



2002 BLACK BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Annual Progress Report

December 12, 2002

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 2002. The black bear research section was excluded from this report, as no black bear research was proposed or initiated within RNSP during 2002. The management section summarizes all important bear sightings and incidents, bear related meetings and education efforts, funding, known mortalities, and fiscal year 2003 priorities for black bear management within RNSP.

BEAR SIGHTINGS AND INCIDENTS

Wildlife Observation Database

There were 130 sightings (185 bears) of black bears reported on RNSP wildlife observation reporting forms during 2002 (Appendix A). Although there are many factors which can influence the number of bear sightings reported, the 2002 total was only 68% of the average reported annually during the previous five years (1997-2001; = 187). No sightings were reported for January and February. Seventy-eight percent of the observations were made during June through August, with the most (38) reports occurring in July (Figure 1). Seventy-six percent of the sightings were of a single bear, 9% involved 2 bears, 11% reported 3 bears, and 4% reported observing 4 bears.

Only 13% of the sightings occurred within RNSP north of the Klamath River (17 sightings, 17 bears). Forty percent of the sightings occurred (51 sightings, 85 bears) in the middle portion of RNSP, south of the Klamath River and excluding the Redwood Creek drainage. However, >20% of the sightings in the middle portion of RNSP were attributed to a single highly visible bear near Highway 101. Forty-four percent of the bear sightings occurred within the Redwood Creek drainage (69 sightings, 79 bears). Only 3% of the bear sightings occurred outside of the park boundaries (4 sightings, 4 bears).

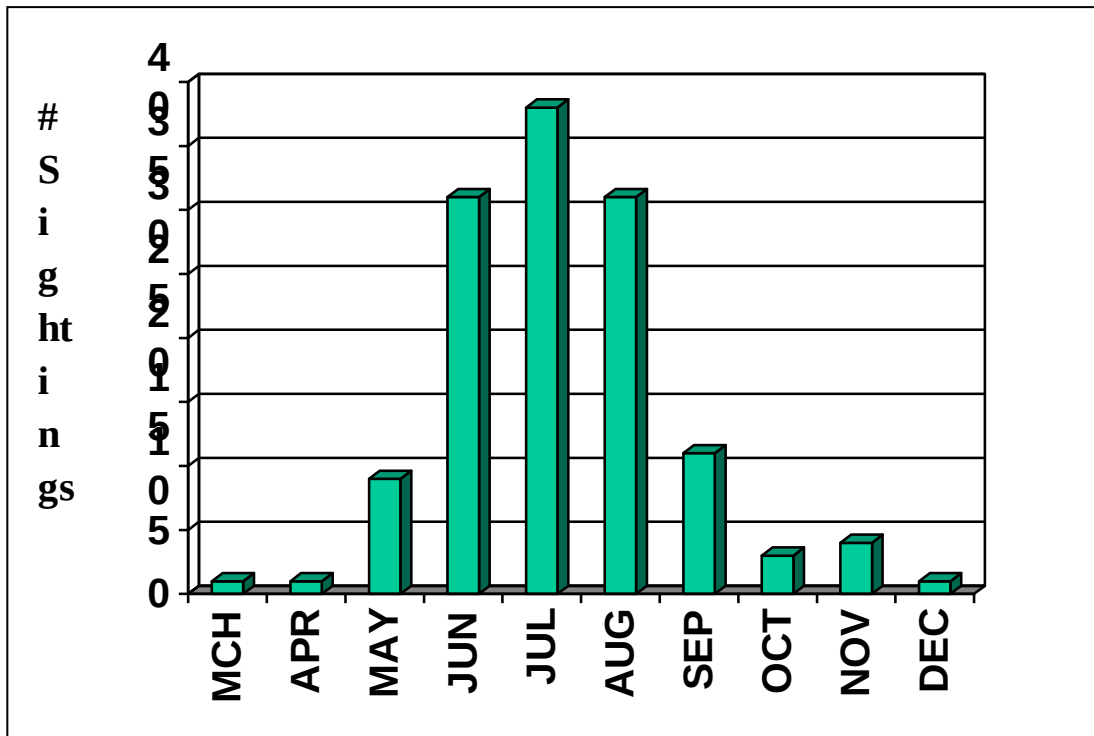


Figure 1. Number of bear sightings reported on RNSP wildlife observation cards, and month that the sighting occurred, during 2002 (total =130).

Campgrounds

Mill Creek: On June 27th visitors reported: “Heard bear crashing through bushes, looked up, saw bear head. Called to husband - there's a bear! - bear heard voice and saw people and ran back the way it had come. Husband tried to follow it but saw no sign of it.” This supposedly took place near a campsite. On June 28th visitor reported bear “licking water off tarp, stayed in campsite a while.” Could not determine which campsite this occurred at.

Miners Ridge: Report on August 4th of a black bear “in tree, checking out food locker.” There were 2 bears noted on observation card.

Gold Bluffs Beach: Report on September 26th of a single black bear “near Gold Bluffs campground, climbing up a tree.”

Jedediah Smith, Little Bald Hills, DeMartin, Flint Ridge, Butler Creek, Nickel Creek, Gold Bluffs Beach Environmental Camp, Redwood Creek (Elam, 44, and gravel bars), and Elk Prairie campgrounds had no reports of bear incidents during 2002.

Facilities and Housing Areas

Hiouchi Housing: No incidents, but several reports in July and August of a single black bear foraging on berries and crossing the road around the housing area. According to one employee living there, bear sign (scat) and bear was seen too frequently to report every time. Bear apparently was foraging on nearby blackberries and fruit in old orchard

Wolf Creek (education center, housing, fire cache): During the last week of July there were 4 reports of a single black bear near the Wolf Creek housing complex and NPS fire cache. On 1 occasion it was stripping bark off a redwood tree, and other time it was grazing near the houses. One park employee reported the bear approaching him near housing area, and the bear was not intimidated by employee when he yelled, honked vehicle horn and threw things. The employee eventually left the area. On July 22nd, a bear was photographed by a NPS ranger leaving the Wolf Creek fire cache by climbing over the fence. Apparently the bear had been inspecting a non-bear proof recycling can, which was subsequently removed. There was also a report of a bear with 1 cub near the Wolf Creek education center cabins.

Davison Ranch: From mid-July through September, a NPS VIP living in a trailer at Davison ranch reported several bears foraging in the apple trees and blackberry bushes at the Davison ranch. There was a female with 1 cub and single bear observed in the area. While the VIP saw the bears often, and sometimes at close range, the bears never acted aggressively or approached. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) members (≈ 10) were also camping at Davison Ranch for several weeks. The SCA's had a bear-proof garbage can and food lockers at their campsite. A bear did try to get into the garbage can once, but no other incidents (besides a missing candy bar) were reported.

South Operations Center: There were several reports of a single black bear foraging on natural foods (grass, fruit) around SOC in late June. On August 8th (9:00 p.m.) a single bear tipped over the dumpsters at SOC. The Ranger residing at SOC heard the noise and promptly hazed the bear away using horn and siren on ranger vehicle. The bear did get the doors of the dumpsters open by applying enough force to the door to bend and pull lockbar out of guides. Subsequently, the dumpsters were fitted with small locking clasps on the lockbars. A bear again tipped over the dumpsters on September 28th (p.m.), but could not get the doors open due to the installed clasps.

Roads, Trails, and Trailheads

Highway 101 Bypass: Around mid-July, the Fish and Wildlife Branch began receiving reports of a small black bear frequenting the highway 101 bypass, in the area immediately around the intersection of the northern entrance to the Newton B. Drury (NBD) parkway, and continuing south for approximately 3 miles (Figure 2). While there were only a few sightings reported during the last half of July, almost all of them involved a single black bear either approaching vehicles that had stopped (so that people could observe bear), or a bear foraging along highway that was not bothered by peoples presence. The number of reported sightings increased dramatically during August (almost daily), and many of them involved reports of the bear being fed by observers.

CDPR and NPS rangers, and Fish and Wildlife branch staff began hazing the bear in late July and early August, in an attempt to discourage the bear from frequenting the highway and approaching vehicles and people. The hazing actions included horn honking and siren blaring, throwing rocks, deploying pepper spray, and hitting the bear with paint balls. While most of the hazing actions were effective at immediately deterring the bear, their effect was short lived, and the bear was typically back along the highway within hours (if not minutes) of the hazing. Because of the nature of the habituation and location of the activity (e.g. a new group of visitors had the potential to come along every minute and keep approaching and/or feeding the bear; and in fact several “food bowls” were found along highway corridor), the Fish and Wildlife branch decided to catch the bear and mark it permanently. If the captured bear was the offending individual, it would then be destroyed, as it posed a serious safety threat to highway travelers (e.g. cars were stopping and starting along highway 101 in dangerous places).

One culvert trap was set near MP 134.5 on August 20th, and another was set near the NBD highway 101 intersection on August 26th. Both traps were closed on September 3rd, after a total of 16 trap-nights of operation. A female black bear was caught near MP 134.5 on September 1st. The bear was estimated to be 2 years old and weigh 150 pounds. A large orange/red plastic cattle-type ear tag was placed in the bears left ear. There were several reports of a bear with an ear tag observed along the highway after September 1st, exhibiting the same types of habituated behavior noted earlier. Several attempts were made to euthanize the bear in the week following capture, but safety considerations (for public and employees) made it very difficult. On September 9th the Fish and Wildlife branch received a report that the tagged bear had been hit by a vehicle, and it was unknown whether the bear had survived the collision.

During the following 4 weeks the tagged bear was reported along the highway 101 bypass. However, the sightings were far less frequent, and the reports did not always involve the bear approaching cars or getting fed, even though cars would still stop when the bear was visible. Since mid-October there have been no further reports of the tagged bear along the highway 101 bypass. An interesting note from the observation data is that there were several reports of a bear walking along the NBD at both Ossagon and Ah-pah trailheads, which are both near the area of the tagged bears activity along highway 101.

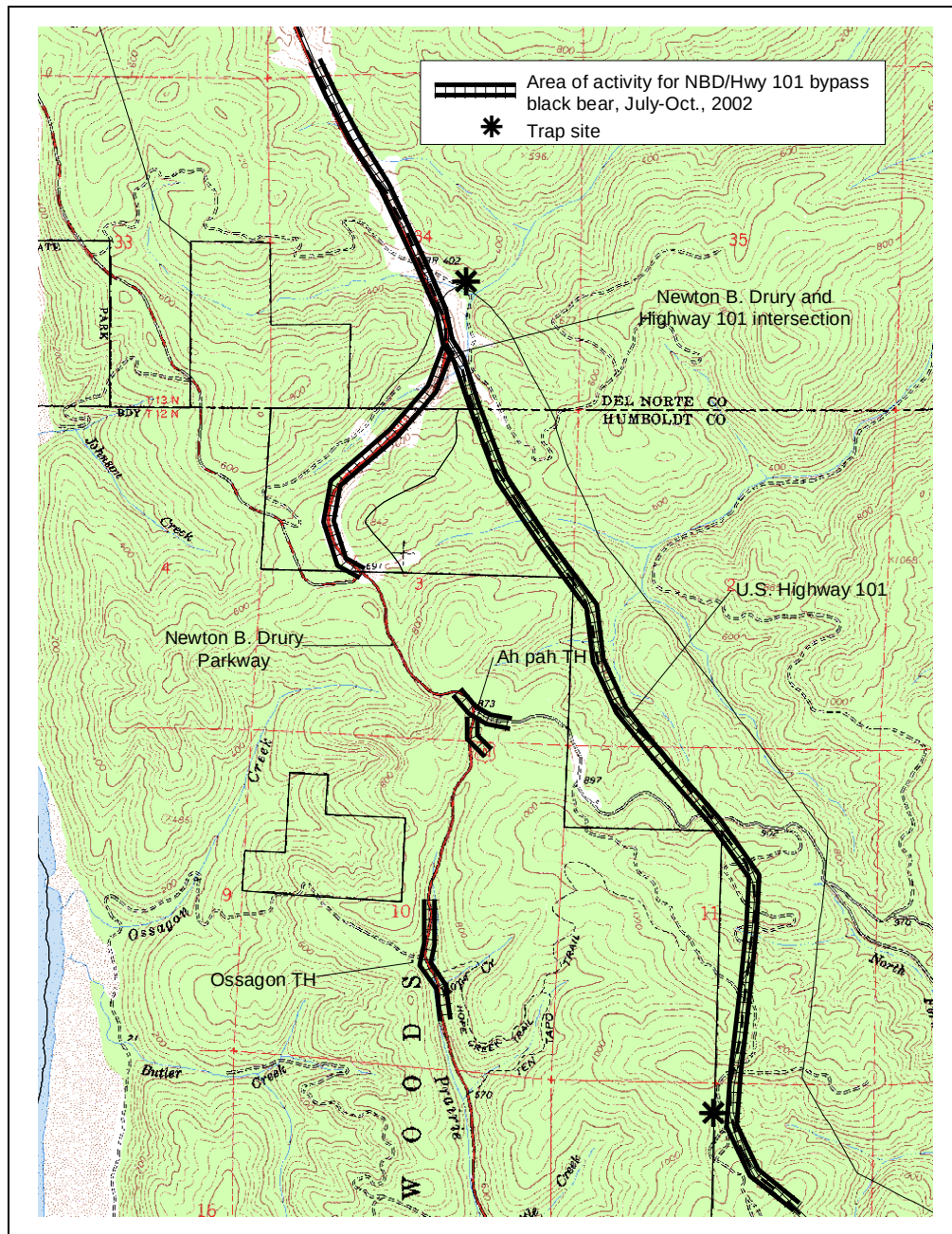


Figure 2. Approximate location of black bear activity along Highway 101 bypass and Newton B. Drury parkway, July-October, 2002.

Rolfs / Berry Glen / Redwood Creek Trailhead: There were 8 reports of a family group of 3 bears (1 sow and 2 cubs; Figure 3) between Rolf's restaurant and the lower Redwood Creek trailhead. Most of the reports were during July and August, although one occurred in early November. 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 near many human occupied areas (e.g. houses, buildings, work sites).

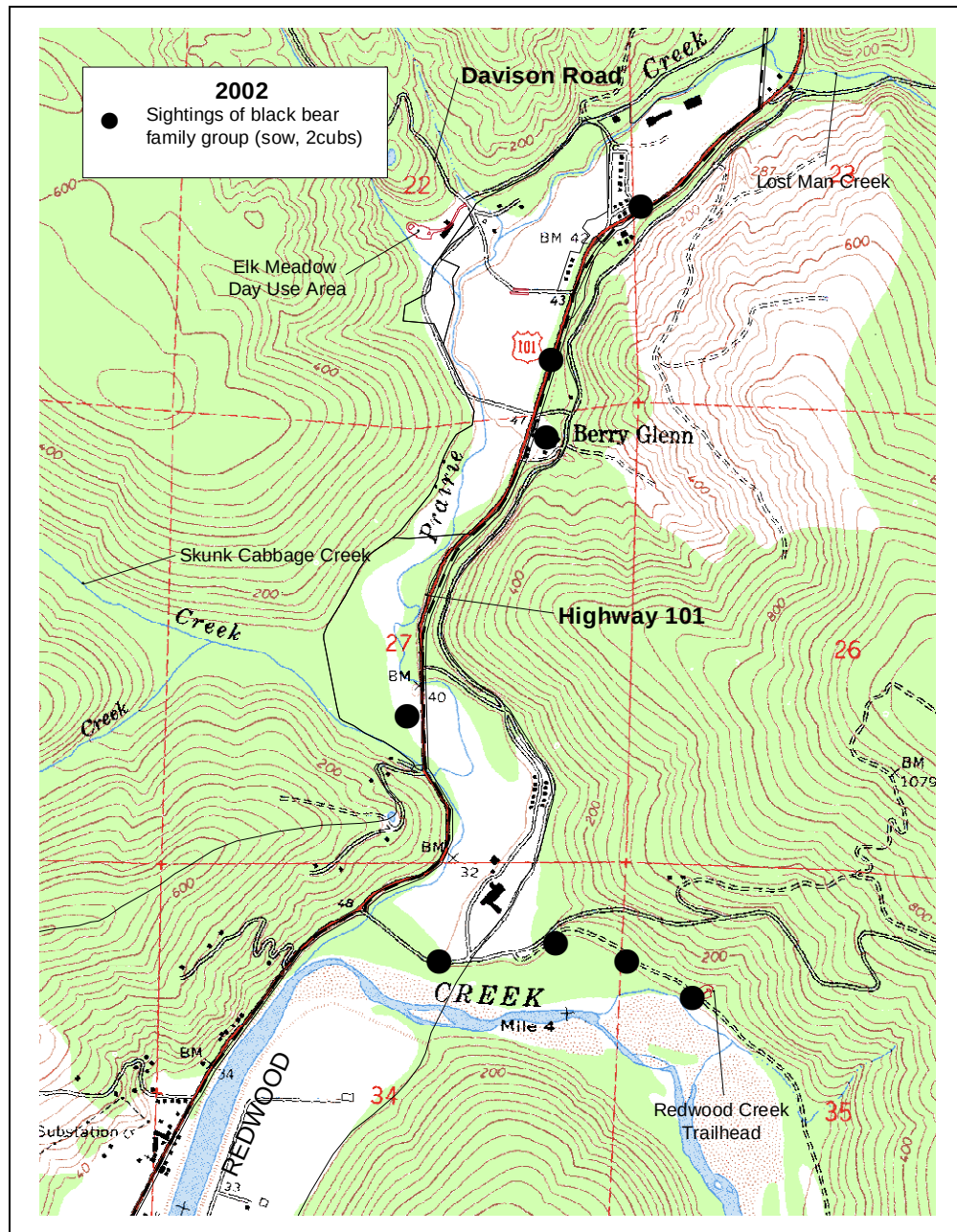


Figure 3. Approximate location of black bear family group (1 sow, 2 cubs) along Highway 101 north of Orick, July-August, and November, 2002.

MEETINGS

The RNSP Bear Panel members met during both April and December 2002 (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 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 2002.

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. Greg Holm also presented bear safety and reporting information at the annual CDPR staff meeting. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) students participated in preliminary bear research to determine the amount of bear damage to conifers at 3 locations near the Whiskey 40 and along the Bald Hills road. OMSI students spent 3 days surveying 0.10 hectare plots in different habitats (old growth, 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

The NPS sign shop produced many more replacement metal picnic table signs (both day use and campground types) and some large dumpster stickers as well. Through the service learning program, Lynda and Jim Wheeler solicited Del Norte school students to perform the picnic table sign (and other bear equipment) inventory during the spring of 2002 at Jedediah Smith campground and other north district locations. A large number of warning signs (for both species) were laminated and distributed to central locations, and the bear and lion general information signs have been posted in both the northern and southern portions of RNSP (see appendix C)

FUNDING

During 2002, 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 informational and educational signs within the state parks. Approximately \$250.00 was raised for this fund through the NCRIA program. Other funding mechanisms were also discussed during both Bear Panel meetings (see Appendix B). Although small 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 of the remaining bear proof equipment needed at several visitor sites within RNSP. The Fish and Wildlife Branch also paid (\$55) to print more bear informational warning signs for posting on park bulletin boards.

MORTALITIES

There was only 1 reported bear mortality during 2002. On October 2nd, 2002 the Fish and Wildlife branch received a report of a black bear getting hit and killed on highway 101, near Jedediah Smith state park. It apparently was a small bear, possibly a juvenile.

FY 2003 PRIORITIES

- ❖ Monitor Highway 101 bypass and northern section of Newton B. Drury parkway for any human conditioned bear activity.
- ❖ 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 2002.

Date	#	Activity	Location
3/26/2002	2	Running uphill away from road >100 away	Long Ridge Road, Oak Woodland
4/26/2002	1	Running across road	101 South of Klamath (on Road)
5/2/2002	1	Ran across road	South End of Elk Prairie in Trees Near Wolf Creek Road Entrance
5/10/2002	1	Climbing tree	Redwood Creek Trail
5/13/2002	1	Running up steep hillside from road	Old 101 Behind Freshwater Lagoon
5/13/2002	2	Running off road	Road Leading to Coyote Rock, Just Before Gravel Pit
5/21/2002	1	Running away	Westside Access Just South of Gate
5/23/2002	3	Feeding on grass	Grassland Prior to Oak Woodland That Precedes Lyons Ranch Gate
5/25/2002	2	In the act of physical love	Doloson Prairie Trail
5/25/2002	4	Climbed a tree	Redwoods North of Prairie Creek Trail
5/26/2002	1	Ran across parkway	Near Wolf Creek Road
6/5/2002	1	Running	Upper M-Line - on Road
6/5/2002	1	Peering down at her	Soc Front Parking Area, By Apple Trees
6/6/2002	1	Running on road	3.8 Miles From Simpson Gate on West Side Access Rd
6/6/2002	1	Feeding	About 1 Mile South of Newton B. Drury intersection
6/11/2002	4	Running across road	Newton B. Drury Senic Parkway
6/12/2002	1	Running on road	West Side Access Rd. Mp?
6/12/2002	1	Ran off road	West Side Access Rd. Mp?
6/13/2002	1	Running across road	Between Freshwater and Stone Lagoon
6/15/2002	1		Tall Trees Trailhead
6/15/2002	1	Running across bald hills road	Approxiamately 9 Miles East of 101 on Bald Hills Road
6/17/2002	1	Walking and foraging in grass	Near Coyote Rock
6/18/2002	1	By the water	on Smith River Gravel Bar Near Jed Smith Park
6/20/2002	1		Route 101 3 Miles South of Visitor Center
6/20/2002	2	Running down road	on Upper M-Line
6/21/2002	1	Tearing bark off tree with front claw while standing	Small Creek Feeding Redwood Creek Near Tall Tree
6/21/2002	1	Running uphill	Soc
6/22/2002	1	Walking towards river bank, saw person but didn't show aggression	River Bank Area at The End of Huffard Road
6/23/2002	1	Running at side of road	Alder Camp Road
6/23/2002	1	Feeding on grass and weeds	Gravel Road to Tall Trees Trailhead
6/25/2002	1	Running off gravel into woods	3 Miles Past Gate to Tall Trees Trail

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
6/26/2002	3	Eating along side of trail	Lost Man Creek Trail/ Holter Ridge Bike Trail, Near Park Boundary
6/26/2002	1	Ran off into the bushes	0.5 Miles From Lost Man Creek Picnic Area
6/26/2002	1	Walking across hwy 101	5 Miles South of Klamath
6/26/2002	1	Running up road, back into forest	on Road to Tall Trees Trail
6/27/2002	1	Crashed throgh bushes, looking through branches	Mill Creek Campground
6/27/2002	1	Feeding on flower heads	Soc Meadow 200m North of Ranger Residence
6/28/2002	1	Grazing	Prairie East of Soc
6/28/2002	1	Cub running along driveway ducked into woods	1/2 Mile Up Road From Tall Trees Trailhead
6/28/2002	1	Licking water off tarp. Stayed in campsite a while.	Mill Creek Campground
6/28/2002	1	Running towards ocean from the gravel pit	Hwy 101at Milepost 13, at Turnout
6/29/2002	1		Cross 199 From Jed Smith Over Hwy
7/1/2002	1	Standing in middle of road	Jed Smith - 1640 Hwy 199 - Government Housing
7/1/2002	4		Bald Hills Road Near Lbj Cot.
7/2/2002	3		at Entrance to Redwood Creek Parking Lot.
7/3/2002	1	Crossing road uphill quickly	Little Bald Hills Trailhead
7/3/2002	1	Bear was on the rd way on the way in	By The River ? Redw Ck?
7/3/2002	1		Mp 115.55, Hwy 101 (Between Ric and Hilton Road)
7/4/2002	1	Bear crossed road in front of me, stopped, stood up and ran into forest.	Mill Creek Campground
7/4/2002	1	Running across road	Tall Trees Road
7/7/2002	1	Walking	Cresent Beach - Near Bathrooms
7/8/2002	1	Crossing bald hills rd south	Just North of Lbj Grove Near Switchback
7/9/2002	1	Looking for food	Klamath Overlook Trail
7/11/2002	1	Running through forest	Just East of Headwaters of Ganns S. Creek
7/12/2002	1	Crossing road- moving from elk camp prairie to east side of bald hills rd	Elk Camp Ranger Residence
7/12/2002	4	Foraging	Gans Prarie, Bald Hills Road
7/12/2002	1	Playing in prarie grass	1000 Yards West of Elk Camp
7/13/2002	1	Foraging on blackberries	Otherside of Redwood Creek, Near Meadows
7/13/2002	1	Walked down behind the seat and caught everone's attention	Brush Dance Area at The Mouth of The Klamath
7/15/2002	1	Running away	Redwood Creek Trail, 50 M South of 44 Creek
7/17/2002	1	Walking cautiously across road	Aa2 at Lower B500, Larry Dam and Lost Man Creek
7/18/2002	1	Looked around and then ran away, up the hill	101 Overpass, 4 Lanes Coming Down off It (So. Nbd)
7/22/2002	1	Ran across the road, heading towards bushes	End of Enderts Beach Road, at Stop Sign
7/23/2002	4	Up a tree behind cabins	Wolf Creek Outdoor School

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
7/23/2002	1	Seen on trail	After Redwood Creek Bridge (Near The Loop) on Trail
7/24/2002	1	Running across freeway 101 east to west	Third of A Mile South of The Del Norte County Line
7/24/2002	1	Looked at us	Smith River Trail
7/25/2002	3		Between Redwood Creek Parking and Ball Hills Road
7/26/2002	2	Grazing in creek next to parking lot	Wolf Creek Housing
7/27/2002	2		Redwood Highway at Parkway
7/27/2002	1		Davison Road, East Streelow Trail
7/28/2002	1	Wandering through alders	Redwood Bypass at N. intersection With N.B. Drury
7/28/2002	2	Climbing apple tree and eating apples	Davidson Ranch
7/28/2002	1	Ran across road and then stopped and looked back towards other side	A Couple Miles Down From First Picnic Table (Ric)
7/28/2002	2	In apple tree	Davison Ranch House
7/29/2002	1	Running through grass	Below Upper End of Rock Creek Road
7/30/2002	1	Dead on road	Just So. of Old State Hwy, Road Sholder
7/30/2002	1	Lurking around forest scaring jason	Wolf Creek Housing Area
7/31/2002	2	Foraging in orchard	Davidson Ranch
7/31/2002	2		3 Miles West of 101 on Davison Rd.
8/1/2002	3	Foraging	Riparian Zone of Redwood Creek Trailhead
8/2/2002	1	Walking to apple tree	Davidson Ranch
8/3/2002	1	Walking toward visitor's car	off-Ramp at North End of Parkway
8/4/2002	3	In tree, checking out food locker	Miner's Ridge Backpacking Camp
8/7/2002	1	Did not move away from car. Stood up and put paws on window	Quarter Mile From North Nbd/101 Overpass
8/7/2002	1	Crossing highway 101 to enderts beach	Highway 101
8/7/2002	1	Walking across enderts beach road toward berry patches by ocean	Enderts Beach Road West of Cbec Driveway
8/8/2002	1	Standing still moved it's head	Next to Stout Grove at Jed Smith
8/8/2002	1	Raiding dumpsters	South Operations Center
8/8/2002	1	Eating berries	Hiouchi Dorm Highway 199
8/9/2002	1	Ran across road & uphill we honked and it stopped & looked at u	Along Tall Trees Access Road on Hillside Within 1 Mile of Gate
8/9/2002	1	Knocking apples from tree, eating on ground	
8/10/2002	1	Walking north on west side of bypass	Just North of Ah-Pah Rd.
8/10/2002	1	Walking on grassy slope	Summit of Bypass
8/12/2002	3		Near Lumber Mill off 101 (Simpson Mill at Bottom of Bald Hills Rd
8/13/2002	1	Walking slowly down road	Newton B. Drury Senic Parkway 3/4 Threw
8/13/2002	1	Just crossing freeway toward ocean	top of Hill on Freeway (Hwy 101)

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
8/15/2002	1	First seen walking s along e side of parkway	Ah-Pah Trailhead
8/16/2002	1	Walking across road	Cbec Road toward Overlook
8/19/2002	1	Sitting in berry bushes then ran uphill	Redwood Creek Trail About 3/4 Miles From Trailhead
8/19/2002	3		Prairie Creek Road 300 Yds North of Entrance of Campground
8/21/2002	1	Hungry, scratched a lot	101 North of Rolf's & South of Parkway on Westside
8/21/2002	3	Running across road	1/4 Mile North of Davison Ranch
8/25/2002	1	Walked side on roadway	Near Ossagon Creek Trail Head
8/25/2002	3	Mother in front, cubs behind crossing 101 e-w.	1/2 Way Btwn Skunk Cabbage Trailhead & Davison Prairie Bridge
8/26/2002	1	Crossing hwy 101 heading west	Hwy 101 South ' Seawood Drive' Exit
8/26/2002	1	Entering woods as i drove by, did not get a good look	on Ramp to 101 From Prairie Creek Heading North
8/27/2002	1	Standing beside the road	Hwy 101 Bypass Near Red Barn Area
8/30/2002	1	Crossing rd	1mi South of Prairieck on 101
8/30/2002	3	Observed approx. 3 min's foraging for food in forest edge	Redwood Creek Behind Tall Trees Trail
8/30/2002	3	Crossing hwy 101 frowm w to e	Hwy 101 Between Berry Glen and Rolphs
9/4/2002	1	Jumping over guard rail	Mile Post 136
9/5/2002	2		Prairie Ck Trail
9/8/2002	1	Running across rd	S. of Walker Rd
9/12/2002	1	Crossing hwy 101	1/2mi B/F Ric
9/15/2002	2		Between Orick and Davison Rd
9/16/2002	1		N. End of Parkway
9/17/2002	1	Walking on road	Wsa Rd
9/17/2002	1	Eating blk berries	
9/21/2002	1		Near Ric
9/26/2002	1	Walking up freeway hillside	Mi. Marker 136.26
9/26/2002	1	Climbing up a tree	Near Gold Bluffs Campground
10/2/2002	1	Running	Near Coyote Ck Rock
10/18/2002	1	Looking for berries	Lyons Ranch
10/23/2002	3	Running across rd	1/2 Mi Up Alder Camp Rd From Old Bridge
11/6/2002	3	Hanging around trees by building	New Purple Barn/House at Berry Glen
11/21/2002	1		Copper Ck Burn Unit
11/21/2002	1	Up a lg tan oak	Lyons Ranch
11/30/2002	1	Ambling across road slowly while we were on patrol vehicle	Se of Bald Hills Ranger Residence on Bald Hills Road
12/5/2002	1	Running away from me	Near Coyote Creek barn

Appendix B. Minutes of the Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 Bear Panel meetings.

Spring Meeting

April 17, 2002

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs

From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)

Subject: Spring Bear Panel Minutes, April 17th, 2002

Attending: Jeff Bomke, Corky Farley, Valerie Gizinski, Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Lynda Mealue, Mary Read, Phil Rovai, Howard Sakai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: The 2001 annual Bear Management report was distributed and briefly discussed. The number of bear sightings reported in 2001 (169 total) was similar to previous years (@150), and there were no reports of any serious bear-human interactions or property damage. All employees, contractors, etc., still need to report bear observations in a timely manner, which helps immensely when it comes time to determine management actions and signing needs. The Fish and Wildlife Branch also needs to know in a timely manner when and where dead bears are found within the RNSP (e.g. Jed Smith incident). The kiosk and visitor center wildlife reporting protocols (“Procedures for Reporting Wildlife Incidents and Bear and Mountain Lion Sightings”) were discussed, and will be re-distributed again this spring and possibly put on a shared network drive for parkwide access.

Bear-proofing equipment and maintenance: Mike Goss has been working on designing a stable platform for 1 small bear proof garbage can to be placed temporarily at Davison Ranch to help accommodate seasonal residents there. The Panel members discussed the need for bear-proof/wildlife-proof trash containers to be incorporated into the Freshwater Spit DCP. New bear boxes will be installed at Nickel Creek campground (see below). The Panel also discussed the possibility of getting a dumpster placed at the Wolf Creek fire cache, and Greg will follow up. The dumpster that is supposed to be in the bear-proof cage at the NPS housing unit at Requa will be put back into the cage soon (Mike promised) to serve the people that are and will be living there.

Funding: The NCRIA sold all the “beanie bears” and raised \$232.21 to fund bear management activities (e.g. signs or equipment maintenance). The funds have been placed into an account and most of it will be used to produce more metal picnic table signs. Unfortunately, the distributor will no longer be carrying these bears. However, Brent Critch (NCRIA) found a replacement bear, which will allow the program to continue. RNSP obtained \$3,000 to replace the 5 bear proof foodlockers at Nickel Creek campground this year. RNSP still needs approximately \$110,000 in bear-proof

Appendix B. (cont.)

equipment parkwide. The project to complete bear proofing of RNSP is entered into PMIS and is Park approved, with an additional \$12,000 submitted to replace aging equipment. A CDPR request for funding this equipment has been submitted, but any possible money will not be available until after July. A few funding requests to private groups have been sent, however they have been unsuccessful to this point. Greg is working on a revised proposal for private funding sources.

Signs and Bulletins: Mary Read will produce replacement table signs with mylar covering in time to be placed before the visitor season picks up again. Lynda has solicited volunteers from Del Norte schools to do the table sign (and other bear equipment) inventory this spring. The panel reviewed the bear and lion warning signs one more time, and discussed implications of the NPS messaging plan. Greg will continue working with Interpretation to help facilitate consistent bear and lion information on bulletin boards around the park. We now have some very informative and attractive bear and lion general information and warning signs to be put up on park bulletin boards, and Mary will help in producing signs that will last on a bulletin board in our climate. More warning signs (for both species), are being laminated and will be distributed to central locations soon.

Education: Greg will be giving educational bear training sessions to NPS seasonal employees, CDPR employees, YCC, and CCC comets. Permanent personnel will also be responsible for relaying this information to seasonal employees, contractors, etc., that don't attend training. Interpretation continues to give bear talks to various groups.

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

Fall Meeting

December 11, 2002

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs

From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)

Subject: Fall Bear Panel Minutes, December 11th, 2002

Attending: Jeff Bomke, Brent Critch (NCRIA), Valerie Gizinski, Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Lynda Mealue, Mary Read, Phil Rovai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: The draft 2002 annual Bear Management report was briefly discussed. The number of bear sightings reported in 2002 (130 total) was much lower than previous years average (@180), and there were no reports of any serious

bear-human interactions or property damage. However, the panel members discussed the numerous sightings and activities of the black bear observed along the northern section of highway 101 bypass and Newton B. Drury parkway. There was also some bear activity at SOC, Wolf Creek, Davison Ranch, the Hiouchi housing area, and at three RNSP campgrounds. Once again, all employees (contractors, etc. too) need to report bear incidents and significant sightings in a timely manner, which helps immensely when it comes time to determine management actions and signing needs. The kiosk and visitor center wildlife reporting protocols (“Procedures for Reporting Wildlife Incidents and Bear and Mountain Lion Sightings”) are now located on each network drive at :\\team\\shdata\\wildlife protocols. The RNSP Bear Management Guidelines are now posted on the RNSP intranet at General Announcements\\Other\\Wildlife Observation Reports. The Fish and Wildlife Branch also needs to know in a timely manner when and where bear mortalities are found within RNSP.

Bear-proofing equipment and maintenance: Mike Goss helped to get a stable platform for 1 small bear proof garbage can that was placed at Davison Ranch to accommodate seasonal residents there. Apparently the bear(s) paid several visits to that particular garbage can, but could not tip it over this time. New bear boxes were installed at Nickel Creek campground this year, and are quite large. The Panel also discussed whether there is a need to put a dumpster at the Wolf Creek fire cache, as the bear proof equipment currently there has not been properly installed yet. The dumpster that was missing from the bear-proof cage at the NPS housing unit at Requa was put back early last summer and served the people that were living there.

Funding: The NCRIA sold all the “beanie bears” again this summer and raised approximately \$250.00 to fund bear management activities (e.g. bear related interpretation and education materials). Brent Critch found a new source for the bears last spring, as the type that was sold in 2001 was discontinued. The new bears not only raise considerably more money for the fund (per bear), the public likes them very much. Brent, Lynda, and Greg will produce an educational “ear tag” to be placed on the bears before the next panel meeting. The funds from 2001 were used to produce more metal picnic table signs and some dumpster signs as well. The panel discussed approaching RNHA about implementing the same type of program. RNSP still needs approximately \$110,000 in bear-proof equipment to complete the parkwide bear proofing goal. The project to complete bear proofing of RNSP 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 due to the state budget. Greg is working on a revised proposal for private funding sources, and hopes to continue pursuing funding from a variety of sources during the coming year.

Signs and Bulletins: Mary Read produced many more replacement table signs (both day use and campground types) and the ones that were not used this year are now located at SOC (F&W branch). Through the service learning program, Lynda and Jim Wheeler solicited Del Norte school students to perform the picnic table sign (and other bear equipment) inventory last spring. We now have some very informative and attractive

Appendix B. (cont.)

bear and lion general information and warning signs to be put up on park bulletin boards. A large number of warning signs (for both species) were laminated and distributed to central locations, and are also located at SOC (F&W branch). The bear and lion general information signs have been posted in both the northern and southern portions of RNSP. However, some discrepancies in format were noted between the two areas. Greg will continue working with Interpretation to help facilitate consistent bear and lion information on bulletin boards around the park. Mary also produced more large dumpster stickers, and the panel briefly discussed some implications of the NPS messaging plan.

Education: Throughout 2002, Greg gave educational bear training sessions to NPS seasonal employees, CDPR employees, YCC, SCA and CCC members, and the volunteer trail crews. Phil noted that permanent personnel (especially supervisors) are also responsible for relaying this information to seasonal employees (including contractors, etc.) that don't have the opportunity to attend any bear related training or talks. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) students participated in bear research to determine the amount of bear damage to conifers at 3 locations near the Whiskey 40 and along the Bald Hills road. The Interpretation division continued to give bear talks to various groups during 2002.

Next meeting: Tentative date for the next bear panel meeting is Wednesday, April 2nd, 9:00-12:00, at Prairie Creek

WARNING!



BLACK BEARS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED AT CLOSE RANGE IN THIS AREA.

When hiking in the parks, please follow these precautionary measures:

Hike in groups, make noise while hiking, and keep children close by.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR:

- ◆ Remain calm—give the animal a chance to leave the area.
- ◆ Be aware of the bear's location and slowly back away—*do not run!*
- ◆ Stay together—pick up small children immediately.
- ◆ *If the bear approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, throw objects.*
- ◆ If the bear attacks, fight back aggressively.



REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
Removal of this sign is illegal and may result in injury to others.

Date Posted _____



Bear & Lion Country

Prevent an encounter:

-  **Hike in groups**
-  **Make noise while hiking**
-  **Keep children close by**



If you meet a bear or a lion:

-  **Remain calm—give the animal a chance to leave the area.**
-  **Be aware of the animal's location and slowly back away—DO NOT RUN!**
-  **Stay together—pick up small children immediately.**
-  **If the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, throw objects.**
-  **If the animal attacks, fight back aggressively.**