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INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME,
and
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,
and
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
to
CONDUCT RESEARCH ON THE STATUS OF BROWN BEARS
ON THE ALASKA PENINSULA

This Interagency Agreement is made and entered into by and among the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Game, hereinafter referred to as ADF&G; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Regional Office, hereinafter referred to as FWS; and the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office hereinafter referred to as NPS. The authority to enter into this agreement lies in the "Alaska National Interests Lands Conservations Act" (16 USC 3101); "Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977" (_ USC _); and the "Economy Act of June 30, 1932," as amended (31 USC 1535). The agreement is in conformance with the Master Memorandum of Understanding between ADF&G and FWS dated March 13, 1982 and the Master Memorandum of Understanding between ADF&G and NPS dated October 14, 1982.

ARTICLE I. BACKGROUND

An abundant and economically and aesthetically important brown bear population is distributed the length of the Alaska Peninsula. The range of this population is a mosaic of land ownerships including parks, refuges, state and private land. Land and bear population management objectives on these different lands vary, ranging from no hunting and highly restricted land uses to moderately heavy hunting and liberal development. Many of the activities have the potential for altering the size and dynamics of bear populations. Therefore, it is likely that bear densities, productivity and mortality vary from one area of the Alaska Peninsula to another in response to different population and land management regimes. It is also likely that these parameters will change over time as human uses of the Peninsula increase. ADF&G, FWS, and NPS all have responsibility for regulating many of these uses and all make decisions and recommendations that will affect the size and dynamics of the bear population.

While the geographic area of interest and nature of decisions made by the three agencies may vary, there are significant benefits to a cooperative information gathering effort:

1. There is a common need for measurements of certain population parameters. The ultimate concern of all three agencies is with the status of the bear population. Parameters measured to determine status remain the same even if potential causes of change in status differ.

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2. Each agency will benefit from information collected in several different areas. Insights useful for predicting bear population responses that might result from changes in human activities can be gained through comparisons of data from areas that have been subjected to different levels of activity. Therefore even an agency with a special area of interest can make use of data collected from other areas.
3. Precise measurement of bear population parameters is extremely expensive. It is difficult for one agency to commit enough money in a single year to implement precise techniques. The result has been more frequent application of imprecise techniques. Over a period of years, limited studies may be cumulatively just as expensive yet still yield imprecise data. An alternative is for several agencies to pool resources to provide precise estimates from one area at a time, moving from one area to another as agency needs and resources permit.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE

To determine the status and dynamics of brown bear populations in selected areas of the Alaska Peninsula that have been exposed to different population and habitat management regimes.

ARTICLE III. APPROACH

The basic information needs are:

1. Information on changes in bear numbers over time to monitor the net effect of management programs.
2. Information on population composition, productivity and mortality patterns to aid in interpretation of how the population is responding, or predicting how it may respond, to specific factors.
3. Information on movements so that the relationship between actions or measurements taken in one area can be related to changes in bear populations in other areas.

It is impractical to attempt to collect precise bear population information over large areas or continually for long periods of time. Therefore, a series of intensive studies will be conducted in relatively small study areas. Each study (or phase) will be a "snapshot" of a specific area at a specific time. Replicable methods will be used to permit comparison of estimates from different study areas or the same area at different times. Studies will be conducted in areas exposed to different management regimes to allow comparison of moderately heavily hunted with "unhunted" populations.

The core of each study will be to estimate density using resightings of radio-marked bears (Miller et al. in press.). This method produces a precise point estimate of bear numbers in an area of approximately 500 mi². A less precise point estimate of population composition is attained at the same time. Estimates of productivity and mortality are derived over a period of several years by monitoring age of first reproduction, litter size, breeding interval

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and death of individual bears using sightings of radio-marked bears and harvest data. Movements are determined by relocation of radio-marked bears.

These data can then be extrapolated to larger areas using various assumptions and in conjunction with population models. Comparisons with existing data will be made, however lack of precision and replicatable methods in older data will limit comparisons. Opportunities for more detailed comparisons will increase as the number of completed phases increases.

The initial phases will be conducted in areas that have been exposed to widely different management regimes. Phase I will be conducted in the Black Lake area which has been exposed to moderately heavy hunting for many years. Phase II is planned for Katmai National Park where hunting has been prohibited. Additional phases may be added in other study areas or at a later date in the same study areas.

ARTICLE IV. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Specific procedures and scope of work for each phase will be presented in detailed study plans which will be appended to this cooperative agreement.

ARTICLE V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are respective roles and joint responsibilities of the ADF&G, FWS, and NPS in conjunction with work conducted under the auspices of this Interagency Agreement.

A. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game agrees to:

1. Assume primary responsibility for overall conduct of the study and fulfill its obligations as outlined in the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1);
2. Provide approximately one-third of required financial support during 1988 as outlined in this Interagency Agreement and appended study proposal, activity schedule and financial plan (Enclosure 1). Financial support in succeeding fiscal years will be under the conditions as described in ARTICLE VII of this Interagency Agreement;
3. Assign suitably qualified ADF&G employees to conduct the study, including Principal Investigator(s) and assistant and provide the portion of the salaries of those employees during the duration of the study as outlined in the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1); and
4. Coordinate field activities with the Refuge Manager, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuges and with the Superintendent, Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve; comply with refuge and/or park/preserve policies concerning field operations; and recognize the Refuge Manager's and/or the Superintendent's responsibility for all activities within the park/preserve or refuge, as appropriate.

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B. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agrees to:

1. Provide approximately one-third of the required financial support during 1988 to ADF&G as outlined in this Interagency Agreement and appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1). Financial support in succeeding fiscal years will be under the conditions as described in ARTICLE VII of this Interagency Agreement;
2. Assign suitably qualified FWS employees to assist in the conduct of the study, and provide for the salaries of these employees during the duration of the study as outlined in the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1); and
3. Provide limited use of fixed wing aircraft on an "as available" basis during the duration of the study as outlined in the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1).

C. The National Park Service agrees to:

1. Provide approximately one-third of the required financial support during 1988 to ADF&G as outlined in this Interagency Agreement and appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1). Financial support in succeeding fiscal years will be under conditions as described in ARTICLE VII of this Interagency Agreement; and
2. Assign suitably qualified NPS employees to assist in the conduct of the study, and provide for the salaries of these employees during the duration of the study as outlined in the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1).

ARTICLE VI. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Interagency Agreement shall remain in effect from the date of the last signature until December 31, 1996 unless terminated earlier according to ARTICLE X of the Agreement. On an annual basis all agencies may reassess study needs, and funding availability and may reaffirm, revise, or create amendments or addenda to this Agreement. Work continuation shall be subject to the availability of funds in future years.

ARTICLE VII. PAYMENT

Fish and Wildlife Service funding commitment is limited to and shall not exceed _____ during FY 1988. Additional funding support in future years is estimated in appended study proposal, activity schedule and financial plan (Enclosure 1). This support may be provided to continue and complete the study, subject to the availability of future Congressional appropriations and an administrative decision.

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National Park Service funding commitment is limited to and shall not exceed _____ during FY 1988. Additional funding support in future years is estimated in appended study proposal, activity schedule and financial plan (Enclosure 1). This support may be provided to continue and complete the study, subject to the availability of future Congressional appropriations and an administrative decision.

Partial payments shall be based upon approved billings at one month or greater intervals. Due to the authority of the Economy Act (31 USC 1535) funds obligated by the FWS and the NPS under this Agreement must in turn be obligated by the ADF&G during the same fiscal year in which funds were appropriated. In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 17.504, a third party obligation must be proposed in writing by the serving agency and approved by the requesting agency prior to entering into the third party obligation.

Billing invoices shall be submitted in original and duplicate to the following addresses:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Regional Office
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

National Park Service
Alaska Regional Office
2525 Gambell Street,
Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

The billing must include the Alaska Department of Fish and Game name, the Interagency Agreement number, date and an itemized description of costs incurred corresponding to the same budget categories outlined in the appended study proposal activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1).

ARTICLE VIII. PRIOR APPROVAL

Any amendments, revisions, addendums, extensions, or reaffirmations of this Agreement must be in writing and be approved and signed by either the original signature authorities or by the FWS and NPS Regional Contracting Officers, depending upon the nature and extent of the proposed modification.

ARTICLE IX. REPORTS

A yearly progress report and a technical report in draft and final form shall be required from the ADF&G to fulfill this Agreement.

The progress report will be submitted in five (5) copies each to FWS and NPS and will be due on March 1 of each year beginning in 1989. A draft final report shall be submitted in five (5) copies each to the FWS and NPS for review and comment by March 1, 1996. A final report suitable for distribution shall be submitted by the ADF&G in thirty (30) copies each by December 31, 1996 or within 30 days of receipt of FWS and NPS comments, whichever date is later.

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The draft final report and final report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A statement on the title page acknowledging the sponsorship and financial assistance of the FWS and NPS in conducting the study;
2. Documentation, analysis, interpretation, and discussion of the field studies, estimates, and assessments conducted according to the appended study proposal, activity schedule, and financial plan (Enclosure 1). The report shall be sufficiently comprehensive and detailed to serve as baseline data on Alaska Peninsula brown bear population management.
3. A discussion of any future study needs from the perspective of brown bear population dynamics, habitat management, harvest management, and any additional proposed study areas.

Technical reports shall be submitted to the address listed in Article VII.

ARTICLE X. TERMINATION

This agreement may be terminated by any party by providing notification in writing to the other parties 60 days prior to the intended date of termination.

The undersigned agree to the provisions of the Interagency Agreement:

FOR THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Director, Division of Game

Date

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Regional Director, Alaska Region

Date

Chief, Division of Contracting
and General Services, Alaska
Region

Date

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FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Regional Director, Alaska Region

Date

Contracting Officer, Alaska Region

Date