

Appendix I. Training Requirements

Thorough training in aversive conditioning techniques, the use of firearms, immobilization agents, free-darting, and aerial capture is mandatory before employees are permitted to participate in the respective activity.

Firearms

The use of firearms for bear management purposes shall follow guidelines as listed in NPS-44, Resource Management Qualifications. The primary purpose for issuance of a weapon to Bear Management personnel is for protection of the visitor in case of animal attack, or for disposal of animals. Secondly, the weapon is available for personal protection in case of animal attack, during management actions, and patrolling of areas closed due to bear problems. Unless otherwise stated in this plan, on lands within the boundaries of Denali National Park and Preserve, a bear will be killed only if it presents a critical and immediate threat to human safety and after all other means of deterrence have been exhausted.

Firearms training courses for natural resource management purposes include the following components:

Pistol Course - This course is required only if the employee will be using a pistol during the performance of his/her duties. The course is fired at a 12 inch diameter scoring ring. Any hit inside the 12 inch ring scores one point; any hit outside the 12 inch ring is scored as zero. A minimum score of 80% is required for qualification.

3 yards	offhand/standing	6 rounds	15 second time limit
7 yards	offhand/standing	6 rounds	20 second time limit
15 yards	offhand/standing	6 rounds	25 second time limit

Shotgun Course - This course is fired at a 12 inch diameter scoring ring. Any hit inside the ring scores as one point per hit; a hit outside the 12 inch ring is scored as zero. A minimum score of 80% is required for qualification.

7 yards	standing shoulder	buckshot*	2 rounds	6 second time limit
15 yards	standing shoulder	buckshot*	2 rounds	8 second time limit
15 yards	standing shoulder	slug	4 rounds	16 second time limit

* For shotgun familiarization purposes only. Buckshot is not used for any bear management activity.

Immobilization

Ground Based Dart Capture

The following minimum qualifications are required for employees immobilizing bears in a ground based free-darting situation:

1. Successful completion of a 24 hour wildlife immobilization class covering the following topics: drug pharmacology, wildlife reactions to drugs, human and wildlife safety, wildlife handling ethics, monitoring immobilized animals, loading of darts, dosage calculation, drug handling, and equipment familiarization.
2. Field experience participating in supervised captures/immobilization (amount of time to be determined by the overseeing supervisor based on the trainee's prior experience and aptitude).
3. Current CPR certification
4. Successful annual qualification with immobilization rifles. A minimum of 80% proficiency is required on a course specifically designed for capture weapons used within Denali that includes:

This course of fire is to shoot five 4-ml. darts from 10 and 15 yards at a 12 inch diameter scoring ring. Any hit inside the 12 inch ring scores as one point; any hit outside the 12 inch ring is scored as zero. A minimum score of 80% is required for qualification.

10 yards	offhand/standing	5 rounds	4cc dart
15 yards	offhand/standing	5 rounds	4cc dart

Aerial Capture

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above for ground based darting, employees involved in the aerial capture of animals must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. 8 hours of aircraft safety training, OAS-B3 or equivalent (recurring every three years).
2. Current on-the-job capture experience.
3. 40 hours of Aerial Capture, Eradication, and Tagging of Animals (ACETA) operational and aircraft safety classroom training.
4. Firearms certification (recurring every year).
5. Gunners must complete an operational airborne instruction and check ride as part of the 40 hour ACETA course.