

Jan

For 23 weeks

BEAR MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK

1987

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Park Warden
January 1988

3286

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1.0 Introduction

The 1987 bear season was quiet in regards to bear management. Two backcountry bear warnings were issued and no bear handling occurred. Two black bears, an adult male and male young of year cub, were struck by vehicles in separate incidents and killed. Two bluff charges by grizzlies with cubs were reported, one near Floe Lake and the other near Wolverine Pass. In both cases it appears the charges were the result of the bears being surprised by the hikers. A bluff charge by a roadside black bear with cubs was also reported. This incident occurred near Kimpton Creek trailhead and is believed to be the result of visitors approaching within 8 meters of the bears for photographs. A male black bear collared near Johnston Creek in Banff National Park travelled into Kootenay Park and was found as far south as Vermilion Crossing before returning to Banff Park. A den was discovered April 4th below Fay Hut when a Warden school participant fell into a hole under a log and found himself looking into the face of a sleeping bear .

A grizzly bear study involving Kootenay and Yoho Parks is planned for next summer. The terms of reference for the study are in preparation.

A Regional Bear Management Plan is in the process of being prepared. Updates to the Kootenay Bear Management Plan will be done once the regional plan is completed.

A total of 203 Bear Monitoring Forms were completed, the first reported sighting was a black bear on April 28th and the last reported sighting was a grizzly bear on October 21st.

2.0 Bear Monitoring

Bear Monitoring Forms were completed by Park Wardens or Interpretive Staffs. Other Park Staff contacted the Duty Warden, Warden Office or West Gate Information to have observations recorded. Park Visitors were asked to report all bear sightings to Park Staff. Observations by group are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1 Bear Observations by Group

	Visitors	Wardens	Inter-pretation	Other Park Staff	Total
Observations	89	57	25	32	203
	44%	28%	12%	16%	100%

A total of 203 bear monitoring forms were completed (Table 2). This is down from 354 completed in 1986, but comparable to 1985 with 189 and 1984 with 195. The total number of bears observed was 301 (Table 3).

One black bear and her two cubs (commonly known as 'Olive'), were usually found in the vicinity of Olive Lake and were responsible for 51 of the observation forms and 111 of the total bears observed.

TABLE 4 Summary of Bear Reactions - 1987

	No Change	Fled	Indifferent	Curious	Growl	Charge No Contact	Charge Contact	Unknown Other	Total
Black	83	25	71	2		1		2 Road Kills	183
Grizzly	5	2	2	1		2			13
Bear					1				1
Total	88	27	73	3	1	3		2	197

No change: Bear not aware of people, continues normal routine
 Indifferent: Bear aware of people, continues normal routine

them from the bushes, no animal seen. There was a bluff charge by a black bear sow 'Olive', with her two cubs along the highway near Kimpton Creek trailhead (Occurrence 87-194). It appears that visitors approaching within 8 meters of the bear for photographs caused the charge. There are two more reports of visitors approaching within 6 meters of the same bear without incident.

A bluff charge of three hikers by a sow grizzly with two cubs occurred on August 20th near Wolverine Pass (Occurrence 87-361). The charge occurred on a forested section of trail and appears to be the result of the hikers surprising the bear. The hikers were part of a group of 14 and had gotten ahead of the rest of the group. They reported looking up and seeing the sow and cubs, the sow charged to within 15 meters and veered off. The second

bluff charge occurred near Floe Lake on September 21st (Occurrence 87-528). A single hiker arrived at the edge of an open meadow just above the lake and looked at her watch. She looked up after hearing a growl to see a sow grizzly and single cub charging. The hiker backed slowly into the bush talking to the bear and it veered off 3 meters away.

A summary of each monitoring form was entered into the computer at the Warden Office using a dBase program. From this, a weekly bear monitoring report was prepared (Figure 1) and reports were issued to the Information Centres, Campgrounds, and Warden Stations.

Inputting of information from the bear monitoring forms was started in January 1988 using a program adapted to the dBase 3+ software. This program presently being used by Banff National Park for their bear monitoring program, will allow data retrieval at the park level and allow input of more data than is presently possible using the CANSIS system.

In order to identify those areas of the park which may require improved or more concentrated bear management the park is divided into bear monitoring areas. Facilities within a bear monitoring area are given their own number (Table 5, Map 1).

FIGURE 1 Weekly Bear Report

DATE	TIME	OBSERVER	SEXES	ADULTS	SEX	YOUNG	YOUNG	YOUNG	YOUNG	LOCATION	CATEGORY	BEHAVIOR	MARKED	TAG	COMMENTS	NOTY	MANAGER	WEEK
						OF	OF	OF	OF				NO.	NO.				
						LAST	LAST	LAST	LAST									
						YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR									
28/24/87	19:30	XRP	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	2	1	FD	1	1 KM E KAMPEN TRAILHEAD	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	19
28/25/87	19:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	1	1 KM N OF MOLEDD MEADOWS	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/25/87	19:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	2	IRON GATES TUNNEL	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/25/87	16:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	BC	0	KINGSLEY TRAIL	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/27/87	14:00	XRS	UNKNOWN	0	UNKNOWN	2	0	BC	0	1 KM UP KINGSLEY TRAIL	SD		NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/27/87	14:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	1	1.5 KM N COMPOUND	NA	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/27/87	14:00	XRS	UNKNOWN	1	UNKNOWN	2	2	FC	2	3 KM N CONYERSON PS, 1 BANK OR NEAR HWY BY MOLEDD MEADOWS	NA C	SCUD UP FEED	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/27/87	12:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	NEAR HWY BY MOLEDD MEADOWS	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	07:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	MOLEDD MEADOWS COMPOUND F-10	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	10:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	KINGSLEY PASS TRAILHEAD	NA N	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	14:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	3 KM TOWARDS NUDA PASS	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	18:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	N. SIDE OF ROAD - OGBB LAKE COMPOUND PARKING LOT	NA N	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	18:00	XRS	GRIZZLY	1	UNKNOWN	2	0	BC	0	46 CAMPGROUND	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	18:00	XRS	GRIZZLY	1	UNKNOWN	2	0	BC	0	IRON GATES TUNNEL	NA NC	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	18:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	MOLEDD MEADOWS COMPOUND #E10	SD	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	16:00	XRP	UNKNOWN	0	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	0	IRON GATES TUNNEL	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/28/87	08:00	XRP	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	0	20 METRES N. OF OLIVE LK PIC	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
08/28/87	16:00	XRP	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	UPPER STANLEY GLACIER TRAIL	NA N	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
08/28/87	20:00	XRP	GRIZZLY	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	500 METRES N KODI LOOKOUT	NA N	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
08/31/87	12:00	SLH	BLACK	2	2	1	MALE	0	FC	CONER RIMWAY LANE	NA AC	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	16:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	2	1	FC	1	1 KM S. OLIVE LAKE	NA N	TRAVELLING/ENCOUNTERING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	16:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	2	1	FC	1	1 KM S. OLIVE LAKE	NA N	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	14:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	1	0	FC	0	9 KM N. HOLYSHIRE MEADOWS	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	17:30	XRS	GRIZZLY	1	UNKNOWN	2	2	FC	2	HOLYSHIRE HWYS. NEAR CABIN	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	19:00	XRS	BLACK	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	MOLEDD MEADOWS	NA	TRAVELLING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	19:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	4.9 KM. N. OF INFO CENTRE	NA FS	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18
28/31/87	19:00	XRS	BLACK	0	UNKNOWN	0	0	FC	0	N. COMPOUND ON SLIDE PATH	NA	FEEDING	NO				RECORDED SIGHTING	18

Page No. 1
28/08/87
FOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK
BEAR MONITORING PROGRAM
WEEK OF AUGUST 23 TO AUGUST 29, 1987

DATE TIME OBSERVER SEXES ADULTS SEX YOUNG YOUNG YOUNG YOUNG LOCATION CATEGORY BEHAVIOR MARKED TAG COLLECTOR NUMBER COMMENTS NOTY MANAGER DATE WEEK

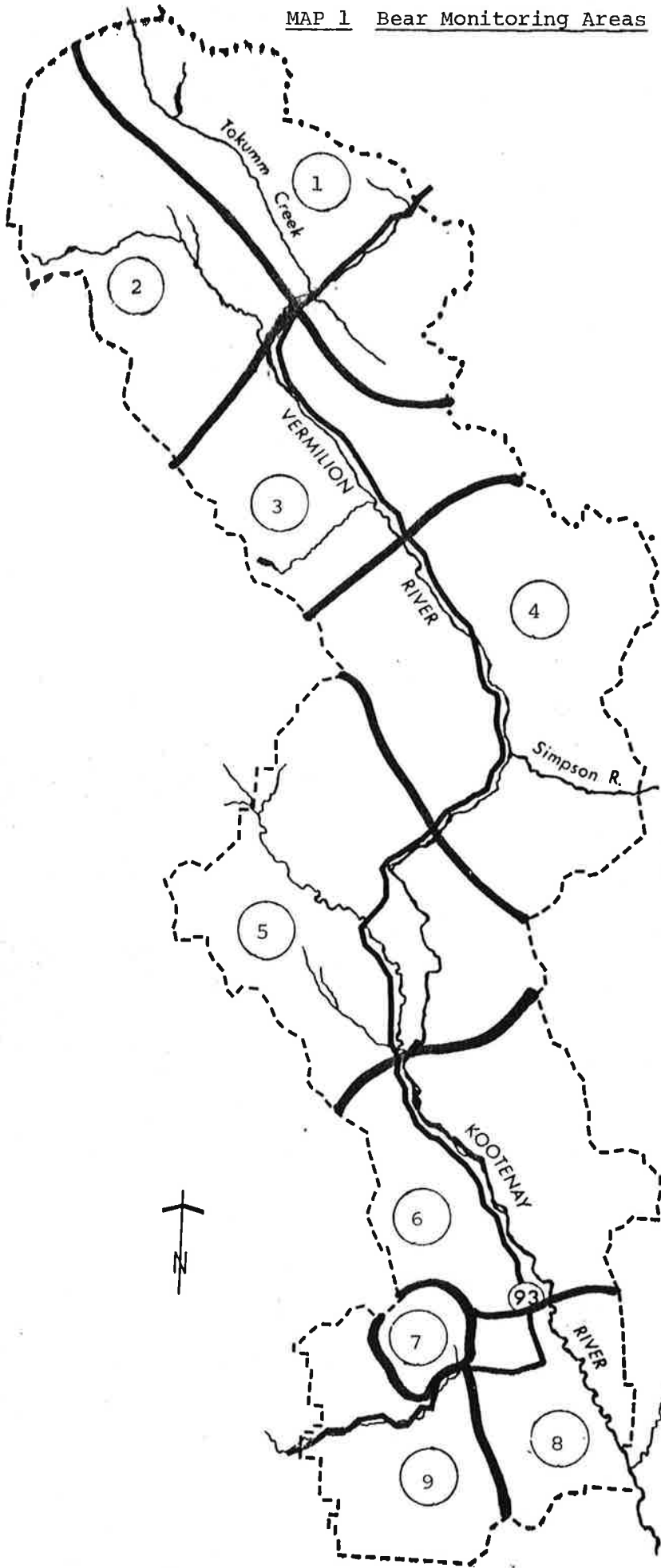


TABLE 5 Bear Monitoring Areas

1. Tokumm
 - 1.1 Marble Canyon Campground
2. Rockwall
3. Floe
4. Vermilion Crossing
 - 4.1 Vermilion Crossing Bungalow
5. Kootenay Crossing
6. McLeod Meadows
 - 6.1 Crooks Meadow Group Camp
 - 6.2 McLeod Meadows Campground
7. Kindersley
8. Settlers Road
9. Sinclair
 - 9.1 McKay Creek Compound
 - 9.2 Aquacourt/Motels
 - 9.3 Redstreak Campground

3.0 Management Actions

3.1 Handled Bears

No bears were handled this year. The bear trap was set up at McKay Creek compound in an unsuccessful attempt to capture a yearling black bear, one of 'Olive's' cubs, that was feeding on the roadside. The bear had been observed being fed donuts and was indirectly involved in a three vehicle accident caused when visitors stopped to watch the bear. The trap was in place for four days from September 15th to 18th.

3.2 Bear Warnings and Closures

Two bear warnings were instituted, one for the Rockwall Pass area, the other for Floe Lake. The first warning was initiated in the Rockwall Pass area after a

grizzly sow with two cubs and a black bear sow with two cubs were seen in the vicinity of Rockwall Pass on September 2nd (Occurrence 87-435). Warning signs were posted at the Tumbling-Ochre Creek junction, Campground #10 on Tumbling Creek and the Helmet-Goodsir Pass junction. The warning was in effect for eight days from September 3rd to 10th and was removed after helicopter and ground patrols did not result in any further sightings.

The second warning was the result of a bluff charge by a sow grizzly and cub on the trail just east of Floe Lake on September 21st (Occurrence 87-528). Warning signs were posted at the Floe Lake trailhead and Floe Lake Campground. The warning was in effect for seven days from September 22nd to 28th. Patrols of the area by helicopter and horse resulted in no further sightings of the bears.

Due to problems in communication a bluff charge by a sow grizzly with two cubs near Wolverine Pass on August 20th did not result in a bear warning being issued. The information on the incident did not reach the frontcountry until approximately one week later and no further sightings of the sow and cub were reported until September 2nd at which time a warning was instituted.

3.3 Adverse Conditioning

Adverse conditioning was carried out on nine occasions and all involved a single black bear sow, 'Olive' and her two cubs. Adverse conditioning was done five times on the family who were reported along the roadside 31 times. Noise making shells were used to scare the animals from the roadside where they were feeding and attracting visitors.

Adverse conditioning was also done four times on one of 'Olive's' cubs after it had been abandoned in the fall. Three of the four times noise making shells were used and the fourth involved noise making shells used in conjunction with a plastic shotgun slug.

3.4 Bear Mortality

On July 7th an adult male black bear was killed by a motor vehicle at Km. 51, 2 km. south of Wardle Creek.

On July 27th a young of year male black bear was killed by a motor vehicle at Km. 75, 4 km. north of Floe Lake trailhead. It had been observed playing with another cub prior to the accident.

3.5 Food and Garbage Storage Facilities

Patrols of the campgrounds for food and garbage

storage deficiencies were carried out over the summer. The most common problem was food coolers being left out at night (Table 5). The Warden Service carried out random patrols while campground staff were asked to record any deficiencies while on duty. Campground storage deficiency reports were completed at McLeod Meadows but due to new staff were not done at Marble Canyon. No reports were completed by Redstreak staff. A patrol of Redstreak on the Labour Day weekend showed 11 of 242 campsites (4.5%) with improperly stored food and garbage. This compares with 4% for the August holiday in 1986.

TABLE 6 Recorded Food & Garbage Storage Deficiencies

	Food	Garbage	Both	Total
Redstreak	21	1	1	23
McLeod Mdws.	22	1	1	24
Marble Canyon	No records kept			

Bear poles were installed at the following backcountry campsites. Kaufmann Lake #1, Tokumm Valley #2, Ottertail Pass #3, Helmet/Ochre Jct. #4, Tumbling/Ochre Jct. #8, Verdant #16, and Dolly Varden #18. All backcountry sites now have bear poles.

3.6 Public Information Program

No changes in the present program. To prevent theft of "You Are in Bear Country" signs, tamper proof screws were ordered and will be used on all signs.

The Interpretive Service presented an evening program on bears called Bear Necessities. The program dealt with bear ecology and safe camping practices in the outdoors.

4.0 Training

A one day training session for all Wardens was carried out on August 11th at Kootenay Crossing. Banff wildlife Warden Rick Kunelius gave an introduction and instruction on the new immobilization drug Zolatil. Included was proper mixing and dosage of drug, bear reaction to the drug and a video of recent immobilizations. A refresher on snare set procedures was also presented.

5.0 Discussion

5.1 Monitoring Results

The bear monitoring program has completed its fourth year in the present format. The observations this year are comparable with 1984 and 1985 but well down from the 354 recorded in 1986. This fluctuation cannot be readily explained.

Inputting of the bear monitoring forms for 1987 began in January. For the summer of 1988 monitoring forms will be input on a weekly basis. Data from 1984, 1985 and 1986 should be added as time permits.

While determining bear population numbers is not the purpose of the monitoring program some discussion of bear numbers is possible.

The limited number of grizzly observations (8) suggest the total number of bears using the park is small or they avoid areas with human activity. Two separate sow/cub groups appear to be using the Flee Lake to Helmet Creek area. Both family units were involved in bluff charges. No other sow/cub groups observed.

Black bear observations primarily occurred along Highway 93, only 19 of 184 observations (10%) were in the backcountry. A single black bear 'Olive' and her two cubs were responsible for 33% of the black bear observations. Excluding 'Olive' and a sow with 3 cubs, a total of 17 other sow and cub groups were observed. Assuming some groups were seen more than once it would appear a total of 5-10 separate black bear sow and cub groups were observed. Eight occurrences of black bears in roadside campgrounds were recorded. McLeod Meadows accounted for 5, Crooks Meadow Group Camp for two and

Redstreak for one. In all cases the bear did not obtain any food or garbage and no property damage occurred.

There was only one report of a grizzly near a campground, this being the backcountry campsite at Helmet Falls.

Of the 197 observations only 30 were for backcountry sightings. While this may reflect the limited number of bears in the backcountry it may also be the result of few backcountry users reporting sightings. Backcountry users should be made aware of the need to report sightings when they complete a trip.

5.2 Management Results

The bear monitoring system is intended to identify areas where bears and people interact. If there is a potential danger the report is investigated and management action carried out if required. Of the 197 observations of bears 12, (6%) required management action. Adverse conditioning of roadside black bears accounted for 9 of the actions, backcountry bear warnings accounting for two and the bear trap was set once.

Adverse conditioning was used in an attempt to scare a black bear 'Olive' and cubs away from roadside. This family was habitually found feeding on roadside

vegetation in the vicinity of Olive Lake and tended to attract large numbers of people. Visitors would walk towards the bears for photographs and in one case moved close enough to be bluff charged by 'Olive'. The yearling cubs were also reported being fed by visitors. Figure 2 gives total observations of 'Olive' and cubs for 1987.

Cracker shells were used five times on the family and four times on single cubs. On one occasion involving a cub a plastic shotgun slug was used in conjunction with a cracker shell. Cracker shells were used nine times on the family in 1986.

Cracker shells are ineffective as a long term deterrent, in many cases the bears were seen along the highway the following day and in one case later the same day. Cracker shells have been used so many times during the past two years that the bears may have become accustomed to them.

Cracker shells should continue to be used as a short term deterrent. An effort should be made to use the plastic shotgun slug in conjunction with the cracker shells to see if this improves the deterrent effect.

Should 'Olive' return in 1988 with a new family and be found along the road, consideration should be given to relocating her and the cubs before they become

FIGURE 2 Observations of Olive & Cubs - 1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u># of Bears</u>	<u>Location</u>
87-05-12	12:00	03	Long Johns Corner
87-05-12	13:00	02	Long Johns Corner
87-05-12	21:00	02	Cobb Lake Trailhead
87-05-13	09:00	02	Long Johns Corner
87-05-13	19:00	03	1 Km. S. Cobb Lake Trailhead
87-05-14	16:00	03	1 Km. S. Cobb Lake Trailhead
87-05-18	17:00	01	1 Km. N. Olive Lake
87-05-19	17:00	03	Olive Lake
87-05-21	20:00	03	Sinclair Trailhead
87-05-22	18:00	03	Sinclair Trailhead
87-05-23	14:00	03	Sinclair Trailhead
87-05-24	10:00	03	Sinclair Trailhead
87-05-26	13:00	03	Sinclair Picnic Site - Adverse Conditioning
87-05-27	13:00	03	Kimpton Creek Trailhead- Adverse Conditioning Reported bluff charge, people within 25-30' of bear.
87-05-27	20:00	03	Kimpton Creek Trailhead
87-05-28	14:00	03	Sinclair Picnic Site
87-05-29	09:00	03	Kimpton Trailhead - Adverse Conditioning
87-05-30	14:00	03	Sinclair Trailhead
87-05-30	18:00	03	Sinclair Picnic Site
87-05-31	14:00	03	Sinclair Picnic Site - Adverse Conditioning
87-06-04	08:00	03	Nixon Creek Trailhead
87-06-04	21:00	03	Olive Lake - Cub approached vehicle
87-06-05	13:00	03	Olive Lake
87-06-05	15:00	03	Olive Lake
87-06-06	15:00	03	Cobb Lake Trailhead
87-06-06	18:00	03	Olive Lake - Tourist within 20'
87-06-08	10:00	03	Olive Lake
87-06-09	11:00	03	Olive Lake
87-06-11	15:00	03	Olive Lake - Adverse Conditioning Tourist approaching bear.
87-06-13	15:00	03	Olive Lake

87-06-20	17:00	03	Olive Lake
87-06-28	13:00	03	1 Km. S. Cobb Lake Trailhead
87-07-26	20:00	01	Kootenay Viewpoint
87-07-27	19:00	01	Kootenay Viewpoint
87-08-08	17:00	01	Kindersley Pass Trailhead
87-08-11	10:00	01	Kimpton Creek Trailhead
87-08-15	18:00	01	Kindersley Trailhead
87-08-26	10:00	01	Cobb Lake Trailhead

Single bear indicates "Olive"

Olive's Cubs

87-08-18	12:00	01	3 Km. N. Compound
87-08-24	18:00	01	1 Km. S. Kimpton Creek
87-08-26	19:00	01	Iron Gates Tunnel
87-08-27	14:00	01	.5 Km. N. Compound - Being Fed Donuts
87-08-28	16:00	01	Iron Gates Tunnel
87-08-31	12:00	01	1.5 Km. N. Compound - Adverse Conditioning
87-09-01	16:00	01	1 Km. S. Olive Lake
87-09-15	16:00	01	2 Km. N. Compound - Adverse Conditioning
87-09-16	19:00	01	2 Km. N. Compound
87-09-25	15:00	01	1 Km. S. Kimpton Creek Trailhead - Adverse Conditioning
87-09-28	18:00	01	.3 Km. N. Compound - Adverse Conditioning, Plastic slug
87-09-30	16:00	01	1 Km. S. Kimpton Creek Trailhead
87-09-31	16:00	01	1 Km. S. Olive Lake

accustomed to humans and start accepting food as the cubs did this year. As long as palatable roadside vegetation exists the bears will return to feed, attracting visitors to stop. Consideration should also be given to relocation of Olive's present cubs should they return to the roadside next summer.

Bear warnings were instituted on two occasions, one the result of bluff charges by a sow grizzly with a cub near Floe Lake, and another when a sow grizzly with two cubs and a black bear sow with two cubs were seen in the vicinity of Rockwall Pass on the same day.

A second bluff charge by a sow grizzly with cubs near Wolverine Pass did not result in a warning due to a delay in the information reaching the frontcountry.

The Kootenay Bear Management Plan does not contain guidelines for the posting of bear warnings or area closures. Criteria for warnings and area closures should be developed.

When an aggressive encounter occurs as much information on the incident and the location of the incident should be obtained. The Herrero Grizzly Bear Aggerssive Encounter Questionnaire should be completed if possible as it contains a detailed list of questions.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Bear Monitoring

The Weekly Bear Monitoring Report should be changed from a listing of the previous weeks observations to a brief report summarizing significant bear observations, warnings and closures.

6.2 Food and Garbage Management

Monitoring and recording of food storage deficiencies should continue. This should be done on a daily basis by campground staff with additional patrols by the Warden Service. Food storage facilities should be provided at all frontcountry campgrounds for campers without vehicles.

Garbage facility improvements should be completed at the Aquacourt, Administration Building, McKay Creek Bunkhouse, Blakely's Bungalows and Mt. Farnham Bungalows.

Backcountry food poles should be monitored by Backcountry Wardens to ensure proper use.

6.3 Public Information Program

Interpretive staff should attempt to present a brief "You Are In Bear Country" message at the end of interpretive programs to remind campers of proper food and garbage storage techniques.

6.4 Training

Annual bear management training should be conducted in the spring. The training should include immobilization and capture systems, relocation and destruction of bears and a review of the bear monitoring system. The bear management warden should attend Banff's local bear training session each spring.