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.