

## **Bulletin Boards**

Information about safety in bear country, directions to bear proof storage facilities in campgrounds, and proper food and garbage handling procedures will be included in bulletin board displays. Information will be displayed as soon as areas open for the season. The Interpretive Division is responsible for posting of displays and their maintenance throughout the season. It may be necessary to post emergency messages relating to bears. The Wildlife Biologist should be informed in these instances. Copies of all signs and notices are shown in Appendix B.

## **Signs Explaining Food Storage Regulations and Closures**

Signs reminding campers about proper food and garbage handling practices will be affixed to all campground picnic tables. The Wildlife Management Technicians will be responsible for ordering, installing, and replacing all wildlife related signs.

Signs will be posted at all trailheads in the Riley Creek, VC, Science and Learning Center, Headquarters area and at Savage Campground, from approximately 20 May to 20 June, warning the public that bears may be in the area hunting moose calves. Maps of sign locations will be made each season to facilitate removal.

'Keep Wildlife Wild' signs with general rules about not feeding or approaching wildlife will be posted on all garbage receptacles, in restrooms, and other appropriate locations.

## **Interpretive Activities**

The Wildlife Management Technicians and other wildlife staff will provide training sessions for the interpretive staff on bear behavior and ecology at the beginning of each season. All public programs will include a message about the potential for bear-human conflict while visiting DENA and personal practices that can minimize conflict potential. Introductory remarks at guided walks will include the group's actions should they encounter a bear. Interpreters will emphasize proper food and garbage handling during all patrols through campgrounds. The Chief of Interpretation will assure that this information is conveyed to the public during these contacts.

If a bear-related closure prevents an interpreter from conducting a scheduled program, a few minutes will be spent discussing the closure and ways to minimize bear-human conflicts.

## **Information for Campground Users**

When campers receive a permit they will be given a copy of the Alpenglow and directed to the section dealing with bear human safety. They will be informed not to leave food or garbage unattended at any time and that their food should be stored in cars or food lockers when unattended. Park staff should always be alert for improperly stored food. Unattended food will be moved to the food storage lockers. Unattended garbage will be disposed of appropriately. Park staff will inform the Wildlife Technicians or a Patrol Ranger of food



storage problems. Campers without vehicles will be informed of the location of bear proof lockers in the campgrounds. Protection Rangers and/or the Wildlife Management Technicians will give verbal warnings about food/garbage storage at the campgrounds when a specific campground is having bear problems. Commissioned Rangers may issue citations when necessary or appropriate.

### **Information for Backcountry Users**

All parties obtaining a backcountry permit will receive verbal, written, and video information about food storage and traveling in bear habitat. A slide program about hiking and camping in bear country will be available at the VC backcountry desk area for visitors speaking French, German, or Japanese. The Backcountry Desk Rangers will distribute bear resistant food containers (BRFCs) to backpackers. The visitor signature on the back of the permit will document personal contact with a Backcountry Desk Ranger. A copy of this permit can be found in Appendix C. The Backcountry Sub-District Ranger is responsible for this program element.

### **Information for other Park Users and Neighbors**

Other park users including subsistence users, mining operators, business license holders, concession operations, contractors, holders of special use permits, private land owners within DENA, and adjacent land owners all have the potential to impact the parks wildlife by inappropriate food and garbage handling practices. The Wildlife Management Technicians and/or Rangers will inform these groups of the Park's policy regarding bear-human conflicts. Emphasis will be placed on the methods and advantages of preventative measures.

These groups/individuals will be encouraged to bear-proof their garbage and food handling systems. Appropriate State and Federal laws will be enforced in cooperation with the State. Specific language of all relevant regulations can be found in Appendix D.

Information and requirements for bear proof food and garbage handling will be included in all permits, licenses, contracts, and plans of operations issued to these groups. A notice discussing these points as well as relevant bear activity updates will be maintained in public places such as the Denali Park Post Office and mailed to more inaccessible individuals and communities. Cooperative efforts of Park employees from all divisions will ensure the inclusion of these requirements in appropriate agreements. For specific individual responsibilities see Appendix E.

## **TRAINING**

### **NPS Employees-General**

All NPS employees will attend a training session concerning bear-human conflict that is part of the annual general orientation provided every May. Other bear safety training sessions will be available for employees who are unable to attend the general orientation. The session will cover the information presented in the Alpenglow article as well as information



necessary for living, working, and recreating in bear country. It will also emphasize the importance of minimizing bear-human conflicts within the Park. The Wildlife Management Technicians are responsible for arranging and presenting these training sessions. **It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure time is provided for their employees to attend.**

It is the responsibility of each employee to be alert for situations such as broken garbage storage equipment, poor food storage, bears around developed areas, and other problems that could lead to bear-human conflicts. These problems must be reported immediately to a Wildlife Management Technician either directly or through the Comm. Center. Employees who have infrequent contacts with the public will be instructed at minimum to direct visitors to the Alpenglow, bulletin boards, Visitor Centers, or Ranger Activities and Interpretive staff when questioned about bears. It is also the responsibility of all employees to place people who have been involved in a bear encounter and/or incident (see the glossary for definitions) in contact with the Wildlife Management Technicians.

### **NPS, and Contracted Employees with Visitor Contact Duties**

The Interpretive, Dispatch, Ranger, and Concession staff that frequently engage in visitor contact will receive additional training on reporting procedures for bear-human interactions, interpreting the park's bear-human conflict policies and programs to visitors, and basic bear biology and behavior. The Chief Ranger, Chief of Interpretation, and Chief of Concessions will ensure that this training is incorporated into annual employee orientation and training sessions. The Wildlife Management Technicians will conduct these sessions.

### **NPS Employees Responding to Bear-Human Incidents**

Wildlife Management Technicians responsible for responding to bear-human incidents will receive intensive training in reporting and interview procedures, incident scene investigation, incident response scenarios and procedures, temporary and emergency wildlife closure procedures, firearms handling, and use of deterrent and aversive conditioning devices. The Wildlife Biologist and/or returning Wildlife Management Technicians will provide this training.

### **Researchers and Contractors**

All researchers and contractors working in DENA will be required to obtain training in bear-human conflict avoidance and information necessary for living and working in bear country. Training sessions will be tailored to the experience level of the group and their potential exposure to bears. The Wildlife Management Technicians will present these sessions. The Park liaison to each of these groups will ensure that the necessary training is arranged. Researchers must sign written bear safety precautions and guidelines when their research permit is issued (Appendix P).

### **Concession Employees**

All concession employees will be provided with information about living, working and recreating in bear country. Informational meetings will be held at various times to cover the



information presented in the Alpenglow. These meetings will also include requests for employee reports concerning bear interactions and situations throughout the park that could result in bear-human conflicts. The Park will emphasize that individual actions, such as proper use of food storage and garbage disposal systems, can make a difference in preventing conflicts with bears.

The Alpenglow article and a memo summarizing the topics covered in these meetings will be posted at the employees' cafeteria, Visitor Transportation System (VTS) bus office and other concessions that desire to participate. The Wildlife Management Technicians will arrange and conduct these meetings.

### **Bus Drivers**

Annual bus driver training will cover the driver's responsibility to minimize bear-human conflicts. Drivers will be instructed to use the Alpenglow article as the basis for any bear information given to the public. Any bear related closures should also be included in their initial message to the public. Bus drivers will be reminded that visitors are not allowed to leave a bus within ½ mile of a bear. Drivers should direct people involved in an interaction with a bear(s) to the Wildlife Management Technicians, Law enforcement Rangers, or NPS staff at the Visitor Center. The Visitor Transportation System Coordinator will arrange these training sessions that are conducted by the Wildlife Management Technicians.

### **Documentation**

All training sessions will be documented and reported in the Annual Wildlife Management Report in order to monitor the time invested, number of people and groups receiving training, and effectiveness of the training.

## **REMOVAL OF UNNATURAL FOOD SOURCES**

### **Regulations**

#### **NPS Food Handling Regulations**

Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.10(d) is the primary regulation authorizing the Superintendent to specify food-handling requirements within DENA (Appendix D).

#### **State Regulations and Their Interpretation**

Upon receipt of a complaint concerning a problem bear, Alaska department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) generally requires the food and garbage of the residence, camp, or business be completely bear proof before any action is taken (Appendix D). In areas with a history of bear problems, an inspection of food and garbage handling of area residents can be conducted by an ADF&G representative if a complaint is received from a neighbor. The State's definition of "bear proof" is based on the proven effectiveness or ineffectiveness of

