reduce these conflicts through improved individual awareness and compliance with regulations.

2. Removal of unnatural food sources

All unnatural food sources will be made inaccessible to bears.

3. Management Actions in Response to Bear-Human Interactions

When preventative methods of deterring bear-human interactions fail, the level of management action taken will be determined by the nature of the conflict.


The BMP will evolve through annual evaluations of the entire program.

Note: The reader’s understanding of this document may be enhanced by looking at the definitions in the glossary. Some of the terminology used below has unique definition when used in the context of this plan.

DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE’S MANAGEMENT POLICY

Preventative management will be the first step toward minimizing bear-human conflicts. Efforts will be focused on identifying and addressing the causes of bear-human conflicts. Park-wide management and education of visitors, businesses, and employees will minimize situations that could precipitate a bear-human conflict.

In circumstances where bears present a threat to visitors despite preventative measures, visitors will be restricted or removed from the area. If this procedure does not resolve the problem, more manipulative management actions such as aversive conditioning, relocation and removal will be initiated.

Bear behavior during bear-human conflicts will be classified as either defensive or threatening. Defensive behavior is considered natural with management responses directed toward the control of human activities. Threatening behavior is considered unacceptable and management responses will be directed towards modifying the bear's behavior. Removal of the bear will be considered as a last resort.

CONTENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

Educational efforts will emphasize bear behavior along with techniques for minimizing conflicts with bears. Discussions will also emphasize the importance of the wilderness character of DENA to its natural bear population. Appendix B contains copies of written educational materials available in 2003.
Information Distribution for User Groups

Alpenglow

Printed information for distribution to park users and employees will be centralized in a comprehensive article in the Denali Alpenglow. This article will discuss proper camping and hiking practices in bear country and how to behave should a close encounter with a bear occur. The Assistant Superintendent of Resources, Science, and Learning will approve future revisions of the article.

Park and concession staff will distribute the Alpenglow. Visitors will receive this information at the Visitor Center (VC) and the Science and Learning Center. Copies of the Alpenglow will be available at the following locations:

- Inside the VC and Science and Learning Center. After hours copies will be available outside of both facilities.
- The lobby of Park Headquarters and after hours outside the main door of Headquarters.
- The lobby of the Communications Center.
- The Savage Check Station.
- The concession employee cafeteria at the beginning of each season.
- Eielson Visitor Center.
- The Denali National Park and Preserve Official Web site.
- Copies will be mailed to individuals on request.

The Headquarters Receptionist will maintain copies of the Alpenglow at Headquarters. Concessions staff will get copies to the employee cafeteria. The Interpretive Division will maintain copies at all other sites.

Copies of the Alpenglow will be kept in patrol, wildlife management, and interpretive vehicles for distribution.

Bear Encounters Brochure

The brochure will be available at the VC Information desk, the campground ticket counter in the VC, Savage Check Station, Eielson Visitor Center and at each of the Kantishna lodges. One copy of each translation will be provided to park road bus drivers for reference in their information packets. Patrol Rangers will also have copies of these brochures in their vehicles. This information will be made available in a brochure about bear-human interactions with translations in German, Japanese, French, and Spanish.
**Bulletin Boards**

Information about safety in bear country, directions to bear proof storage facilities in campgrounds, and proper food and garbage handling procedures will be included in bulletin board displays. Information will be displayed as soon as areas open for the season. The Interpretive Division is responsible for posting of displays and their maintenance throughout the season. It may be necessary to post emergency messages relating to bears. The Wildlife Biologist should be informed in these instances. Copies of all signs and notices are shown in Appendix B.

**Signs Explaining Food Storage Regulations and Closures**

Signs reminding campers about proper food and garbage handling practices will be affixed to all campground picnic tables. The Wildlife Management Technicians will be responsible for ordering, installing, and replacing all wildlife related signs.

Signs will be posted at all trailheads in the Riley Creek, VC, Science and Learning Center, Headquarters area and at Savage Campground, from approximately 20 May to 20 June, warning the public that bears may be in the area hunting moose calves. Maps of sign locations will be made each season to facilitate removal.

‘Keep Wildlife Wild’ signs with general rules about not feeding or approaching wildlife will be posted on all garbage receptacles, in restrooms, and other appropriate locations.

**Interpretive Activities**

The Wildlife Management Technicians and other wildlife staff will provide training sessions for the interpretive staff on bear behavior and ecology at the beginning of each season. All public programs will include a message about the potential for bear-human conflict while visiting DENA and personal practices that can minimize conflict potential. Introductory remarks at guided walks will include the group’s actions should they encounter a bear. Interpreters will emphasize proper food and garbage handling during all patrols through campgrounds. The Chief of Interpretation will assure that this information is conveyed to the public during these contacts.

If a bear-related closure prevents an interpreter from conducting a scheduled program, a few minutes will be spent discussing the closure and ways to minimize bear-human conflicts.

**Information for Campground Users**

When campers receive a permit they will be given a copy of the Alpenglow and directed to the section dealing with bear human safety. They will be informed not to leave food or garbage unattended at any time and that their food should be stored in cars or food lockers when unattended. Park staff should always be alert for improperly stored food. Unattended food will be moved to the food storage lockers. Unattended garbage will be disposed of appropriately. Park staff will inform the Wildlife Technicians or a Patrol Ranger of food
storage problems. Campers without vehicles will be informed of the location of bear proof lockers in the campgrounds. Protection Rangers and/or the Wildlife Management Technicians will give verbal warnings about food/garbage storage at the campgrounds when a specific campground is having bear problems. Commissioned Rangers may issue citations when necessary or appropriate.

**Information for Backcountry Users**

All parties obtaining a backcountry permit will receive verbal, written, and video information about food storage and traveling in bear habitat. A slide program about hiking and camping in bear country will be available at the VC backcountry desk area for visitors speaking French, German, or Japanese. The Backcountry Desk Rangers will distribute bear resistant food containers (BRFCs) to backpackers. The visitor signature on the back of the permit will document personal contact with a Backcountry Desk Ranger. A copy of this permit can be found in Appendix C. The Backcountry Sub-District Ranger is responsible for this program element.

**Information for other Park Users and Neighbors**

Other park users including subsistence users, mining operators, business license holders, concession operations, contractors, holders of special use permits, private land owners within DENA, and adjacent land owners all have the potential to impact the parks wildlife by inappropriate food and garbage handling practices. The Wildlife Management Technicians and/or Rangers will inform these groups of the Park’s policy regarding bear-human conflicts. Emphasis will be placed on the methods and advantages of preventative measures.

These groups/individuals will be encouraged to bear-proof their garbage and food handling systems. Appropriate State and Federal laws will be enforced in cooperation with the State. Specific language of all relevant regulations can be found in Appendix D.

Information and requirements for bear proof food and garbage handling will be included in all permits, licenses, contracts, and plans of operations issued to these groups. A notice discussing these points as well as relevant bear activity updates will be maintained in public places such as the Denali Park Post Office and mailed to more inaccessible individuals and communities. Cooperative efforts of Park employees from all divisions will ensure the inclusion of these requirements in appropriate agreements. For specific individual responsibilities see Appendix E.

**TRAINING**

**NPS Employees-General**

All NPS employees will attend a training session concerning bear-human conflict that is part of the annual general orientation provided every May. Other bear safety training sessions will be available for employees who are unable to attend the general orientation. The session will cover the information presented in the Alpenglow article as well as information