



BLACK BEAR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Annual Progress Report

December 20, 2001

Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP)
Greg Holm, Wildlife Biologist

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes black bear research and management activities that occurred within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) during 2001. The black bear research section was excluded from this report, as no black bear research was proposed or initiated within RNSP during 2001. The management section summarizes all important bear sightings and incidents, known mortalities, bear related meetings and education, funding, and fiscal year 2002 priorities related to black bear management within RNSP.

BEAR MANAGEMENT

BEAR INCIDENTS AND SIGHTINGS

Wildlife Observation Database

There were 169 sightings of black bears reported on RNSP wildlife observation reporting forms during 2001 (Appendix A). Although there are many factors which can influence the number of bear sightings reported, the 2001 total was 87% of the average reported annually during the previous five years (1996-2000; n =195). No sightings were reported from January through March, and December. However, there were reports of bear tracks in January and March. Seventy-nine percent of the observations were made during May through July, with the most (65) reports occurring in June (Figure 1). Eighty-six percent of the sightings were of a single bear, 12% involved 2 bears, and 2% reported 3 bears.

Only 8% of the sightings occurred within RNSP north of the Klamath River (13 sightings, 14 bears). Thirty-three percent of the sightings occurred (58 sightings, 63 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 (94 sightings, 117 bears). However, 56 of the sightings within the Redwood Creek drainage were attributed to a single highly visible cub residing along the Tall trees Grove access road. Only 3% of the bear sightings occurred outside of the park boundaries (4 sightings, 4 bears).

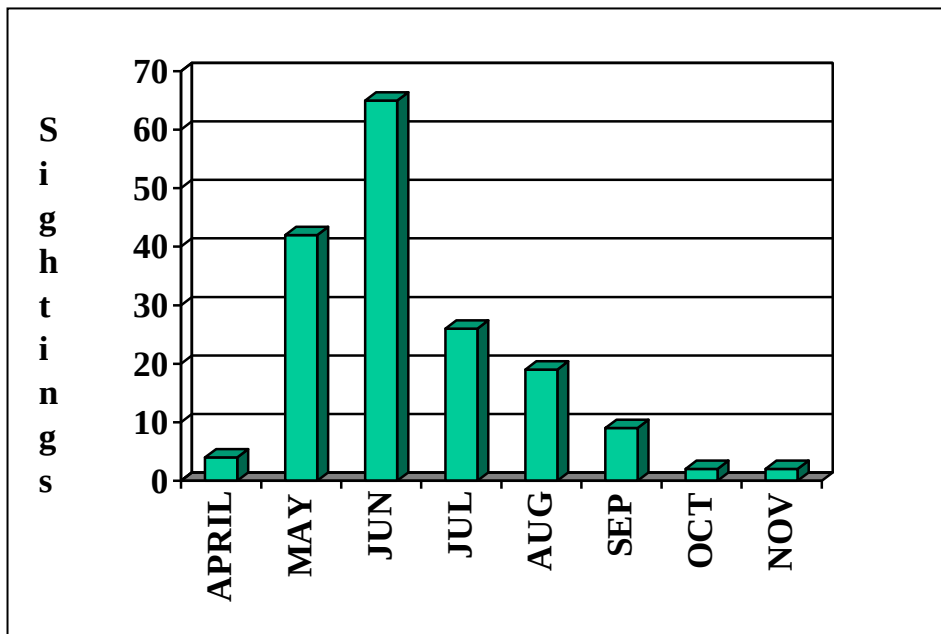


Figure 1. Number of bear sightings reported on RNSP wildlife observation cards, and month that the sighting occurred, during 2001 (total =169).

Campgrounds

Jed Smith

- No reports of black bears in the campground
- On June 28th, visitor reported that a friend had been roaming Stout Grove and came across a bear that growled at her and then moved away.
- On July 12th, heard story of person claiming to have actually pet a small bear cub on the Smith River near the 299 bridge, within the previous week.

Mill Creek

- In July there were several sightings over 2-3 weeks of a black bear near the brush pile road on the north end of the campground, but the bear(s) always ran away when it was aware that people were approaching.

DeMartin

- On August 23rd had report of bear sniffing around a tent at night. Inspected site next day, but nothing abnormal looking and no bear sign.
- On August 28th, had report of bear following visitor for 1/2 hour on coastal trail north of DeMartin campground. Person was hiking where old growth groves start when he ran into large dog-sized bear. When first sighted the bear stood up and also growled at him. The visitor growled back and waved a stick at the bear. The bear then followed hiker for about 1/2 hour as he proceeded north. The hiker stopped and left bagels and some sandwich cookies on the trail, and the bear stopped following him after that. Visitor did not get good look at color of bear. Fish and Wildlife staff picked up uneaten food on trail the following day and saw no bear(s).

Gold Bluffs Beach

- There was one report of a bear frequenting the hike/bike campground at Ossagon/Butler Creek in August.
- On June 28th, there were bear tracks in the southwest portion of Gold Bluffs campground. The tracks traveled into several of the campsites (several of which were occupied the previous night) and then proceeded south along beach for approximately 2 miles. There were no subsequent reports of missing food or property damage from campers in that portion of the campground.

Elk Prairie

- There were several reports of a small bear near the RV sewage dump station from July 20-23rd, however everyone noted that bear ran away from visitors when spotted.
- On July 28th, there was a report of a bear that bit into empty plastic container and moved a couple of things around a campsite. But after finding nothing it then left going towards campground #55.

Other Facilities

Tall Trees Road

- A single black bear cub was reported along the access road to the Tall trees grove >50 times from May 27th through June 29th. There were some reports in early June that the bear was approaching vehicles very closely and was not easily discouraged from leaving the side of the road. Visitor centers throughout the park notified visitors to the Tall Trees Grove to avoid approaching the bear, and honk their horn to discourage the bear from loitering near the roadside if necessary. Fish and Wildlife Branch staff made repeated visits to the area during the last half of June, in an attempt to aversively condition the cub to run away from vehicles when they approached and/or stopped. The bear was shot at with paintballs on many occasions, and generally harassed for a 2 week period. These techniques seemed to work, as reports declined dramatically in July, and those that were received indicated that the bear ran away quickly from vehicles. In addition, the Tall Trees road was closed for maintenance work during much of August, reducing the chance for any further bear-visitor interactions. This area will be monitored often during 2002, in case the bear returns and exhibits similar human conditioned behavior.

Wolf Creek

- On July 21st, bear tearing up redwood tree at entrance to Wolf Creek housing
- On August 7th, there was a bear near NE corner of parking lot at housing units. A NPS employee threw rocks and bear didn't move out until he was hit by rock. Apparently bear had gotten into garbage can the previous night at Wolf creek fire cache. Garbage at fire cache was subsequently picked up, and non-bear proof garbage can was no longer used to dispose of food items.

Elk Meadow Trailhead / Davison

- There were several reports of a black bear ripping up a redwood tree at the west end of the Elk meadow day use area in mid- June. Apparently he/she was highly visible to visitors, and did not appear bothered by presence of people.
- A volunteer work group staying at the Davison houses/barn area had a bear tip over a bear proof garbage can (that wasn't attached to ground) and get into garbage in mid July. They subsequently stored all garbage in foodlockers with their food. The bear made several more visits but did not get any more food rewards.

MEETINGS

The RNSP Bear Panel met during March and October 2001 (Appendix B). Fish and Wildlife staff also met with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) and Redwood National Park law enforcement Rangers to discuss communication between enforcement staff and the Fish and Wildlife branch regarding

reporting human-bear incidents and aversive conditioning actions. RNSP also renewed the CDPR/CDFG/NPS Bear and Lion Agreement, which will expire in 2006.

EDUCATION

Fish and Wildlife staff 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. Ten orientations were given to new CCC interns during 2001. Bear safety orientations were also given to seasonal RNSP interpretation staff, Youth Conservation Corps crews, Student Conservation Association members, and volunteer trail crews. The RNSP Interpretation Division also informed visitors about basic bear safety during a bear campfire program at Elk Prairie, and at the beginning of various interpretive programs and walks at RNSP.

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. Also, Fish and Wildlife staff inspected the RNSP and CCC grounds at Requa for food and garbage compliance opportunistically.

FUNDING

During 2001, the North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association agreed to sell bear related merchandise in the Prairie Creek visitor center, with a portion of the proceeds going towards a fund to maintain the existing bear foodlockers in Elk Prairie campground. Just over \$200.00 was raised for this fund through the NCRIA cooperation. Other funding mechanisms were also discussed during both Bear Panel meetings (see Appendix B). The Fish and Wildlife Branch continued to write and submit funding proposals for submission to numerous private and corporate foundations, seeking financial support to complete purchasing of the remaining bear proof equipment needed at several visitor sites within RNSP. However, due to other priorities, very few proposals were submitted. The Fish and Wildlife Branch also paid (\$55) to print more bear informational warning signs for posting on park bulletin boards.

MORTALITIES

In July, there was a dead black bear reported to be rolling in the surf at the Wilson Creek / False Klamath Cove area of the park. An NPS ranger indicated that recently a bear near Wilson Creek had been hit by a car, then rolled off to the side of the roadway. However, since that time, the bears head and paws had been removed. The fact that the head and paws were removed indicated that commercialization of its parts had occurred, even if the animal was not illegally killed (i.e hit by car). This incident calls for RNSP staff's continued vigilance, because it indicated that there are people that are aware and willing to commercialize RNSP's wildlife resources. Also, there remains a possibility

that the bear could have been tossed into the ocean by someone who may have poached a bear elsewhere. No other bear mortalities were reported during 2001.

FY 2002 PRIORITIES

- ❖ Obtaining funding for purchasing remaining bear proof equipment will be investigated and pursued by Fish and Wildlife staff.
- ❖ All employees, contractors, etc., will be encouraged to turn in bear observations.
- ❖ Monitor Tall Trees access road for any human conditioned bear activity.
- ❖ Fish and Wildlife staff will work on consistent bear information for bulletin boards and information brochures around the park.
- ❖ Bear cautionary and warning signs for bulletin boards will be distributed.
- ❖ Fish and Wildlife staff will help produce press releases for surrounding communities.
- ❖ Metal picnic table signs will continue to be inventoried and replaced as needed.
- ❖ Bear Research related to management needs of RNSP will be investigated.

Appendix A. Date, number, activity, and general location of bear sightings reported to RNSP during 2001.

Date	#	Activity	Location
4/7/2001	3	Bears ran into woods as we rounded corner of road	Approx. 4-5 miles from Tall Tree gate
4/15/2001	1	Running	WSA
4/29/2001	1	Grazing along roadside. Moved into brush	Old Growth Doug-Fir; Bald Hills rd. 3.8
4/29/2001	1	Was running towards gate	Davison Rd Near Environmental Camp gate
5/3/2001	1	Grazing	mile Mark 133.50 Hwy 101 Bypass
5/3/2001	1	Ran down road away from truck	West Side Access Rd
5/5/2001	2	Crossing road	C-Line rd. (Near the gate)
5/5/2001	2	Two cubs ran across road; no sign of mother	C-Line road, Near the gate
5/6/2001	3	Were running	Tall Trees Access Rd
5/7/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd, Halfway Down the road from the gate
5/8/2001	1		Coastal Trail Douglas Memorial Bridge
5/8/2001	1	Ran from side of road into woods quickly	Tall Trees Access Rd, Halfway Down the road from the gate
5/8/2001	1	Turned before crossing road when car approached	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles Up from Trailhead
5/8/2001	1	Ran from side of road into forest	Tall Trees Access Rd, Halfway Between gate and Trailhead
5/9/2001	1	Ran across road and began to climb tree	on Tall Trees Access Rd, Three miles from Bald Hills Rd
5/10/2001	1	Running away from car down road and downslope	Westside Access Mp14
5/13/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd, About 1/3 of the Way from the gate Down to the Trailhead
5/21/2001	2		C-Line Rd
5/21/2001	2	Cubs crossing road	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
5/21/2001	1	Ran across road	mile Marker 13 on M-Line
5/21/2001	1	Ran down road	1.2 miles Down A-9 Rd
5/22/2001	1	Crossed road and sat down, saw again at 11:30	Tall Trees Access Rd, "Just About 100 Yards from Other Bears"
5/22/2001	1	Ran across road	Tall Trees Access Rd
5/22/2001	2	Ran from one side of road to the other	Tall Trees Access Rd, Below road Construction Site
5/23/2001	3	One cub was in a tree, other was eating	Tall Trees Access Rd, 1/2 Way Down
5/23/2001	1	Was crossing road	1/2 mile Past LBJ on Bald Hills Rd
5/24/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd
5/24/2001	1	Swimming in a small pond	South Side Schoolhouse Peak Below Bald Hills Rd
5/25/2001	1	Was eating grass very close to road, let us look.	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
5/25/2001	1	Was eating grass at roadside, didn't mind car	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
5/25/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd, Halfway Between gate and Trailhead
5/25/2001	1	Stood alongside road, interested in car passing	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2.5 miles from Trailhead

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
5/25/2001	1	Eating berries	Redwood Creek Trail, Past 3-4 Bridges Beyond Trailhead Among Salmon Berries
5/26/2001	2		Tall Trees Access Rd - Adult, 1 mile from Trailhead, Juvenile, 1.25 miles from Trailhead
5/26/2001	1	Walking	Rwc, 4 Crossings North of Emerald Creek Trail
5/26/2001	1	Ran across rd quickly, 2nd observation at 1500	Gravel road to TTTH, 3 Mi from Th.
5/26/2001	1	Ran full speed across hiway from beach side	Hiway 101, 1/4 mile South of Big Lagoon
5/26/2001	1	Was walking through herd of elk	In Front of SOC
5/27/2001	3		Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
5/28/2001	1	Eating salmon berries	Redwood Creek Trail, one mile from Trailhead
5/28/2001	1	On side of road, very attentive	Tall Trees Access Rd, 5 miles from gate
5/30/2001	1	Ran across road then started grazing	2.6 miles from Tall Trees gate
5/30/2001	1	Ran down road	Lower B-500 Rd
5/30/2001	2	Eating on side of road, one crossed road	Tall Trees Access Rd, Bear#1, 1 mile from Bald Hills Rd,
5/31/2001	1	Saw us and jumped behind a tree	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
5/31/2001	1	Saw us and ran	Tall Trees Access Rd, 1 mile from Trailhead
6/2/2001	1	Slowly hopped into the woods	Tall Trees Access Rd, 1-2 miles from Trailhead
6/2/2001	1	Was sitting in pond eating cat-tails, and ran off	Lyons Ranch Trail, 1/4 mile Past Lone Ridge Barn
6/2/2001	2	The two bears were 200-300 yards apart	Lyons Ranch Trail, one mile from Trailhead
6/3/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd
6/4/2001	1	Ran across road	Tall Trees Access Rd
6/5/2001	1	Was eating berries	Area Between Alder Basin Trail and Mill Ck
6/8/2001	1	Grazing	Hiway 101 East Hillside Above Stone Lagoon
6/9/2001	1	Walked across road	Tall Trees Access rd.
6/9/2001	1		Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
6/9/2001	2		Tall Trees Access Rd, 1 mile from Trailhead
6/10/2001	2		Tall Trees Access Rd, one, 1 mile from Trailhead,
6/11/2001	1	Ran across road	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles from Trailhead
6/11/2001	2	Ran of road	West Side Access Rd, Just After 2 mile Mark
6/11/2001	2	Crossed road	Davidson Rd, 1.5 miles East of Kiosk
6/11/2001	1	Descending valley wall to creek	Outside Fern Canyon
6/11/2001	1	Sitting on side of road, ran into woods about 15 feet	on road, 100 Yards from Redwood Creek Trailhead Parking Area
6/12/2001	1	Ran away shortly after seeing the car	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2 miles Before Trailhead
6/12/2001	1	At side of road, observed car then ran into trees	Tall Trees Access Rd, Halfway Point
6/13/2001	1	Cantered across road in front of car	Tall Trees Access Rd, one Minute Before Reaching Trailhead
6/14/2001	1	Didn't stay around long, ran into brush	Coastal Trail

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
6/14/2001	1	Was resting on log in prairie then ran into the forest	K+K road Between Dolason Prairie Trail
6/15/2001	1	Sitting on side of the road and ran across the road	3,5 miles from Trail Head Parking on road
6/15/2001	1	Was grazing in meadow	Flat Above Fern Canyon
6/15/2001	1	Was being chased by elk	Entrance to Elk Prairie
6/16/2001	1	Ran across road	Tall Trees Access Rd, 2-3 miles from Trailhead
6/16/2001	1	Was grazing	Above Creek at Miner's Ridge, North End
6/16/2001	1	Crossing the road	Davidson Rd Entrance to Fern Canyon
6/17/2001	1	Was climbing down dead tree	100 Yrds Past mile Post 6 ??
6/17/2001	1	Walking across road	on Tall Trees road
6/17/2001	1	Walked down slope, saw us then went back	Hiway 101 Near Stone Lagoon
6/18/2001	1	50 ft in tree, tearing off bark and limbs	Trees at End of Elk Meadow Lot at the Turnaround
6/18/2001	1	Eating bark up in a tree	Davidson road, New Elk Meadow Parking Area, at the Westend of the Parking Lot
6/18/2001	1	Was pulling bark off of tree and licking underneath	NW Side of Parking Lot at Trillium Falls, High In A Tree
6/18/2001	1	Ran across road	Tall Trees Access Rd
6/19/2001	1	Saw visitor's car and ran into woods	Tall Trees Access Rd, 1/2 mile from Trailhead
6/19/2001	1	Eating, then in center of road, ran to side	Tall Trees Access rd., 7.2 Km from gate
6/20/2001	2	Running across road	on the road 2,5 miles from Tall Tree Trail Head
6/20/2001	2	Cub did not run, adult did run	Half mile from Tall Tree Parking
6/21/2001	1	Ran across road	Davidson Bike Trail road, Between Ranch and Prairie Creek
6/21/2001	1	Bear crossed the street, turned and looked at visitors	4 miles from Tall Trees Trailhead
6/21/2001	1	Was standing along road	Davison Rd, 2 miles from Hiway 101
6/21/2001	1	Moved down into drainage as soon we got close (20ft)	Lyons Ranch Rd In Wooded Area 0.5 Mi from Th. on Left Side
6/21/2001	1	Was in a spruce tree. Possibly spooked by bicycle	at Junction of StreeLOW Trail and Davison Rd
6/21/2001	1	Was going over hillside	Davison Rd, 1 mile from Kiosk towards Hiway 101
6/21/2001	1	Was crossing road	Davison Rd, 1 Half mile from Kiosk towards Hiway 101
6/22/2001	1	Sleeping on the side of the road, ran when it saw car	road
6/22/2001	1	Cub ran across road into brush	road
6/22/2001	1		on the road to Tall Tree Trail
6/22/2001	1	It ran across the road in front of the car and up a tree	on the Track to Tall Trees Grove
6/22/2001	1		on road to Tall Trees Parking Lot
6/23/2001	1	Feeding on dandelions, came in and out of woods	About 5 miles Down the Gravel road to Tall Trees Grove
6/23/2001	1	Ran down the road then off into the woods	Newton B. Drury Pkwy (North End)
6/23/2001	1	Standing on road, proceeded to run into forest	on Bald Hills Rd Before Lady Bird
6/23/2001	1	Was crossing trail	3/4 of the Way Up towards Gold Bluff Falls

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
6/24/2001	1	Crossing road	road, 1 mile from Tall Trees Trail Head
6/25/2001	1		0.5 mile Passed Lady Bird Johnson Parking Lot
6/25/2001	1	Eating bark up tree	Lbj Loop Trail
6/25/2001	1		road Into Tall Trees
6/25/2001	1	Climbing in tree, bealing branches, eating, grunting	L. B. Johnson Grove- About 100 Yards Past the Dedication Site
6/28/2001	1		Zig Zag 2
6/28/2001	1	Saw car coming and ran up hill into bushes	Gravel road In Draw By White Marker With Blue Reflector
6/30/2001	1		Jed Smith, West Part of River
6/30/2001	1	Ran across road	Skunk Cabbage Access road
6/30/2001	1	In the road, ran away when it saw truck	WSA road, A-9, Just Past A-9 Deck
6/30/2001	1	Grazing	SOC Prairie
7/2/2001	2	Eating berries along trail	Coastal Trail 1/3 mile North of Fern Canyon
7/3/2001	1	30 ft away- walked up to me while i was doing a survey.	Prairie Creek Trail By Rd
7/4/2001	1	Small brown bear crossing rd	Gravel Rd 0.5 Way to TTTH
7/4/2001	2	Jumped straight into the bushes	Coastal Drive
7/4/2001	2	Running across soc rd	SOC Rd
7/5/2001	1	Crashed through brush and looked at camper	Near Alder Basin Trail-Mill Ck Campground
7/7/2001	1	Running across rd	SOC Rd
7/10/2001	1	Eating	Behind Site 109, 200 Yards Down Trail/Creek
7/10/2001	1	Was crossing hwy. 101, we stopped to watch. Great!	mile Marker 135, North of Orick
7/11/2001	1	Ran across road	Newton B Drury Parkway Between Cal Barrel Rd + South Side Sign
7/12/2001	1	Walking and sniffing in creek	Prairie Creek Trail, 1/2 Way Between Big Tree and VC
7/16/2001	1	Disappeared into ferns and down the cliff	Skunk Cabbage Trail Near Beach
7/18/2001	1	Came out of roadway off alder basin trail	Alder Basin Trail;
7/20/2001	1	Running behind house	Across Requa road from Klamath Inn
7/20/2001	1		Davidson Ranch Trail
7/21/2001	1	Pigging in stump	Skyline Trail 0.5 Mi Below When Trail Goes Thru Old Stump
7/22/2001	1		Near Elk Prairie Campground
7/23/2001	1	Crossing the road slowly, then ran off	0.25 Mi South of Drury N Gnd
7/26/2001	1	Ran across road	Bald Hills Rd Before Dolason Prairie Picnic Area
7/26/2001	1	Feeding in apple tree, then disappearing into 2nd growth	Behind Lyons Ranch on Bald Hills Rd
7/27/2001	1	Running down road from kiosk to saddler tr.	road from Kiosk
7/27/2001	1	Running across road into campground	
7/28/2001	1	Crossing road	mile Marker 115.8

Appendix A. (cont.)

Date	#	Activity	Location
7/28/2001	1	Walking along shoulder of requa rd	Requa Rd and Gensau Rd
7/28/2001	1	Smelling, walking, looking for food	Camp #53
7/30/2001	1	Ran across bald hills rd	About 1/2 mile B/F Lyons Ranch
8/2/2001	1	It was startled and still	Elk Prairie Near the Houses
8/2/2001	1	Ran across the street and looked back at me	B/T Orick and Freshwater Lagoon
8/3/2001	1	Stopped, watched us, as I raised my camera was gone	100-200 Yds. Above Bridge Going Over Creek on Ossagon Trail Above Hiker/ Biker
8/3/2001	1	Ran across road w- to e	Hwy 101, Mm 125
8/4/2001	1	Stood up, looked and walked away	Coastal Trail, About 0.25 Mi North of Fern Canyon
8/4/2001	1	Ran across gravel rd in brush by creek	Davidison Ranch Trail Just After Crossing Prairie Ck By Hatchery
8/6/2001	1	Running off road	WSA Rd at 3 Mi Marker
8/9/2001	1	Sniffing our stuff, i made some noise and it went away.	Prairie Ck
8/9/2001	1	Was running about 10 miles per hour	SOC road Near Fire Hydrant
8/10/2001	1	Bear was chillin in berry bushes	1/4 mile from This Box
8/12/2001	1	Ran across road	SOC road
8/13/2001	1	Ran across rd	Hwy 101 Mp 133.50
8/13/2001	1	Bear ran across bald h rd	Lady B Johnson
8/18/2001	1	Loped across road	Bald Hills Rd, at mile Post 2
8/19/2001	2	The cub went up a tree while the mother made noise	on the Way Down from Wellman Loop Trail - there Is A Long Strail Path
8/19/2001	1	Ran across rd	Howland Hill
8/20/2001	1	Eating by the road then ran towards the creek	1/2 Mi Along Bald Hill Rd
8/22/2001	1	Was eating black berries	Simpson Access gate on Bypass
8/26/2001	1	Walking along roadside	Requa road Just Past Gensaw Intersection

Appendix B. Minutes of the spring and fall Bear Panel meetings.

Spring Meeting

March 19, 2001

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs

From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)

Subject: Bear Panel Minutes, March 7, 2001

Attending: Corky Farley, Valerie Gizinski, Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Ron Jones, Howard Sakai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: All employees, contractors, etc., need to report bear observations in a timely manner. This will help immensely when it comes time to determine management actions and signing needs. Valerie and Greg presented proper notification procedures for kiosk workers in the event of a wildlife incident, and for bear/lion sightings. Panel made changes and procedures and associated forms will be placed within kiosks this spring. The Fish and Wildlife Branch needs to know when aversive conditioning actions occur (e.g. date, time, frequency etc.) and the reactions of the animal for dossier building. A tentative training session for VS&RP/CDPR rangers was scheduled for April.

Bear-proofing equipment and maintenance: Greg contacted the McClintock Company and they had no suggestions for “non-attractant” lubrication for bear equipment hinges, but this does not seem to be a problem here. Greg presented the backcountry campsite checking protocol for review, and again timely action and communication is the key to keeping the equipment functioning. Maintenance will soon be placing 1 small bear proof garbage can at Davison Ranch to help accommodate seasonal residents there.

Funding: RNSP still needs approximately \$110,000 in bear-proof equipment. CDPR request for funding this equipment is in, and will be resubmitted in July, hope for best. A few funding requests to private groups have been sent, however many groups that were contacted last year do not fund government agencies. Maintenance submitted the PMIS bear proof project recently under Hazmat funding call, and fee-demo park funding will be pursued next fiscal. The beanie bears are being sold through NCRIA to raise some bear proof money, and RNHA may also begin carrying these bears.

Signs and Bulletins: Mary Read will produce replacement table signs in time to be placed before the visitor season picks up again. The wildlife dumpster signs will also be produced with some minor color changes. The panel reviewed the bear and lion warning signs and suggested a dual species (bear/lion) caution sign and a single species warning

Appendix B. (cont.)

sign. Greg (and Interpretation) will attempt to get some form of these produced before summer.

Education: Greg will continue working with Interpretation to help facilitate consistent bear and lion information on bulletin boards around the park. Permanent personnel will then take responsibility for relaying this information to seasonal employees, contractors, etc. A recent bear incident on Howland Hill road allowed for some community outreach regarding bears through the local media. The clean camper awards are still being pursued by Valerie for use within state park campgrounds.

Next meeting: Tentative date for the next bear panel meeting is October 24th, from 9:00-12:00.

Fall Meeting

November 1, 2001

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Division Chiefs

From: Wildlife Biologist (Greg Holm)

Subject: Fall Bear Panel Minutes, October 30th, 2001

Attending: Corky Farley, Mike Goss, Greg Holm, Mary Read, Phil Rovai, Howard Sakai.

Bear incidents, sightings, and reporting: Through August of 2001, the number of bear sightings reported was similar to previous years (@150). However, about 35% of the sighting were of a small cub frequenting the Tall Trees access road in June and July. There were no reports of any serious bear-human interactions or property damage caused black bears in RNSP. The 2001 black bear management report, summarizing incidents and sightings, will be made available to panel members in January. The kiosk and visitor center wildlife reporting protocols ("Procedures for Reporting Wildlife Incidents and Bear and Mountain Lion Sightings") were distributed and the Fish and Wildlife Branch received considerable feedback about bear sightings.

Bear-proof equipment, funding and maintenance: RNSP still needs approximately \$110,000 in new bear-proof equipment and should anticipate a need for additional funding to replace the oldest equipment as needed. The CDPR request for funding is not likely until after July 2003. The bear proofing project is in PMIS and will be submitted again when call comes. No new funding requests to private groups have been sent since last spring. However, due to the recent proposal writing training that Greg received, he will again be sending requests as time and workload allows. The NCRIA sold all 100

Appendix B. (cont.)

“beanie bears” and raised \$213.71 to fund bear management activities (e.g. signs or equipment maintenance). Unfortunately, the distributor will no longer be carrying these bears, and the panel members will be soliciting for any new sources for this type of merchandise. Maintenance did place 1 small bear proof garbage can at Davison Ranch to help accommodate seasonal volunteers camping there. However, it was not anchored and a bear did knock it over once and get some garbage. Mike Goss will be looking into a system for making a “portable” can that is attached to a stable pad for these types of housing situations.

Signs and Bulletins: Greg continued 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 going up on park bulletin boards. The bear panel suggested that we produce and distribute more warning signs for both species, as a recent mountain lion sighting demonstrated that we have a shortage of the new signs. While older signs are better than no signs, the panel felt that the new signs are much more effective and should be made easily available when needed. Mary Read will once again produce more replacement table signs coated with a protective mylar covering. Greg will be pursuing Lynda Mealue’s idea for allowing school groups to do the table sign inventories and replacement with her.

Education: Greg gave educational bear training sessions to seasonal employees, protection rangers, YCC, and CCC comets. Greg and Brian Olsen also presented a RNHA seminar about bears and bear management in August, and Brian also gave many campfire talks about bears last summer. The RNSP home page has some basic safety messages about bears. The panel reviewed the information and made several suggestions for changes.

Next meeting: Tentative date for the next bear panel meeting is April 3rd, 2002, from 9:00-12:00.