

Appendix E. Summary of Individual Responsibilities for Implementing the Bear Human Conflict Management Plan

Superintendent

1. Responsible for approving the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan and revisions.
2. Approves/disapproves the destruction of problem bears after consultation with the Assistant Superintendent of Resources, Science, and Learning, Wildlife Biologist, Chief Ranger, and District Ranger.
3. Approves or disapproves recommendations for temporary and emergency closures.
4. Informs inholders, and nearby neighbors of State and Federal regulations relating to food and garbage handling.

Concession Specialist

1. Ensures that agreements with concessionaires require bear proof facilities and handling practices for all garbage and food in the bus maintenance, store and concession residence, mercantile, and food court areas. The concessionaire must consistently comply with these requirements.
2. Incorporates requirements for bear proof food and garbage handling practices into all new and existing special use permits, business licenses, and concession contracts.
3. Contract Bus Driver Responsibilities Include:
 - a) Include information regarding the Alpenglow bear article, current closures, and regulations pertaining to the feeding of animals, in initial message to passengers.
 - b) Use Alpenglow bear article as reference when answering questions.
 - c) Direct people who have been involved in an interaction with a bear to DENA staff.
 - d) Ensure people remain on the bus when they are 1/2 mile of a bear.
 - e) Report any bear-human interactions they may witness on the park road to DENA staff.
 - f) Remain current on the locations of temporary and emergency closures. Informs the day hikers on the location of temporary and emergency closures.

4. Visitor Access Center Campground and Bus Desk Staff Responsibilities Include:
 - a) Verbally inform all frontcountry campers that food, cooking utensils, and cosmetics must be stored in a hard sided vehicle or in a food storage locker.
 - b) Point out the written version of the food storage requirements in the Alpenglow or on their campground permit.
 - c) Ensure that all campers receive the “Camping and Bears” information.
 - d) Direct people who have been involved in an interaction with a bear to DENA staff.

Ranger Activities Division

1. Chief Ranger
 - a) Participate in cooperative decisions with Assistant Superintendent of Resources, Science, and Learning, Wildlife Biologist, District Ranger and investigating field personnel on the translocation or destruction of a bear.
2. District and Sub-district Rangers
 - a) Supervise patrol rangers ensuring that they accomplish their specific responsibilities as outlined in the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan.
 - b) Initiates recommendations for temporary bear-human conflict related closures and notifies Dispatch when closures are established or lifted.
 - c) In conjunction with field staff, make recommendations and participate in decisions for translocation or destruction of bears.
 - d) Directs the enforcement of bear management regulations. Contacts State enforcement agencies when food or garbage handling problems occur in areas under State jurisdiction.
 - e) A primary participant in bear management actions.
 - f) Responsible for posting closure signs and other special bear related notices.
 - g) Contact State Department of Environmental Conservation to determine if local businesses have current permits and have been recently inspected.
3. Patrol Rangers

- a) At every opportunity, advises visitors of proper food storage procedures and appropriate behavior when near bears. Enforces pertinent regulations as necessary.
- b) Alert for developing sanitation problems such as faulty garbage storage equipment, overflowing garbage cans, litter, etc. Makes emergency corrections, verbally reports and then documents in writing these problems for immediate, permanent correction.
- c) Completes BIMS forms, immediately forwarding them to the Wildlife Management Technicians.
- d) Patrols campgrounds at least once each evening to inform visitors of proper food and garbage handling procedures.
- e) Patrols NPS and concession residence and recreation areas daily to ensure food or garbage are not left on porches or picnic areas.
- f) Patrols the park's entrance area complex's garbage facilities; once during the day and once after 11 P.M., making sure dumpsters are closed, no garbage or litter is accumulating in the area, and all garbage containers are of a bear-proof design approved by the park. Documents compliance with standards on approved forms or in daily patrol logs.
- g) Patrols park's garbage holding facility off Highway 3 at least three times a week, making sure gate is locked, electric fence activated, holding tank doors closed, and all garbage is securely contained.
- h) Patrols Kantishna concessions garbage facilities, whenever possible and with the landowners permission; making sure dumpsters are closed, burn barrels are clean, no garbage or litter is accumulating in the area, and all garbage containers are bear proof. Ensures any outdoor food storage facilities are bear proof. Documents compliance with standards on approved forms or in daily patrol logs.
- i) Conducts aerial and regular foot patrols of hotel, train station and Riley Creek area for illegal summer camps.
- j) Remains alert for improper food and garbage handling practices by nearby neighbors, permittee, business license holders, subsistence users, and aircraft users at headquarters, Kantishna and other airstrips.
- k) Document all non-compliance found during patrols in writing to supervisor.

- l) Posts and enforces temporary closures, at supervisors direction when possible. Patrol Rangers may post closures on their own if the situation warrants. Follows closing procedure in appendix H.
 - m) Immediately informs District Ranger and Dispatch of all bear incidents and bears seen in developed areas.
- 4. Backcountry Sub-district Ranger
 - a) Maintain the data base on BRFC use on the backcountry computer.
 - b) Insure that the backcountry desk staff are providing bear safety information to all backcountry users.
- 5. Backcountry Desk Staff
 - a) Distributes the Alpenglow to all hikers and strongly recommends they read the bear safety article and view the backcountry video. If they speak French, German, or Japanese strongly suggests they view the foreign language slide program on backcountry safety. Provides the foreign language version of the bear safety brochure to French, German, Spanish, and Japanese speaking visitors.
 - b) Provide verbal warnings about bears and information on proper food and garbage handling to all persons receiving a permit. Documents this warning by checking off the "bears" section on the back of the permit (see Appendix C).
 - c) Distribute bear resistant food containers to backpackers and emphasize the need to close it properly and store it at least 100 meters from their campsite.
 - d) Asks all returning hikers about bear and wolf interactions and completes BIMS forms when appropriate.
 - f) Flag damaged BRFCs for the Wildlife Management Technicians to repair.
- 6. Mountaineering Rangers
 - a) Provides bear safety information to all backcountry travelers entering bear habitat. Provides the foreign language version of the bear safety brochure to French, German, Spanish, and Japanese speaking visitors. Provides, and encourages the use of, BRFC to all backcountry travelers on the south side of the Alaska Range.
- 7. Communications Center

- a) Keep opening/closing log (Appendix H).
 - b) Immediately inform Wildlife Technicians, Wildlife Biologist, and District Ranger when an incident is reported.
 - c) Immediately inform Wildlife Technicians, Wildlife Biologist, District Ranger, and VAC and Eielson Visitor Centers, and others on the notification list (Appendix H.) of closures and lifting of closures of areas where incidents have occurred and of developed areas where bears have been seen. Also includes this information in morning reports.
8. Kennels Manager
- Will provide detailed training on how to minimize wildlife sled dog interactions to anyone involved in the summertime dog walker program, and the winter dog sled patrol program.
9. Campground Hosts
- a) Conduct patrols of the campground at least four times daily to check for food storage violation and inform visitors of campground regulations.
 - b) Move illegally stored food to food storage lockers, and inform patrol rangers, if campers are not present.
 - c) Record bear-human interaction on BIMS forms.
 - d) Inform Wildlife Management Technicians and Patrol Rangers of all reports of bear activity.
9. Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLIC).
- a) Verbally inform campers that food and coolers must be stored in vehicles or in bear proof food lockers.
 - b) Point out campground regulation written on back of camping permit.

Center for Resources, Science, and Learning

Resources Division

1. Assistant Superintendent for Resources, Science, and Learning.

Insure that Division Chiefs review their division's responsibilities in implementing the bear-human conflict management plan every spring.

2. Wildlife Biologist (GS-12 - Branch Chief)

- a) Monitor impacts of management programs on bear populations.
- b) Test and review new methods of managing bear-human conflicts before they are implemented.
- c) Make recommendations and participate in decisions for translocation removals or destruction of bears.
- d) Determine release sites for bears designated for translocation.
- e) Provide recommendations for bear research, write proposals, assist with data analysis, manuscript production, and publication development.
- f) Make presentations at training and professional sessions.
- g) Arrange training sessions for proper techniques in chemical immobilization and wildlife handling for the Wildlife Technicians, as necessary.
- h) Develop and revise the Bear-human conflict management plan.
- i) Coordinate and annually evaluate the bear-human conflict management program.

2. Wildlife Biologist (GS-9)

- a) Oversee BIMS and other bear management/research records.
- b) Participant in bear management actions if necessary.
- c) Oversees the preparation of summaries and written reports of park's bear-human conflict management activities for the park, regional office and other agencies and organizations as necessary.
- d) Supervise Wildlife Management Technicians.
- e) Ensure that bear ecology and safety training is provided to DENA, concession and local business employees.
- f) Make presentations at training and professional sessions.

3. Wildlife Management Technicians

- a) Maintain readiness and quickly respond, investigate and document incidents. Implements management actions according to this plan or supervisor's direction. Must be prepared to stay out in the Park for several days/nights at a time.
 - b) Maintain capture, aversive conditioning, telemetry, vehicle and other bear management related equipment in a ready condition at all times.
 - c) Coordinate training sessions on prevention of bear-human conflicts for DENA employees, concession employees and bus drivers at beginning of each season. Documents all training sessions for inclusion in annual report.
 - d) Coordinate with backcountry desk staff to maintain a supply of BRFCs and data forms. Checks with desk staff at least twice a week for BIMS forms and damaged BRFCs.
 - e) Repair BRFCs as time permits. Attempt to track down overdue containers.
 - f) Make spot checks of hotel, campgrounds, landfill, work camps, and other facilities for garbage problems and to see that garbage handling equipment (barrels, dumpsters) are in proper working order. Cooperate and share information with patrol rangers on garbage problems and actions taken to correct problems. Documents all problems or actions.
 - g) Post closure or warning signs as stated in closure procedures in appendix H.
 - h) Compile and analyze bear-human conflict data and draft annual reports.
 - i) Monitor kill sites, keep track of predatory events.
 - j) Order and maintain supply of Denali bear safety information brochures, and closure and warning signs.
 - k) Complies biweekly bear activity updates and distributes them to park staff and park partners (see notification list in Appendix H.) Include recent bear incidents, unusual encounters, other noteworthy wildlife activity.
3. Drug Practitioner (Usually one of the Wildlife Biologists)
- a) Purchases, maintains inventories and distributes drugs to field areas.
 - b) Coordinates and teaches annual drug related bear management and handling training sessions.
 - c) Responsible for immobilization and capture equipment.

4. Environmental Specialist/ Compliance & Geologist
 - a) Ensure that all mining plans of operation and other environmental documents have stipulations regarding park and/or state requirements for food and garbage handling.
5. Subsistence Specialist
 - a) Inform subsistence users of state and federal regulations relating to food and garbage handling.
6. Research coordinator
 - a) Informs all investigators, conducting research, of State and Federal regulations relating to food and garbage handling.

Interpretive Division

1. Supervisors
 - a) Inform the Park's visitors of the bear situation at evening programs, visitor centers, on guided walks and during informal public contacts.
 - b) Consult with Wildlife Biologist and the Wildlife Management Technicians in preparation of books, pamphlets and other materials on bears and ways to minimize bear-human conflicts.
 - c) Maintain supplies of Alpenglow at the Visitor Center, Eielson Visitor Center, The Savage Check Station, The Science and Learning Center.
 - d) Responsible for initial posting and maintenance of bear behavior information on bulletin boards.
2. Field Staff
 - a) In all programs and guided walks interpreters will comment on the potential for bear-human conflict and recommend specific behavior to minimize the potential for conflict.
 - b) In introductory remarks to guided walks, discuss the group's action if they encounter a bear.
 - c) Spend a few minutes talking about bears if a program is canceled due to bear activity in an area.

- d) Talk with people about food and garbage handling practices during pre-program walks around campground.
- e) Eielson Visitor Center staff will follow Bear Protocol for EVC in appendix L.
- f) Eielson Visitor Center staff will record all bear observations within a 1/4 mile area of Visitor Center.
- g) Record all bear-human interactions they hear about from visitors or other staff on BIMS forms.
- h) Maintain the backcountry video and other automated information programs at the VAC.

Maintenance Division

1. Facility Manager

- a) Ensures that all contracts for construction or maintenance projects contain Park and/or State stipulations on proper food and garbage handling. Coordinates with Wildlife Biologist and District Ranger to provide training for contractor's employees on proper behavior in bear country.

2. Buildings and Utilities Foreman

- a) Maintain park garbage system in a bear proof condition at all times. Any inadequacies or system failures are considered health/safety problems and will receive immediate priority consideration in the work program.
- b) Maintain regular program of container cleaning, maintenance and cyclic replacement.
- c) Maintain the fence around garbage holding facility on Highway 3 in bear-proof condition.
- d) Provide regular litter patrols along roads, around developed areas and areas where people congregate. Provide additional patrols as necessary to ensure a trash-free environment.

3. Garbage Collectors and Caretakers

- a) During summer, check cans in all visitor use areas daily and housing areas three times a week. Empty cans if half full or if they emit a strong odor, replace with clean plastic liner.

- b) No garbage shall be stored overnight, except in the approved transfer chute on highway 3, in the approved garbage trucks or compactors with doors fastened shut, or in closed, hard-sided buildings.
- c) Ensure bear proof can lid is correctly seated on top of can.
- d) Pick up any litter seen along roads, in turnouts, accumulation around garbage cans or any other area. Eielson caretaker will patrol porches and picnic areas around V.C. for small food scraps and litter at least 3 times a day. Toklat caretakers will pick up around Stony, Toklat and Polychrome rest areas daily. Teklanika caretakers will pick up around the Teklanika rest stop.
- e) Close and fasten the doors to the transfer chute in the former landfill facility east of Highway #3. Close the gate to the facility, and activate the electric fence whenever area is used.
- f) Immediately report faulty containers, containers needing cleaning or oversights in the current garbage handling system that could minimize its effectiveness in preventing bear-human conflicts.

Other Responsibilities

- a) All supervisors (concession and Park) will ensure their employees are aware of the Park's bear management objectives and the methods being used to achieve those objectives.
- b) All employees are responsible for correcting deficiencies in garbage handling, and food storage as they become aware of them or to call them to the immediate attention of someone who can correct them. If informal communication does not result in prompt correction, the recommended action or statement of problem will be given to a higher level supervisor and the Wildlife Biologist.
- c) All park divisions and functions will coordinate their respective bear management needs through the Wildlife Biologist.