

Appendix R: Field Guidelines

These field guidelines are intended to provide general descriptions of management responses for the most common types of problems experienced at Denali. It must be understood that every interaction will pose its own unique set of considerations.

1. Repeated Observations of Bear(s) in One Location:

- Patrol ranger may check area for a carcass, berry patch, etc. which may warrant a temporary closure.
- Contact Chief Ranger and Wildlife Biologist if it appears closure may be needed. Contact the Communication Center if a closure is implemented (Appendix H).
- Remove closure when hazard is gone.
- Document observations (Appendix G).

2. Bear Observed in close proximity of Developed Area:

- Notify Wildlife Management Technicians and/or Law Enforcement Rangers.
- Inform other staff or visitor center staff if in area of VC.
- Inform visitors or residents in the area.
- Inform the Communication Center.
- Be especially alert for food and sanitation problems during routine patrols of nearby developed area.
- Monitor the area if the developed area is Eielson Visitor Center or if the animal seems to be traveling toward a developed area.
- Document observations

3. Bear in Developed Area:

- Notify Wildlife Management Technicians and/or Law Enforcement Rangers.
- Inform other staff or visitor center staff if in area of VC.
- Inform visitors or residents in the area.
- Inform the Communication Center.
- Monitor the bears' activities.
- Document initial report or observation.

A. Initial Contact with Bear:

- Attempt to mark the bear (i.e., paint ball) for future positive identification.
- Initiate hazing.
- Post "bear in area" signs in campground (Appendix B).
- The Sub-district Ranger will initiate extra patrols to contact visitors and eliminate unattended food and garbage.
- Interpretive Division will mention the situation during walks and talks.
- The Sub-district Ranger will request that VC give additional warning to campers receiving permits for that area.
- Continue to monitor the bear's activities and behavior patterns.
- Document all actions (Appendix G).

B. Second Contact; Same Bear and initial hazing has not worked:

- Initial Closure:
- Consider closure, especially for small campgrounds, to give the bear(s) a chance to move out of the area.
- Maintain closure for 5 days and patrol the area for the presence of the bear(s).
- If there is no bear(s) after 5 days, open the area.
- If the bear(s) is still frequenting the area, consider extending closure.
- Mark the bear (radio collar).
- Initiate aversive conditioning of the bear.
- If hazing or aversive conditioning fails, consider translocation.
- Document all actions.

4. People On Road within ¼ mile of a bear.

- Provide information about the current situation and bears in general
- Offer transportation out of area
- If the bear(s) is very close, monitor the situation, or remove the people from the area.
- If people are intentionally approaching the bear(s), consider written warnings or citations.
- Document all actions.

5. Private Vehicles Stopped, Observing Bear.

- Provide information about bears and safety around bears. Emphasize the problems that arise when bears obtain unnatural food and the effects of traffic on wildlife.
- If time permits, monitor the situation, especially in spring or fall when private vehicles are allowed to drive the road and DENA and shuttle bus traffic is light.
- Encourage people to move on after a reasonable time observing the bear.
- Rangers should try to stay with groups of photographers and enforce Code of Ethics for photographers with permits. Emphasize to visitors that not only human safety is of concern, but also the safety of the bear.
- Document all actions.

6. Dead Animal

- Notifications
- Inform other staff or visitor center staff if in area of VC.
- Inform visitors or residents in the area.
- Inform the Communication Center.
- Conduct an investigation.
- Notify visitor center staff and bus drivers so visitors entering the area can be informed.
- Document initial report or observation

A. No bear on carcass:

- 1) **If the carcass is in area where a closure won't be effective, such as within 300 meters of developed site, Visitor Center, Science and Learning Center, Riley Creek Campground, within 50 meters of Highway 3, or along Alaska Railroad:**
 - Attempt to move carcass to an area less frequented by people or where closures or patrols can control people.
 - The Wildlife Biologist, in consultation with the Chief Ranger, will decide on the relocation site. (e.g. the service road North of Sanctuary Campground, or the service road East of Teklanika bridge, service road beyond Toklat Road Camp).
 - Close relocation area if necessary (Appendix H).
 - Open when the carcass has been consumed.

- Document all actions.
- 2) **Within 100 meters of backcountry trail or within 800 meters of park road and on a constricted, regular travel route:**
 - Close the area at access points and around carcass (Appendix H).
 - Patrol the area to see if the carcass has been consumed.
 - Open when the carcass has been consumed.
 - Document all actions.
 - 3) **Further than 800 meters off road and not within 100 meters of trail or common route:**
 - The Backcountry Subdistrict Ranger will request that staff issuing backcountry permits or contacting day hikers inform these parties of the location of the carcass.
 - Discontinue this process once the carcass has been consumed.
 - Document all actions.

B. Bear on Carcass:

- 1) In frontcountry, along road, view points, access points for travel routes, within 300 meters of developed site, Visitor Center, Science and Learning Center, Riley Creek Campground, and Headquarters:
 - Notification.
 - Inform other staff or Visitor Center staff if in area of VC.
 - Inform visitors or residents in the area.
 - Inform the Communications Center.
 - Close the area.
 - Patrol regularly to ensure people are not in the area.
 - Open when the carcass has been consumed and the bear(s) is out of the area.
 - Document all actions.
- 2) In the backcountry
 - Inform backcountry desk staff
 - Close area especially if it is frequented by backcountry users

- Patrol the area and open when the carcass has been consumed
- Document all actions.

7. Single Interaction, No Injury and No Food Obtained.

- If necessary, escort people away from the bear without provoking further interactions.
- Conduct an initial investigation for the causes of the incident.
- Monitor the situation.
- Make appropriate notifications.
- Document all actions.

A. Interaction resulting from intentional or unintentional harassment:

- Provide information concerning bear behavior to individuals involved to prevent future negative interactions.
- Consider written warnings or citations.
- No management action directed toward the bear(s).
- Consider a temporary closure (one-week maximum).
- Document all actions.

B. Interaction resulting from a surprise encounters, curious approach, dominance interaction, predatory response, or close range tolerance:

- Provide information concerning bear behavior to individuals involved to prevent future negative interactions.
- No management action directed toward the bear(s).
- Consider a closure (one-week maximum).
- Document all actions.

C. Bear interest in anthropogenic food:

- Attempt to mark the bear (i.e. paint ball, radio collar) for future positive identification.
- Initiate hazing or aversive conditioning.
- If aversive conditioning fails, consider relocation.

D. Bear exhibiting threatening behavior:

- Attempt to mark the bear (i.e. paint ball, radio collar) for future positive identification.
- Test.
- Attempt relocation.
- If relocation fails or is not a reasonable option, consider placement in a zoo or research facility or destruction.
- Document all actions.

8. Bear exhibiting tolerant, conditioned or rewarded behavior. No injuries or food obtained.

- Conduct a thorough review of all interactions. Review the causes of the bear's behavior and determine if the problems in the area are related to one animal.
- If the Wildlife Management Technicians, Sub-district Ranger and Wildlife Biologist feel a bear represents an unusual threat to visitor safety, close area.
- Initiate patrol procedure.
- Document all actions.

A. If patrol procedure identifies bear attracted to human food or conditioned:

- Attempt to mark the bear (i.e. paint ball, radio collar) for future positive identification.
- Initiate hazing or aversive conditioning.
- If aversive conditioning fails, consider relocation.
- If relocation fails or is not a reasonable option, consider placement in a zoo or research facility.

B. If the bear demonstrates threatening behavior toward people:

- Consider destruction

C. If patrols do not find a bear demonstrating these behaviors, open the area after three patrols and/or two weeks.

9. Bear Obtains anthropogenic Food.

A. All Incidents:

- Conduct an initial investigation to determine the type of incident.
- Make appropriate notifications. 's
- Begin initial response procedures.
- Consider written warnings or citations.
- Provide information concerning bears to individuals involved.
- Consider how food and garbage handling practices may have contributed to the incident when selecting management options.
- Document all actions.

B. Backcountry:

- Close the area.
- Clear the area and locate the bear(s).
- Attempt to mark the bear (radio collar, paint ball) for future positive identification.
- Initiate aversive conditioning.
- If the patrol is unsuccessful in finding the bear(s), open the area after five days.
- Document all actions.

C. Frontcountry:

- Correct any food or garbage handling problems.
- Identify the bear(s).
- Attempt to mark the bear (radio collar, paint ball) for future positive identification.
- If bear returns, initiate hazing or aversive conditioning.
- If aversive conditioning fails, consider translocation.
- If two translocations fail, consider placement in a zoo or research facility, or destruction.
- If the patrol is unsuccessful in finding the bear(s), open the area after five days.

Document all actions.