

Appendix F. Guidelines for Use of Bear-Resistant Food Containers

Bear Resistant Food Containers (BRFCs) have been used since 1982 and have helped to reduce the number of bear incidents in the backcountry of DENA by 95%. The BRFC program is one of the cornerstones of Denali National Park and Preserve's bear human conflict management program. Fewer animals obtaining food decreases the chance of property damage, injury, and the destruction of bears. The Wildlife Management Technicians are responsible for ensuring adequate supply of BRFC's is available throughout the season.

VISITOR USE OF CONTAINERS

1. BRFCs are mandatory for backpackers in **all units** except 22, 23, 44 – 48, and 61 – 87 backcountry in the 1980 park additions and Preserve. There is no overnight use of backcountry units without a container in mandatory units. Mountaineers may spend the night in unit 20 without a BRFC to access mountaineering areas, or when traversing the Alaska Range.
2. Containers are recommended for units 22, 23, and backcountry in the 1980 park additions and Preserve. Judgement should be exercised in distributing containers in order to have them available for the mandatory backcountry units at all times. See Appendix Q. for BRFC status in each backcountry unit.
3. Individuals/groups unwilling to use the containers will be referred to areas where containers are not mandatory.
4. Mountaineering parties will have the following special regulations:
 - All parties will be given a food storage briefing and a bear safety orientation.
 - Mountaineering parties may not be required to carry BRFCs in unit 20, but will always be encouraged to use them.
 - Parties starting their trip from the Kantishna area may obtain a BRFC from the Wonder Lake Rangers. Arrangements can be made in advance with the Backcountry Sub-district Ranger.
 - The Talkeetna Ranger Station will keep a supply of containers to issue to parties that are crossing the range south to north.
5. Large Groups (15 people or more) that have been given exemption from the quota system (i.e. NOLS or the Sierra Club) will be required to carry BRFCs.

WEST END DISTRIBUTION

BRFCs will be available for visitors and/or west end employees in the Wonder Lake Sub-district. BRFCs will be located in the Wonder Lake Sub-district Office, at the Toklat Road Camp, and at the Wonder Lake Ranger Station. Backcountry and Road Patrol Rangers will be responsible for checking out these BRFCs.

All procedures for check out to visitors remain the same. The VC must be notified by the Wonder Lake Sub-District Staff if the container is going to be returned to the VC instead of in the Wonder Lake Sub-district.

DENA EMPLOYEES

The following positions may check out a container for longer lengths of time (i.e. the summer season) from their respective divisions, for official use: Backcountry Rangers, Wildlife Management Technicians, and Resource Management personnel on extended field work. These divisions also have their own supply of BRFCs. Administrative supplies of BRFCs are not to be used for recreational purposes. NPS employees using the backcountry on their lieu days are required to check out BRFCs from the backcountry desk and return them in a timely manner.

CONCESSION EMPLOYEES

Employees of local area businesses must check out BRFCs and return them in a timely manner. Their place of employment will be listed on their backcountry permit and stored on the backcountry permit computer.

OVERDUE AND LATE CONTAINERS

A BRFC is considered overdue two days past its due date. The Wildlife Management Technicians are responsible for locating overdue BRFCs. Local employees will be located through the personnel offices of their place of employment.

Any individual returning a BRFC late three times during one summer will result in the denial of backcountry permits for the remainder of the season. Visitors and employees that lose their BRFCs will be asked to replace them. The containers for sale at the Alaska Natural History Association outlet will be suggested as a replacement source. Visitors who have lost their containers may be issued a bill of collection. Late returns and losses of BRFCs are citeable offenses under 36CFR 2.10.