

BLACK BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

1999 Annual Progress Report
Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP)
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BEAR RESEARCH

No research activities for black bear biology were proposed or initiated in 1999.

BEAR MANAGEMENT

Introduction

Black bear management in 1999 focused on:

- 1) Two meetings of the RNSP Bear Panel (April and December), 1999 (minutes attached).
- 2) Information notices and repairs-Support Staff replaced signs on picnic tables at campsites and day-use areas with the new aluminum notices. The old plastic notices were melting from stoves/lanterns being placed on them and were becoming illegible. The new notices were placed in the middle of all the tables, which hopefully will keep them clear of heat sources. Food locker stickers at backcountry sites (and table notices) were checked and replaced as necessary by the Ranger staff. New dumpster stickers with a bright orange background were placed at Freshwater Spit, California Conservation Corps (CCC) dorm area, and Wolf Cr. Outdoor School (WCOS) dumpsters. New lockbar latches were placed on all the Freshwater Spit dumpsters. Rodney Poole of the support staff modified WCOS dumpsters after bear incidents at the school (see attached dossier). Additional pack out trash signs were placed at trailheads/picnic areas without trash facilities. Funding was obtained from the donated funds account towards purchase of table notices and installation hardware for bear proof containers.
- 3) Education-continuing bear/lion general wildlife orientations for new CCC members. Twelve orientations were given this year. Also, F&W staff inspects the grounds for food and garbage compliance opportunistically. Much improvement has been noted this year. Some non bear-proof containers were still outside the dorm areas, creating a raccoon attractant. CCC staff was notified that these must be placed indoors at all times. Fish and Wildlife staff made regular follow-ups on problem bears at Jed Smith and Prairie Creek/WCOS to educate staff and visitors (see dossiers). Orientations were given to seasonal interpretation staff, YCC crews, and volunteer trail crews. F&W Branch wrote a news release for publication in the Crescent City newspaper informing the residents in the Jed Smith area (primarily Hiouchi) not to leave food out that may attract bears.
- 4) New bear proof cans-working with the F&W Branch, support staff poured concrete pads and installed new trash and recycle bear proof containers at visitor sites throughout RNSP.
- 5) F&W Branch wrote funding proposals for submission to numerous private and corporate foundations seeking financial support to finish bear proofing the remaining visitor sites in RNSP. We received \$10,000 from the JM Long Foundation, which will be utilized for food lockers at Mill creek campground. Recently, the California

State Parks received funding for purchasing a major portion of trash and recycle containers in RNSP (see Bear Panel minutes). F&W Branch will again submit proposals to foundations, although seeking a much-reduced funding amount to complete bear proofing in the parks. With substantially less money required, we might receive some favorable replies next year.

Bear incidents and responses

- On March 20, a bear was reported on the CCC grounds. According to CCC staff, no food reward was obtained.
- On March 23, a bear broke into a car at the Skunk Cabbage trailhead (through the car's window) and obtained food from the vehicle. Ranger Barland-Liles investigated and found bear fur and muddy prints inside the vehicle. The vehicle owner was given a verbal warning about leaving food inside an unoccupied vehicle.
- Bears obtained food rewards at Prairie Creek Campground/WCOS and the Jed Smith Campground (see attached dossiers).

FY 2000 priorities

*All visitor sites need to be inspected regularly for condition of:

Table notices

Dumpster stickers and lockbar latches

Food locker stickers and condition of locker at the backcountry sites

When food lockers are broken or contain trash, a system needs to be in place to repair in the field or replace the locker; pack out trash from the lockers