will maintain a file of reports on bear-related incidents. A copy of each report will be routed to the Chief Ranger and Superintendent.

VII. APPENDICES

- A. Bear Incident Action Program (updated annually)
- B. Superintendent's Order 88-02: Bear/Human Safety
- C. Superintendent's Order 89-01: Coal Creek Camp Use Guidelines
- D. Employees Designated to Perform Aversive Conditioning (updated annually)
- E. 5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.410: Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property
- F. Alaska National Parklands: 3 Steps to Bear Safety
- G. Hunter Handout (updated annually)
- H. Alaska Region 12 Gauge Shotgun Qualification Course
- I. Annual Bear Incident Summary (updated annually)

APPENDIX A

BEAR INCIDENT ACTION PROGRAM 1990

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Obtain locking barrels for Slavens project	Maintenance	6/1
Write superintendent's order for Slavens project	Chase	6/1
Move locking cabinet from tentframe to Slavens	Maintenance	6/1
Order cracker shells, plastic slugs	Karraker	6/1
Bear safety training - all employees	Ulvi	6/1
Bear mgt. training - selected employees	Ulvi/Knuckles	6/1
Firearms training	Karraker	6/1
Build "spice box" for Coal Creek	Selig	6/15
Set up backcountry bear food storage exhibit at VC	Karraker	7/15
Add bear safety section to appropriate handouts	Karraker	8/1
Bear safety message, back of hunter handout	Karraker	8/15
Obtain bear safety brochures; hand out to each visitor contacted; post at each public use cabin	Karraker	Ongoing
Include food/garbage handling compliance in all permits issued	Chase	Ongoing
Designate camp managers for employee use at Coal Creek	Supervisors	Ongoing



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Box 64
Eagle, Alaska 99738

A5635

APPENDIX B

January 22, 1988

Memorandum

To: All Employees
From: Superintendent
Subject: Superintendents Order 88-02, Bear/Human Safety

Background

Bear-human encounters continue to increase as field crews and rangers spend greater amounts of time in bear habitat. As of this writing not a single black or brown bear has had to be destroyed in defense of life or property by NPS personnel within the preserve. However, encounters are increasing, particularly around Coal Creek camp, resulting in property damage, warning shots and lesser defensive measures on numerous occasions. It is essential that all of us ensure that bear as well as human health is protected to the greatest extent possible in every instance.

This order establishes general guidelines to ensure that backcountry personnel are properly trained and knowledgeable in bear behavior and know the recommended methods for avoiding and dealing with close encounters. On the rare occasion that such a situation arises, it is most important that the bear is not rewarded for it's curiosity/aggression toward humans and that the bear is deterred in such a manner that the chance of injuries or death is minimized. Research clearly shows that as long as extensive quality habitat is available, bears are much better off in the long run if they associate humans with unpleasant experiences.

Prevention

The most effective way in which to avoid unwanted encounters with bears is to be: 1) knowledgeable about bear behavior and "body language", 2) avoid dense, brushy areas where a chance close encounter may occur, 3) make a bit of noise and keep your eyes peeled while hiking, 4) maintain clean, odor-free equipment and campsites, and 5) understand how and when to use your firearm. (See Supt's Order 84-06, Backcountry camping for minimum impact and odor-free camping techniques).

Firearms

The weapon of choice and standard issue for bear protection at Yukon-Charley Rivers is the 12 gauge shotgun with 1 ounce high-base solid rifled slugs. Every employee must qualify on an annual basis with the shotgun under the supervision of a certified firearms instructor prior to conducting field work. At that time, bear behavior, avoidance tactics and effective use of the potent 12 gauge will be discussed thoroughly.

Handguns do not provide adequate protection from bears. Employees or associated personnel wishing to carry a handgun for personal protection must convince the Superintendent that circumstances warrant a handgun rather than a shotgun. They must then show proficiency and qualify on a course to the superintendent's satisfaction. No exceptions.

Chemical Repellents

Recent "aversive conditioning" research in Montana and elsewhere with captive, dump habituated and a few wild bears indicates that pressurized repellents can be effective in warding off an attack at close quarters. The most effective repellents were those that contained 10% or more capsaicin (a derivative of red peppers). Such concoctions appear to be only temporarily debilitating and have no harmful residual effects on bears or humans (extensive EPA testing remains to be conducted).

We have purchased a capsicum based aerosol repellent called "Counter Assault" because so far it has proven to be the best of the lot.

These canisters are available for field personnel to carry as a deterrent. Until more data are available, this spray repellent will not supplant the shotgun for bear protection but rather complement it.

Each individual interested in carrying the aerosol must take part in a training session and demonstration of this product before he/she can be authorized to carry it in the field. The Resource Management Specialist is responsible for providing background literature and conducting a short training and demonstration session in conjunction with the firearms instruction.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE

Box 64
Eagle, Alaska 99738

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A5635

APPENDIX C

April 25, 1989

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Superintendent, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

Subject: Superintendent's Order 89-01, Coal Creek Camp Use Guidelines

Coal Creek Camp can be used to assist in accomplishing National Park Service projects. The camp is also open for preserve visitors to visit and enjoy. The camp and mining claim were donated to the NPS in 1986. We are in the process of deciding how best to manage this area. Until plans are developed, we need to preserve what historical integrity exists and prevent undue alterations, damage, loss or removal. These guidelines will help us accomplish these goals.

- Plan menus, food and gear to minimize trash.
- Use the burn barrel for all trash. Pack up in plastic bags, store securely and haul out all unburnable trash.
- Help prevent bear problems by burning all garbage thoroughly on a daily basis.
- Keep inside of cabins and mess hall clean daily.
- Store any waste oil from changing oil in generator or Jeep in 5 gallon can clearly marked "waste oil" and use to assist with trash burning.
- Haul water from Beaton Pup upstream of the old assay office if system is not set up. Treat all water by boiling, filtering, or chemical before drinking. If water purification system is not set up in camp, you must bring in anything you want to use to purify the water. Get checked out on camp water and electrical system before attempting to use.

- Helicopter Operation:
Observe all safety requirements and use the airstrip for all operations (no landings near the camp).
- Use of Vehicles:
The Jeep is our only transportation in the Coal Creek/Slaven area. Park use for fueling boats and assisting with park trips has priority use. It is very difficult and expensive to repair, so be very careful with use. No recreational use is authorized. To minimize use, plan on walking whenever possible. Before and after use check out all fluid levels as per check list. The Jeep uses oil. Keep the vehicle clean, remove any trash and keep the fuel tank above 1/2 level.
- Use of Honda ATV:
Use only on existing roads. If in doubt, don't! Think safety. Get checked out before you operate. No passengers. Use safety equipment. Check oil before and after use. Check gas. After use fill tank with low lead regular gas.
- When leaving camp:
Plan on a thorough camp clean up. Sweep and mop floors. Clean shelves, dishes, sink, refrigerators and stove. Turn off propane. Sack up all trash to haul out. Remove all food. Fill out inventory form for camp supplies, propane, white gas and oil. Dip tanks and estimate amounts of fuel oil remaining. Turn in inventory list along with notes on condition of equipment. Include notes on unusual wildlife observations as well as a record of camp visitors.
- Bear awareness guidelines:

All employees will comply with the following guidelines to avoid attracting bears into Coal Creek Camp or causing bear-related incidents.
 1. One person will be designated as Camp Manager any time two or more employees use the camp. The Camp Manager will:
 - Make sure that employees and, when necessary, the public comply with camp guidelines.
 - Immediately report any violations or bear incidents to the Superintendent.

2. Prepare all meals only in the mess hall. No food may be kept or eaten in any other building except the storage shed (tin shed across from the mess hall). Bring low-odor foods and use cooking methods that produce minimal odors. Plan meals that produce as little wet garbage as possible. Keep the mess hall clean, and wipe up spilled food immediately.
3. Do not leave any food or seasoning, including dried, canned, fresh or otherwise, unattended in the mess hall.

Food and garbage must be stored in container in the storage shed except during meals. Remove all food and garbage when you leave. The only exceptions are spices that can be left in the locking barrel with the emergency food cache in the storage shed.

4. Store canned and dried foods in the freezer in the storage shed. Place perishable food in sealed Nalgene containers before putting it in the refrigerator.
5. Burnable trash will be burned daily. Place wet garbage in sealed plastic buckets and store it in the storage shed. Rinse cans and bottles, and crush cans before bagging and storage. Take advantage of all opportunities to remove garbage to Eagle or Circle as often as possible. Take all garbage and trash when you leave.
6. The Camp Manager will make sure that a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with rifled slugs is kept at the mess hall while employees are in camp. Only trained, qualified employees will handle or fire the shotgun.
7. If you see a bear in or near camp, report it to the Camp Manager, who will keep a written log of any sightings. Prepare a case incident report (10-343) any time a bear:
 - Obtains food or garbage,
 - Persists in remaining in camp despite attempts to drive it off with shouts or cracker shells,
 - Charges or shows aggressive action toward a human, or
 - Appears sick or wounded.Report any bear-related incident immediately to the Superintendent.

Try to note any characteristics of the individual bear involved that might make future identification possible (size, color, scars, markings, injuries, sex, etc.).

8. Trained, qualified employees named in the Bear Incident Management Plan will carry out aversive shotgun conditioning. Only when a bear poses an immediate threat to human life or is causing irreparable damage to a historic structure will NPS personnel destroy it without consultation with the Superintendent.

Report destruction of a bear immediately to Headquarters, and preserve the carcass for disposition according to the Bear Incident Management Plan.

APPENDIX D

1989 AVERSIVE CONDITIONING ROSTER

The following designated employees have received Aversive Conditioning Training and have adequately demonstrated the firearms proficiency and bear incident management plan familiarity to safely and effectively conduct aversive conditioning actions. (see Case Incident # _____)

Employee

Title

Resource Management Specialist

Date

Superintendent

Date

APPENDIX E

5 ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 92.410

Emergency Taking

5 AAC 92.400. EMERGENCY TAKING OF GAME. Nothing in this title prohibits a person from taking game for food during a closed season in case of dire emergency. Whenever it is reasonable to do so, all edible portions of the meat of an animal so taken must be salvaged, and all portions surplus to the alleviation of the dire emergency must be surrendered to the state.

5AAC 92.990 DEFINITIONS. In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, the following definitions apply to 5 AAC 78-5 AAC 92:

(1-8 do not apply)

(9) **closed season** means the time when game may not be taken;

(10 does not apply)

(11) **dire emergency** means a situation in which a person

(A) is in a remote area;

(B) is involuntarily experiencing an absence of food required for sustainment;

(C) if wild game food is not immediately taken and consumed, will be unable to perform the functions necessary for survival, leading to a high risk of death or serious and permanent health problems;

(D) cannot expect to obtain alternative food sources in time to avoid the consequences described in (C) of this paragraph;

5 AAC 92.410. TAKING OF GAME IN DEFENSE OF LIFE OR PROPERTY. (a) Nothing in this title prohibits a person from taking game in defense of life or property if

(1) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by harassment or provocation of the animal or an unreasonable invasion of the animal's habitat;

(2) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by the improper disposal of garbage or a similar attractive nuisance; and

(3) all other practicable means to protect life and property are exhausted before the game is taken.

(b) Game taken in defense of life or property belongs to the state. A person taking such game is required to immediately salvage the meat, or, in the case of a black bear, wolf, wolverine, or coyote, the hide must be salvaged and immediately surrendered to the state. In the case of a brown or grizzly bear, the hide and skull must be salvaged and surrendered to the state immediately. The person taking the game must notify the department of the taking immediately and must submit a written report of the circumstances of the taking of game in defense of life or property to the department within 15 days of the taking.

(c) As used in this section, property is limited to

- (1) a dwelling, permanent or temporary;
- (2) an aircraft, boat, automobile, or other means of conveyance;
- (3) a domesticated animal; and
- (4) other property of substantial value necessary for the livelihood or survival of the owner.

Note: Game taken by hunters is not "property" in the sense of this regulation. It is not legal to shoot a bear to defend your moose or caribou carcass, for example.

ALASKA REGION

12 Gauge Shotgun Supplementary Qualification Course

NOTE: This course is supplemental to the approved NPS 12 Gauge Shotgun Course. All participants must have initially qualified on the regular shotgun course using magnum 12 gauge ammunition. This course is designed for defense against wildlife and is fired on an approved wildlife silhouette target.

DISTANCE	STAGE	POSITION	ROUNDS	SHOTS	TIME	DESCRIPTION
25 Yards	1	Kneeling	2	Slug	20 Seconds	Two shots in 20 seconds from the kneeling shoulder position.
	2	Standing	2	Slug	15 Seconds	Two shots in 15 seconds from the standing shoulder position. (This is a supported position)
15 Yards	1	Standing	2	Slug	10 Seconds	Two shots in 10 seconds from the standing shoulder position.
7 Yards	2	Right Side Hip	2	Slug	10 Seconds	Two shots in 10 seconds from the right side hip level position.
3 Yards	1	Right Side Hip	2	Slug	10 Seconds	Two shots in 10 seconds from the right side hip level position.

TOTAL SLUG ROUNDS = 10
 POSSIBLE SCORE-RIFLE SLUG = 50
 MINIMUM SCORE = 70% or .35

NOTE: This course must be fired on an approved wildlife silhouette target.

Any slug striking in the inner ring in the silhouette is 5 points, any slug striking in the outer ring in the silhouette is 2 points any other slug strikes to the silhouette is 0 points. Shotgun score is total of slug score.

APPENDIX I

Calendar Year: 1989

Bear Incidents Reported:	Black Bears	Grizzly Bears	Unknown
Visitors:	0	0	0
Employees:	0	0	0
Human Injuries/Fatalities:	0	0	0
Property Damage Reported:	\$0	\$0	
Aversive Shotgun Conditioning:	0	0	
Bears Intentionally Destroyed:	0	0	
Hunter Kills:			

Number of Closures: 0

Law Enforcement Activities:	Warnings	0
	Citations	0

Number Incidents Improper Food Storage: 0 known

Number Incidents Improper Garbage Handling: 0 known

Number Incidents Feeding/Harrassing Bears: 0 known

Comments:

Grizzly observed by staff for 4 days near field camp in Ogilvie Mountains. Bear never entered camp nor did it exhibit any curious/aggressive behavior.

Grizzly observed by staff 150 meters from camp on Charley River. Bear immediately left area at a run when aware of human presence.