



Bear observed by Karin Anderson (in photo) near Lyons Ranch on 6/12/03.
Photo by Shaun Provencher (NPS)

2003 BLACK BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Annual Progress Report

December 16, 2003

Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP)

Author: Greg Holm, Wildlife Biologist

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes black bear research and management activities that occurred within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) during 2003. The black bear research section was excluded from this report, as no black bear research was proposed or initiated within RNSP during 2003. The management section summarizes all important bear sightings and incidents, bear related meetings and education efforts, funding, known mortalities, and fiscal year 2004 priorities for black bear management within RNSP.

BEAR SIGHTINGS AND INCIDENTS

Wildlife Observation Database

There were 118 sightings (156 bears) of black bears reported on RNSP wildlife observation reporting forms during 2003 (Appendix A). Although there are many factors which can influence the number of bear sightings reported, the 2003 total was only 64% of the average reported annually during the previous five years (1998-2002; = 182). No sightings were reported for January, February, November, or December. Sixty-seven percent of the observations were made during June and July, with the most (56) reports occurring in June (Figure 1). Seventy-seven percent of the sightings were of a single bear, 15% involved 2 bears, 8% reported 3 bears, and there was one report of 4 bears.

Only 15% of the sightings occurred within RNSP north of the Klamath River (17 sightings, 27 bears). Twenty-six percent of the sightings occurred (32 sightings, 37 bears) in the middle portion of RNSP, south of the Klamath River and excluding the Redwood Creek drainage. Fifty-six percent of the bear sightings occurred within the Redwood Creek drainage (65 sightings, 88 bears). Only 3% of the reported bear sightings occurred outside of the park boundaries (4 sightings, 4 bears).

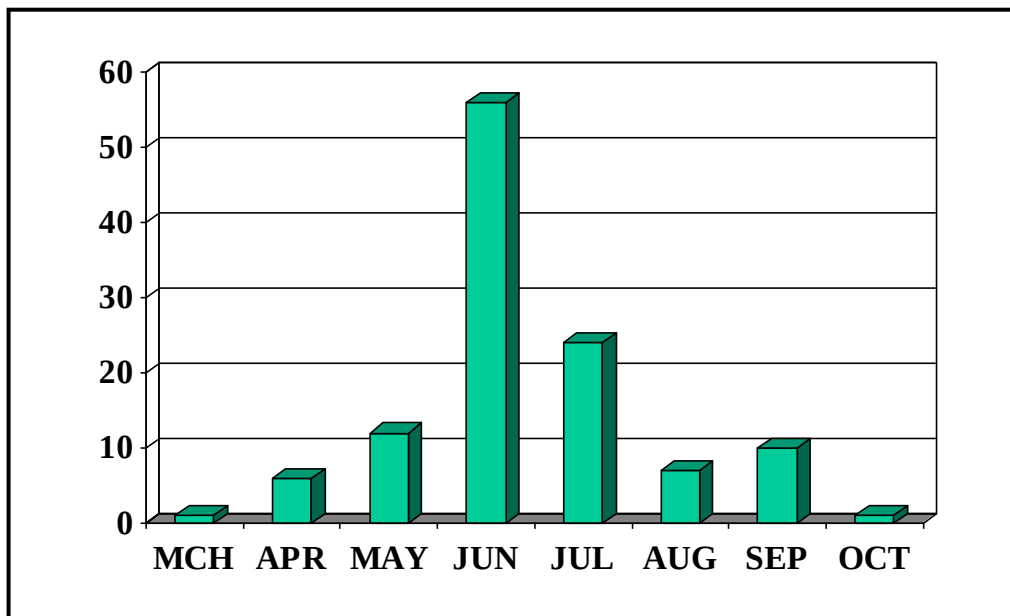


Figure 1. Number of bear sightings reported on RNSP wildlife observation cards, and month that the sighting occurred, during 2003 (total =118).

Campgrounds

Elk Prairie: Report on June 4th of a small black bear sitting on top of the picnic table at campsite #27 around 12:30 p.m. Apparently there was no food left out at the campsite, but the bear was smelling the tablecloth and looking at some dishes. The camp host, rangers, and kiosk staff all notified campers and no further incidents were reported. Also, a visitor reported seeing a black bear up tree near the visitor center on June 4th at

1:45 p.m., and after they took a picture it climbed down and left the area. There was a report on 8/15 of a bear moving through the campground, but was never verified.

Miners Ridge: Report on August 4th of a black bear near campground.

Jedediah Smith, Little Bald Hills, Nickel Creek, DeMartin, Flint Ridge, Butler Creek, Gold Bluffs Beach campground and the Environmental Camp, and the Redwood Creek camping areas (Elam, 44, and gravel bars) had no reports of bear incidents in 2003.

Facilities and Housing Areas

Hiouchi Housing: The Vecera residence reported a chocolate brown bear with at least 1 cub around the residence eating unripe fruits in the orchard. Also on 9/22 at 2300, Vecera was at home and heard bear thrashing through the woods coming towards the front door. He stepped out and saw a bear coming up the hill, about 15-20 feet away. He went inside, and when he heard it continuing up hill he yelled and heard it turn and run back down hill. He thought smell of recently made peanut butter sandwich may have carried out the open windows, drawing in the bear.

Aubell: No incidents reported, but there was an observation of a bear running through a field near Aubell, and a report of big bear paw prints on the bear proof garbage can at Aubell in July. This is something to keep in mind when the Aubell facility is expanded.

CCC / Requa: On 11/7 a bear was reported in the dumpster at the CCC compound at Requa. Bear was in the dumpster and when NPS rangers approached it did not leave. There were also several other CCC personnel around the dumpster watching. The bear only left area after being sprayed with pepper spray 2 times. It left at a slow jog and was not seen in area again. Apparently, the bear had been visiting the dumpster regularly, but CCC had not reported because it typically left the area when approached.

Wolf Creek (education center, housing, fire cache): There was a substantial amount of black bear activity reported in the Wolf Creek complex during 2003. In June there was a report of a black bear foraging in the black berry bushes in front of the NPS housing, and also standing on the porch at the sliding glass door of one of the houses, eating flowers. There were also several other observations of bears around the housing area, but they were typically in or around the trees, and not getting into garbage etc.

At the Wolf Creek Outdoor School (WCOS) employees reported seeing several bears during June, including a female with 2 yearlings crossing the grass, a single brown/cinnamon bear in the tree out in front of the lodge, 2 cinnamon bears together, and a single black bear. The only real incident was when one bear went under the deck of the lodge and chewed up some cardboard with salmon smell on it. The same bear growled at an employee near the old lodge before the bear left the area.

Also an employee reported on 11/5 that there were a couple of bears hanging around the gravel pile in the parking lot, and then ventured up to the educational center. No one intentionally fed them, but according to F&W staff that investigated and verified

by the engine captain at the fire cache, during the period of the “Tuk” fire incident these bears got into some food (e.g. drinks and c-rations) piled at the building entrance.

South Operations Center (old): There was a report of a small bear hanging out along the old SOC road, and a female and cub around the meadows in early summer. There was a bear hanging out by the dumpsters in early summer, possibly the big cinnamon-colored one that was hazed last year. However, the bear did not get into the dumpsters this year.

Roads, Trails, and Trailheads

Enderts Beach road: There were numerous sightings of black bears along the Enderts beach road in July and August. These bear were likely in the area foraging on the abundant blackberry bushes. NPS rangers posted warning signs of bear activity at trailheads in the area, and no incidents were reported.

Lower Bald Hills road / Redwood Creek trailhead: There were 13 reports of a family group of 3 bears (1 sow and 2 yearlings) observed on the lower portion (first 1.5 miles) of the Bald Hills road and the entrance road to the Redwood Creek trailhead. The reports were between April 5th and June 17th, with the most in June (n=7). Although none of the bears were ever observed approaching people or cars, and there were also no reports of these bears damaging any property in the area, they were often observed at very close distances along the roadside. They were typically foraging on grass and other plants. This family group is likely the same ones observed in the area between the Redwood Creek trailhead and the Berry Glen area in 2002 (see 2002 Black Bear Report).

Redwood Creek Trail: There were 8 bear sightings reported along the Redwood Creek trail. Most of the sightings were within the first 3 miles of the trailhead, and only 2 involved bears that were somewhat curious, or didn’t run away immediately.

MEETINGS

The RNSP Bear Panel members met during both April and December 2003 (Appendix B).

EDUCATION

Presentations

The Fish and Wildlife branch (Greg Holm) continued to present orientations about how to work safely in bear country for new California Conservation Corps (CCC) members. The orientations also educated CCC members on how to properly store garbage and food around their residence and while camping. This year the presentations again incorporated a bear/human safety video developed by the International Association

for bear Research and management (IBA). Ten orientations were given to new CCC interns during 2003.

Bear safety and reporting orientations were also given to seasonal RNSP interpretation staff, Youth Conservation Corps crews, Student Conservation Association members, and volunteer trail crews. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) students participated in preliminary bear research to determine the amount of bear damage to conifers at 2 locations near the Whiskey 40 and along the Bald Hills road. OMSI students spent 2 days surveying 0.10 hectare plots in different habitats (second growth not thinned, and thinned second growth) to determine how many and which species of trees had bear damage.

Fish and Wildlife staff made regular follow-ups on problem bear reports and to educate staff and visitors about proper reporting and responses. Numerous other informal contacts were made with RNSP personnel regarding bear-garbage and bear-human issues. The RNSP Interpretation Division also informed visitors about basic bear safety during bear campfire programs at Elk Prairie, and at the beginning of various interpretive programs and walks at RNSP.

Signs

Once again, the RNSP Interpretation Division solicited Del Norte school students to perform the picnic table sign (and other bear equipment) inventory during the spring of 2003 at Jedediah Smith campground and other north district locations. Additionally, Interpretation and Fish and Wildlife staff used U.S. Fish and Wildlife funding to produce 10,000 “rack” cards that inform visitors about mountain lion, black bear, and marbled murrelet management issues and responsibilities. The rack cards will be distributed at all park visitor centers and also by interpretive staff during ranger “roves”.

FUNDING

During 2003 the North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association agreed to sell bear related merchandise (stuffed “beanie” bears) in the Prairie Creek visitor center, with a portion of the proceeds going towards a fund to pay for bear related information and educational signs within the state parks. Approximately \$245 was raised for this fund through the NCRIA program. Redwood National Park will receive \$12,000 in 2004 from natural cyclic maintenance funds, which will be earmarked for replacing and repairing existing bear proof equipment. A \$21,000 request for natural cyclic maintenance funds in FY05 was also forwarded for competition. Other funding mechanisms were also discussed during both Bear Panel meetings (see Appendix B). Although few in number, the Fish and Wildlife Branch continued to write and submit funding proposals for submission to private and corporate foundations, seeking financial support to complete purchasing and installation of bear proof equipment.

MORTALITIES

There were 6 reported bear mortalities during 2003:

1. 4/21/03 = Dead bear on highway 101 bypass (MP133.75), southbound side opposite of weather station. Talked to L. Levi and D. Webster, they looked at teeth etc. and saw no ear tags.
2. 6/24/03 = Dead bear reported at MP137.04, on west side of highway 101 bypass. G. Holm and J. Gordon investigated. Was approx. 2-year-old female black colored bear that looked like it had been hit by car. There were no ear tags present, and carcass was moved into alders along highway (out of sight).
3. 6/24/03 = Report of bear with 1 cub being hit by vehicle at MP10.25 along Bald Hills road (just south of CDF fire station), with female still alive but injured badly. G. Holm and H. Sakai investigated and found female still alive but unable to move back legs. Bear was dispatched. The cub was later euthanized by C. Farley and T. Banko (CDFG warden).
4. 7/28/03 = Report of 1 cub hit and killed by car near Hiouchi visitor center. Female bear and other cub were nearby for quite some time. Tom Gunther investigated and took dead cub away. Bears have been seen in area for a while and were probably crossing highway to get into orchard.
5. 9/10/03 = J. Mayer and T. Hines picked up 120-150lb. light brown male black bear along hwy 101 bypass, approximately ½ mile south of NBD northern interchange, east side north bound lanes. Bear was about 3-4 years old based on tooth wear.
6. Unknown date = There was one bear fatality that was found on Hamilton Road off of Highway 101 (Mill Creek acquisition). It was apparently poached and appeared to be missing its head.

FY 2004 PRIORITIES

- ❖ Initiate hazing of nuisance bears immediately and frequently.
- ❖ The RNSP Intranet will be used for more effective communication regarding bear management issues.
- ❖ All employees, contractors, etc., will be encouraged to turn in bear observations immediately.
- ❖ Fish and Wildlife staff will continue to work on consistent bear information for bulletin boards and information brochures around the park.
- ❖ Metal picnic table signs will continue to be inventoried and replaced as needed.
- ❖ NCRIA partnership for funding will be continued, and RNHA will be approached to implement similar program.
- ❖ Obtaining funding to purchase the remaining bear proof equipment will be investigated and pursued by Fish and Wildlife staff.
- ❖ Bear Research related to the management needs of RNSP will be investigated.

Appendix A. Date, number, activity, and general location of bear sightings reported to RNSP during 2003.

Bear 2003			
Date	#	Activity	Location
3/29/2003	1	Feeding on grass on side of road	.5 Mi East Of Coyote Rock; On Dirt Road
4/1/2003	1	Didn't see me until i moved. Ran away quickly with much fear.	Mill Creek Acquisition At North Rd
4/5/2003	3	Running across redwood creek trailhead entrance road towards creek	Alder And Willow Veg.
4/8/2003	1	Eating; saw & heard me & truck and slowly made its way upslope.	Childs Hill Rd; Near Mill Site- Mill Creek Acquisition
4/13/2003	2	Feeding	Childs Hill Rd. (Dirt)- Mill Creek Acquisition
4/13/2003	2	Crossing road, running into woods	Redwood Creek Entrance Road
4/18/2003	1	Feeding/exploring	South Fork Rd., Turn-Out Mile Post 10
5/7/2003	1	On road	1 Mile Down C-Line Rd To Ttg
5/10/2003	2		Along Trail @ Lady Bird Johnson
5/11/2003	2	Walking across road	Road To Lost Man Creek
5/20/2003	2	Within observer path, ran away	Coyote Rock/ Steep Area
5/20/2003	3	Mother & 2 cubs exploring logs & debris along road	Just Up Hill 1/4 Mile From Sawmill
5/21/2003	1	Moving across field to berry bushes along humboldt rd	Hwy 101 & Humboldt Rd
5/21/2003	1	Ran across bald hills road	Elk Camp At Prarie East
5/25/2003	3	Crossed road then climbed into the woods taking a moment to check us out!	About 1 Mi. Nw Of L. Bird Johnson Grove On Side Of Road
5/27/2003	2	Ran along hillside & crossed road to longs barn from lyons ridge rd	Lyons Ridge Rd
5/28/2003	1	Out in prairie "grazing"	On Rd/Trail Above Dolason Barn
5/28/2003	1	Running across rd	Bald Hills Rd- After [?] But Before Dolason Trail
5/28/2003	1	Foraging	Upper Gans Prairie
6/3/2003	1	Run down rd	
6/3/2003	3	On the road- running from vehicle	W. Side Access Rd- Between A-9 Deck & Simpson Gate
6/3/2003	3	Grazing	
6/3/2003	4	Left when they saw us	1/4 Mile Down Redwood Creek Trail (From Trailhead)

Appendix B. (cont.)

Bear 2003			
Date	#	Activity	Location
6/4/2003	1	Climbed tree- after i took pic. It climbed down & went into brush. Saw it again on the trail	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
6/4/2003	2	Crossing rd	Mile 1.76 Bald Hills Rd
6/4/2003	1	Foraging for food on top of picnic table	Prairie Creek, Elk Prairie Campground Site #27
6/5/2003	1	Foraging along deer trail	Coyote Creek Basin
6/6/2003	1	Ran across bald hills rd	Bald Hills Rd
6/6/2003	1	Forging in black berry bushes in front of house	Nps Housing @ Wolf Creek Outdoor School
6/6/2003	1	Running downhill & crossing bald hills rd	Childs Hill Prairie At About Williams Ridge Rd
6/7/2003	1	Just feeding on foliage, not scared away	C-Line Rd- Near Cones In Drainage
6/7/2003	1	Running toward alder riparian area from road	Redwood Creek Trail Entrance Road
6/7/2003	1	Foraging	Miners Ridge, Ferns
6/7/2003	1	Crossing road & then climbed tree, looked at us, took off	Redwood Creek Trail Road, 1/4 Off Road
6/7/2003	2	Cub eating, adult running	Cub On Bald Hill Rd., Adult On Tall Trees Acc. Rd.
6/7/2003	2	Feeding on grass, berries, & bark	Elk Valley Rd., Ne End- At Edge Of Forest
6/8/2003	2	1 cub in a tree bawling, mother grunting (did not see her). The cub was shaking the tree branches.	5 Minute Walk Before The 1st Ford Of Redwood Crk Trail
6/8/2003	1	Standing on porch at sliding glass door- eating yellow flowers	Nps Housing @ Wolf Creek Outdoor School
6/9/2003	1	Ran across bald hills rd	Elk Camp Prairie
6/9/2003	1	Standing on ridge above rd	Rd To Longs Barn From Lyons Ranch Rd
6/10/2003	1	Ran across rd	Rock Fork Rd ~ Coyote Cabin
6/12/2003	1	Standing up and looking at her	Lyons Ranch Near The Spring & Fence
6/12/2003	1	Walking on paved road	Road To Skunk Cabbage Trail
6/12/2003	1	Crossing rd & traveling up hill	Mile 2.7 Bald Hills Rd.
6/13/2003	2	Cub climbed tree & hung out	Rolf's & Davidson Ranch Rd
6/14/2003	1	Roaming in bushes and crossed road	Davidson Road Behind Rolf's
6/14/2003	1	Ran across highway	Rolf's Restaurant On 101
6/14/2003	1	Running down road	On Road To Wolf Creek Educ. Center Just Past Bridge Over Prairie Crk

Appendix B. (cont.)

Bear 2003			
Date	#	Activity	Location
6/14/2003	1	Ran across hwy 101 & into the trees west to east	Prairie Creek Rsp Near Davidson Rd, By The Elk
6/15/2003	1	Crossing road into old hunting camp rd. From south to north	Mile 7.5 Ish Bh Rd.
6/15/2003	1	Crossing creek	Redwood Creek 3 Miles At Post
6/16/2003	1	Watching cars drive by	Berry Glen On 101 S
6/16/2003	1	Running along holter ridge road	Near Sfillm
6/17/2003	1	Walking/running on trail	Coastal Trail
6/17/2003	1	Walking across rd.	First Bridge On Lost Man Rd.
6/18/2003	1	Foraging near path	Redwood Creek Trail Mile 2
6/18/2003	2	Walking on trail away from observer	James Irvine Trail 3 Miles In From Trailhead
6/18/2003	1	Cross trail & ran	Davison Ranch Trail
6/19/2003	1	Running from meadow into forest	Elk Prairie (Crossing Trail)
6/19/2003	1	Running toward south side of road	Bald Hills Rd Mile Marker 7.3
6/20/2003	3	Standing on road and ran across	Near Big Tree
6/21/2003	1	Hanging out	Bald Hills- Lane Ranch Meadow
6/22/2003	2	Romping & frolicking	East Of Coyote Rock
6/23/2003	1	Ran across bald hills rd.- south to north	Just West Of Ganns Prairie, In Forest, Sharp Curve Heading Downhill
6/25/2003	1	Crossed 101	South Of Klamath River Bridge On West Side Of 101 Crossed 101 Going East Up South Side Of River
6/26/2003	1	Crossing rd., ran approx. 0.2 mi down rd. Until ran into woods	~Mile 8.2 Bald Hills Rd.
6/27/2003	1		Just North Of Rolf's
6/27/2003	1	Bear crossed road	Road On Way Down From Tall Trees, Past Gate (Way Past).
6/27/2003	1		
6/28/2003	1	Crossing rd.	Mile 1.7 On Bald Hills Rd.
6/28/2003	1	Trucking up road (dirt)	Mile 7.5 Bald Hills Rd., Dirt Road Leading Off To Left
6/28/2003	1	Crossing rd.	1 Mile East Of Tall Trees Gate On Bh Rd.
6/29/2003	1	Crossing road	Mile 7.75 Bald Hills Rd.

Appendix B. (cont.)

Bear 2003			
Date	#	Activity	Location
6/30/2003	1	Crossing service rd- retreated when i stopped & put my window down. Then resumed normal activity	South End Of Coastal Drive- Crossing A Blocked Gated Service Rd
6/30/2003	1	Ran up hill	Along The Tall Tree Grove Rd, About 2 Miles From Bald Hills Rd
7/2/2003	1	Crossing the road	Bald Hills Rd @ Dolason Prairie Trail Head
7/2/2003	1	Walking across road (west to east)	Bald Hills Rd @ 1/8 Mile North Of Dolason Th
7/2/2003	1	Sat on hiking trail staring at us, then left trail and went down to river	Redwood Crk Trl. 1.4 Mi From Trailhead
7/4/2003	1	Galloping down endert's beach rd then headed off rd into scrub-berry bushes 'n' stuff	Endert's Beach Rd
7/5/2003	1	Curious but not aggressive. Went slowly away as we walked the trail	Red Creek Trail, About 1/4-1/2 Mile Before The Cross To Go Camp 44
7/7/2003	1	Scratching, sitting, eating, watching us	Dolason Prairie @ Rd
7/8/2003	1	Walking	Bald Hills Rd
7/9/2003	1	Foraging along a fallen log	Along Trail Close To Fern Canyon
7/10/2003	1	Running	Coastal Drive Near Flint Ridge
7/10/2003	1	Eating	Along Coastal Drive
7/11/2003	1		Coastal Trail Near Ossagon Camp
7/15/2003	1		1/4 Mi South Of Bridge Crk On Redwood Crk, In Creek
7/21/2003	1	Running across open field @ aubell	Aubell- Open Field
7/21/2003	1	In grass	Bald Hills Road Near School House Lookout
7/21/2003	1	Drinking water on edge of road	Bald Hills Rd Between School House Peak & Maneze
7/23/2003	2	Walking along road	Rear Entrance Road To Cbec
7/23/2003	1	Bear was at lower part of bridge creek; ran sharply up slope	Mouth Of Bridge Creek
7/25/2003	1	Curled up in the base of a hollowed out tree trunk	2 Mi Out James Irvine Trail
7/28/2003	3	Mother calling for cub	Outside Jed Smith Campground Entrance
7/28/2003	3	In turmoil	Outside Jed Smith Campground Enterance
7/28/2003	1	Walking w to e on rd	Crossing Road 100 Yd N Of Wolf Creek Rd

Appendix B. (cont.)

Bear 2003			
Date	#	Activity	Location
7/29/2003	1		Davison Rd, Steep
7/29/2003	1		Drury Parkway, Just South Of Ho-Pa Interpretive Trail
7/31/2003	1	Crossing road	1.83 Mi Bald Hills Rd
8/4/2003	1	On road	A-9-9 1mi From A-9 Deck
8/4/2003	1		Miner's Ridge Campground
8/7/2003	2	Running/ playing	Mill Crk Campground
8/22/2003	1	Running across rd	N. Of Redwood Crk Overlook
8/24/2003	1	Ran off once it saw them	Myrtle Creek Trail
8/27/2003	1	Bear was walking down coastal trail 25 min south of lagoon creek...25 yards of us bear entered brush	Coastal Trail South Of Lagoon Creek
8/31/2003	1	Bear scampered across the highway, going east to west	101 At Trees Of Mystery
9/3/2003	1	Walking across road east to west	
9/3/2003	1	Crossing rd from blueberry farm went into redwoods up the hill	199 & Elk Valley Rd
9/4/2003	2	Running north from roadside	197 Across From Day Use Area
9/5/2003	1	Running across road, bounding free and wild	Endert's Beach Road
9/8/2003	1	Ran away	44 Camp
9/8/2003	1	Walking across parking lot and up steps	Hostel Parking Lot & Steps
9/11/2003	3	Climbing into tree and eating nuts	Just Above The Gravel Bed Of Redwood Crk ~4.5 Mi From T.H.
9/30/2003	1	Running away from rd	Coyote Crk Drainage
9/30/2003	1	Walking in grass	Skookum Prairie Rd
9/30/2003	1	Running through grass	Near Weather Station Lyons
10/11/2003	2	Runiing from rd	R

Appendix B. Minutes of the Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 Bear Panel meetings.

Spring Meeting

April 4, 2003

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs
From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)
Subject: Spring Bear Panel Minutes, April 3rd, 2003

Attending: Brent Critch (NCRIA), Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Lynda Mealue, Mary Read, Phil Rovai, Howard Sakai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: There has been only 1 bear sighting reported to the Fish and Wildlife Branch since 2003 began, and there have been no reports of any serious bear-human interactions or property damage. Panel members briefly discussed the numerous sightings and activities of the black bear observed along the highway 101 bypass during 2002. The Fish and Wildlife Branch is anticipating the return of that bear during 2003, and will likely initiate more immediate and aggressive measures to prevent the types of activities and behavior that occurred there last year. Bear “incidents” are currently defined as aggressive behavior towards humans, personal injury, property damage, bears in garbage, and bears obtaining human food. Once again, all employees (contractors, etc. too) need to report bear incidents in a timely manner, which helps immensely when it comes time to determine management actions and signing needs. The Fish and Wildlife Branch intends to do a better job of documenting all incidents (as defined above) during 2003, but needs the cooperation of everybody working and visiting RNSP. Wildlife incident reporting protocols are now located on each network drive at :\\team\\shdata\\wildlife protocols. Additionally, the RNSP Bear Management Guidelines are now posted on the RNSP “intranet” at General Announcements\\Other\\Wildlife Observation Reports.

Bear-proofing equipment and maintenance: Greg will be developing a memorandum to be distributed to various maintenance staff requesting assistance inventorying and fixing broken bear proof equipment and replacing table signs throughout the park. The bear proof equipment that was installed at the Davison property last year apparently is still there and will be needed for incoming SCA’s and VIP’s. The panel suggested getting a metal box to keep the horse food secured inside the Davison barn. There is a possibility that bears could get into the barn, as the current horse food storage container is not bear proof. The Fish and Wildlife Branch staff (Greg in particular) plans to step up patrols of bear proof compliance at all park facilities this year, depending on workloads of course. Lynda mentioned that on April 23rd park staff will be replacing recycling stickers on all the park bear proof containers.

Funding: The NCRIA sold all the “beanie bears” last summer and raised approximately \$250.00 to fund bear management needs (mostly I&E materials). Brent will be contacting Cathy Bonser to transfer the money to RNSP. The Park is likely to receive \$12,000 from natural cyclic maintenance funds, which will be earmarked for replacing and repairing existing bear proof equipment. RNSP still needs approximately \$110,000 in new bear proof equipment to complete the parkwide bear proofing goal, and that project is currently entered into Maximo and PMIS and is Park approved. The CDPR request for funding bear proof equipment has been submitted, but any possible money will probably not be available for several more fiscal years. The Fish and Wildlife Branch has pursued 1 possible private funding source (Earth Friends), and continues pursuing funding from a variety of other sources.

Signs and Bulletins: Mary Read produced metal versions of the general bear/lion information signs, and we now have some very informative and attractive signs to be put up on park bulletin boards. The metal signs will eventually be attached with magnets onto the locked park bulletin boards, and possibly screwed into

Appendix B. (cont.)

non-locked bulletin boards. The Fish and Wildlife Branch has a few extra large yellow dumpster stickers available if any facilities need them. We have plenty of metal picnic table signs, but need assistance in replacing missing ones and adding new ones onto new tables being produced. Mary mentioned that future requests for bear related signs are more than likely going to need to have funding attached.

Education: Brent and Lynda produced an educational “ear tag” to be placed on the bears being sold this year. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) students will be back in 2003 to participate in bear research to determine the amount of bear damage to conifers. The Interpretation division will continue to give bear talks to various groups during 2003. Greg will continue to give educational bear training sessions to NPS seasonal employees, CDPR employees, YCC, SCA and CCC members, and the volunteer trail crews during 2003. Due to the SOC move into downtown Orick, panel members discussed and suggested updating the old bear information poster currently located in the Orick post office.

Next meeting: Tentative date for the next bear panel meeting is Wednesday, October 22nd 2003, 9:00-12:00, at Prairie Creek.

Fall Meeting

December 3, 2003

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs

From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)

Subject: Fall Bear Panel Minutes, December 3rd, 2003

Attending: Jeff Bomke, Valerie Gizinski, Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Mary Read, Howard Sakai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: The draft 2003 Bear Management report was briefly discussed. The number of bear sightings reported in 2003 (118 total) was much lower than the 5 previous years average (@180). There were no reports of any serious bear-human interactions or property damage. However, there were 2 bear incidents reported during 2003. Bear “incidents” are currently defined as aggressive behavior towards humans, personal injury, property damage, bears in garbage, and bears obtaining human food. One bear was in the dumpster at the CCC-Requa compound, and another obtained food stored at the Wolf Creek fire cache. The panel members also discussed bear activity at Elk Prairie campground, the Redwood Creek trailhead area, Wolf Creek, Enderts beach and Hiouchi. There were no reports of the black bear observed along the highway 101 bypass during 2002, but there were 5 bears killed by vehicles during 2003. All employees (contractors, etc. too) need to report bear incidents (as defined above) in a timely manner, which helps immensely when it comes time to determine management actions and signing needs. Remember that wildlife incident reporting protocols are now located on each network drive at - \team\shdata\wildlife protocols, and the RNSP Bear Management Guidelines are on the “intranet” at General Announcements\Other\Wildlife Observation Reports.

Bear-proofing equipment and maintenance: Mike Goss has continued diligently replacing table signs throughout the park, which has brought him some local fame (see 11/25/03 Triplicate). Mike noted that signs in the north have been removed frequently. Various maintenance staff also assisted inventorying and fixing broken bear proof equipment during 2003. The bear-proof garbage cans at Wolf Creek fire cache still need to be bolted to the ground.

Funding: The NCRIA sold the “beanie bears” again this summer and raised more money to fund bear management needs (mostly I&E materials). NCRIA will be contacting Cathy Bonser to transfer the money to RNSP. The National Park will receive \$12,000 from natural cyclic maintenance funds, which will be

Appendix B. (cont.)

earmarked for replacing and repairing existing bear proof equipment. A \$21,000 request for natural cyclic maintenance funds in FY05 has been forwarded for competition. The CDPR request for funding bear proof equipment has been submitted in all possible places and various formats, but funding will probably not be available for several more fiscal years.

Signs and Bulletins: The Interpretation division and Fish and Wildlife staff used U.S. Fish and Wildlife funding to produce 100,000 “rack” cards that inform visitors about mountain lion, black bear, and marbled murrelet management issues and responsibilities. The rack cards will be distributed at all park visitor centers, kiosks, and also by interpretive staff during ranger “roves”.

Education: Greg will continue to give educational bear training sessions to RNSP employees, YCC, SCA and CCC members, and the volunteers during 2003. Panel members discussed again updating the old bear information poster located in the Orick post office. The Interpretation division will continue to inform visitors of bear issues.

Next meeting: Tentative date for the next bear panel meeting is Wednesday, April 14th 2004, 9:00-12:00, at South Operations Center.

Mountain lions are large, seldom seen inhabitants of these parks. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. No attacks on humans have occurred within the parks, but mountain lion sightings have increased over recent years. If you should be among the few people to see a lion, the following suggestions can help ensure a safe experience:

Prevent an encounter:

- Hike in groups.
- Keep children in sight; do not let them run ahead of you on the trail.
- Keep a clean camp.
- Be alert to your surroundings.
- Make noise while hiking.

If you meet a mountain lion:

- Do not run!
- Do not crouch or bend over.
- Remain calm, give the animal a chance to leave the area.
- Be aware of the animal's location and slowly back away.
- Stay together and pick up children immediately.
- If the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, and throw objects.
- If the animal attacks, fight back aggressively.

Bears, like all park animals, are wild. Inviting them into your picnic or camp—on purpose or accidentally—can result in damage to your equipment, you, or the bear. Bears are memory retentive and quickly grow accustomed to human foods. Wildlife managers may have to destroy bears that repeatedly visit areas where they encounter people. Please follow these precautions to save a bear:

- Keep a clean camp. A bear uses its nose to read your menu. Food odors will invite a bear to pay you a surprise visit.
- Store food in airtight containers or wrap it carefully. Use bear-proof lockers; when they are not available, lock food in the trunk of your vehicle—out of sight.
- Dispose of all garbage in bear-proof trash cans or pack it out.

Report all bear and lion sightings to a ranger immediately. Call (707) 464-6101 or stop by any park visitor center. A description of the animal, the location, date, time of day, behavior, and duration of sighting helps park managers protect visitors and wildlife.