

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve 2012 Bear Program Report

A Summer of Winter: The Quest for Food

By Christopher Behnke, Tania Lewis, and Kyle Pinjuv



A black bear cub feeds on devil's club berries in August near park headquarters in Bartlett Cove.

Front Country Bears

Temperatures this summer were colder than average with extended periods of rain. Accordingly, Bartlett Cove bear foods were late arriving. Much of the highly utilized bear foods in Bartlett Cove were slow to develop. In the spring, angelica, horsetail, dandelions, and succulent young grasses and sedges are usually eaten by hungry bears fresh out of hibernation. This year's delayed spring may have been the reason fewer bears were sighted in Bartlett Cove early in the season. Berries began to appear by August, and despite the cold and rain, the summer managed to produce anecdotally above average blueberry and strawberry crops. Nagoonberries appear productive, and devils-club berries appear plentiful. Bears have been seen feeding on all these berries regularly, once again reminding us that Bartlett Cove is prime bear viewing.



A black bear cub crosses the road near the Glacier Bay Lodge.

Barco Black Bears

- At least two mama bears with three cubs of the year each frequented the Bartlett Cove developed area and Gustavus. The cubs were observed gaining comfort with human presence over the course of the season. These mamas may have been Bartlett Cove cubs themselves in years past. One mama bear with two cubs was monitored in August, possibly a new mama, or possibly a regular who lost a cub.
- The beautiful large cinnamon-colored adult male black bear previously known as “Mr. Cinnamon” was sadly not sighted this year (the Glacier Bay Bear Team members do not anthropomorphize and rarely name bears so as to protect the identity of the individual bears and also to prevent unwanted petting and cuddling of anthropomorphized bears by visitors). If anyone saw him, please let us know!
- Two similarly sized small sub-adult black bears were sighted numerous times in the Bartlett Cove developed area. One of these bears exhibited dominance testing and was hazed.
- At least one healthy large adult male black bear was monitored several times over the season, occasionally exhibited dominance testing.

Barco Brown Bears

Two, and likely more, different brown bears have been spotted in the Bartlett Cove area. Since photographs are not always available to make a comparison, identification of individuals is difficult. The Bartlett River trail and meadows remain a hot-spot for brown bear sightings, and this year brown bears have also been seen passing through the campground and Bartlett Cove. In late August a fisheries biologist sighted a brown bear sow with a cub, likely a sign of things to come as brown bears continue to colonize lower Glacier Bay.



Brown bear beauty bathing beyond the Bartlett Cove campground.

A Day in the Life of the Glacier bay Bear Team: “Circus Day”—July 18th, 2012

9:00 am: 382 (the bear-tech previously known as Kyle) was monitoring a small black bear in front of the lodge.

9:30: A brown bear was reported chasing moose #12 and calf through lodge housing.

9:31: The brown bear then charged out to the road, encountering 382.

9:31:15: The black bear charged the brown bear, which then chased the black bear into the woods.

10:00: Mama black bear with three cubs spotted on the Forest Loop Trail by the pond.

1:00 pm: 382 and 217 (aka Coco) monitored small black bear by NPS seasonal housing.

1:30: 381 (aka Christopher) and moose researchers radio-tracked moose #12 to determine if calf had been predated upon. Moose was found safe with calf.

Human Attractants

We have made an ongoing effort with outreach to NPS and Concessions employees. We are blessed in Bartlett Cove with superbly educated and bear-aware staff. Potential sites of human attractants remain. NPS employees regularly patrolled the developed area for attractants. There was one incident of a small black bear on the bear proof garbage cans by the VIS in mid-august. The bear did not get into the bear proof container, and was hazed by NPS staff.

NPS housing-NPS employees have been rigorous on creating a culture of awareness regarding bear attractants, especially regarding human food rewards. NPS seasonals continue to self-regulate the area and make an effort to “keep a clean camp” with food and other human food attractants which might provide a food reward for bears.

Barbeque grills-NPS seasonal housing has two barbeque grills. These grills are a source of possible conflict. Fortunately bears have not yet “discovered” them. The grate and drip pans remain a strong potential as a bear attractant. Bears have a sense of smell which is characterized to be fifty times stronger than that of a bloodhound. There are sometimes individuals characterized as curious and exploratory of new food sources. However, there can also be creatures of habit preferring non-risky and plentiful natural food sources in the area, such as blueberries and cow parsnip. Work remains to be done with the grills, since no formal cleaning regime or instructional procedures have been established for or posted on them.

Lodge Housing Area. The lodge employees this year have been remarkably fastidious. Ongoing education has helped to develop a sense of bear-awareness. Bear proof garbage can lids have been found unlatched on a number of occasions, however we are continuing education, reminding all employees to shut the lids.

Glacier Bay Lodge. In September 2011 a black bear entered the wooden gate of the lodge garbage area which had been left open. The bear received a food award. The lodge this year has been extremely vigilant in avoiding a repeat of the incident. In July the lodge installed six bear resistant trash bins that the park had purchased, thus completing the bear-proof-ness of all garbage facilities in Glacier Bay National Park!



Brand new bear resistant trash cans at the Lodge!

Bear Proof Dumpsters. Bear proof trash cans have the advantage allowing us to relax about bears acquiring human garbage. We must however remain vigilant about closing the lids of the cans securely, lest a bear make an association between bear cans and food. We must also ensure that garbage does not overflow so the lid cannot be securely fastened. Thanks to maintenance for their fastidious collection efforts!

Gustavus Bears

Gustavus is in its third summer of regular brown bear sightings and the town has undergone growing pains since brown bears were first sighted in the front country in 2010. Genetic analysis of hair samples taken across the Gustavus forelands in fall 2011 and spring 2012 indicate the presence of at least four different brown bears. Brown bears have been sighted all over town searching for natural foods, and they have been seen chasing moose with calves. The town is learning to handle the stressful possibility of moose calf predation and defensive bear behavior over a carcass. Fortunately, Gustavus is blessed with an extraordinary group of refuse-masters who take bears seriously. As always, it is up to the residents of Gustavus to help protect bears from human food. A fed bear is a dead bear.



Kyle and Christopher stand in front of a newly erected electric fence surrounding a yurt in Gustavus.

In July a Gustavus resident contacted the Bear Team about a small black bear which had broken into a yurt and acquired food. The bear had attempted to return several times. The bear team set up a solar powered electric fence around the structure, which has not been broken into again. Electricity is “the ultimate bear equalizer” as it provides strong negative associations with a behavior and can help to “train” a human food conditioned bear.

Dry Bay/Alsek River Bears

There have been no reported bear-human conflicts on the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers, but in August Ranger Jim Capra requested assistance from the Bear Team in Dry Bay to help with a sub-adult brown bear that has repeatedly approached anglers and obtained fish carcasses. Tania and Kyle went to Dry Bay and talked to the rangers, owners of the two sport fishing lodges, and local fishermen. They spent part of a day in the lower East Alsek with ranger Jeremy and aversive conditioning tools but did not encounter this bear. The bear team determined that education of anglers and monitoring fishing activity on the East River was the best way to minimize bear-human conflicts, particularly in regards to non-guided anglers who may not know how to respond appropriately to approaching bears. Rangers Jeremy and Jim continue to attempt to contact fly-in anglers and remind them best fishing practices. The Bear Team will work on a brochure/fact sheet for fishing in bear country to give to local Yakutat air taxis en route to Dry Bay.

As always, the Bear Team enjoyed talking to the friendly and helpful local fishermen and lodge owners in Dry Bay, and even appreciated meeting the anonymous resident who proclaimed “Just leave me alone and keep on doing what you’re doing: *which is nothing!*”, thus providing the slogan for this year’s Bear Team t-shirt.

Backcountry Bears

The backcountry this year was defined by a delayed and cold spring. Visitors were heard referring to their backcountry experience as “*MayTober*” and “*JuneVember*.” The upper bay retained a thick snow pack, even at

sea level, until mid-summer. This had the effect of delaying vegetative growth during a period when bears are out of hibernation. As a result, bear sightings were high on the shore with bears waiting for summer feeding to begin, and subsisting on intertidal resources. May, June, and early July featured high numbers of beach-bound hungry bears and nervous campers utilizing the beach corridors, effectively waiting for the summer to arrive. Fortunately, the inevitable encounters with backcountry users camping along these same corridors were, by and large, positive. Given the delayed spring and the dearth of food resources, the bears, which concentrated on the beaches alongside kayakers, displayed remarkable tolerance and aplomb, tending to exhibit classic “passing bear” behavior and avoiding conflict.

Advisories and Closures 2012

The Bear Team often meets campers when they return from their trips to ask them about their bear encounters. Sometimes incidents or reports of unusual bear behavior give us reason to close an area or otherwise advise visitors. We use three primary management methods of minimizing conflicts in the backcountry. One method is *Closures*. We might close a stretch of beach with a carcass and feeding bear. Another method is a *Formal Advisory*, in which we put out a press release for an incidents involving damaged gear or aggressive bear behavior. *Informal Advisories* might be issued for unusual encounters such as repeated approaches by a curious bear, but no aggression or gear damage. In this case, VIS and the Bear Team educate visitors opportunistically. 2012 was an unusual year in that we issued only one formal advisory, one bear related closure, and a slew of informal advisories. See page 15 for a full list of bear incidents, advisories, and closures.



A brown bear gently picks up a seven thousand dollar folding kayak. The kayak was undamaged and a formal advisory was issued.

The Gloomy Knob Salmon Frenzy

2012 saw high levels of wolf and bear activity in conjunction with the arrival of salmon in the South Vivid Lake stream exit, south of Gloomy Knob. A pack of up to ten wolves, including four pups, were estimated to be in the area immediately adjacent to the stream for almost 1 month. The geography of south Gloomy Knob serves as a wildlife corridor, funneling bears and wolves through a constricted area with a productive sockeye salmon stream. This area is also popular with kayakers and sport fisherman. The density of carnivorous megafauna in July and August made Gloomy Knob a “hot spot” with a high likelihood of an incident, as well as high likelihood of disturbance to wildlife by campers and fishermen, so the area was closed to foot traffic from July 25 – August 25. Gloomy Knob has historically been the site of a number of edgy bear-human encounters and incidents. The decision to close the beach was made due to observations of encounters between fishermen, campers, and wildlife to minimize bear-human conflicts and reduce the disturbance of wildlife. Despite the closure, visitors on vessels had superb wildlife viewing opportunities throughout this time period.



*Wolf and brown bears families interact at south Gloomy Knob. Credit: Christopher Michel-
<http://www.ChristopherMichel.com>*



Wolves are typically highly transient in their search for game, but in this case, the pack seems to have settled temporarily, in conjunction with the salmon run. The four pups present additional food requirements for the large carnivores, leading them to take up residence for the duration of the run. Bears are also famous for frequenting salmon streams, and the South Vivid outflow is no exception. Large numbers of bears, including mothers with cubs have been seen in the area pursuing fat and calories during the short feeding summer season. Wolves were seen “driving away” bears which move through the area in pursuit of food.

Wolf and pup at south Gloomy Knob, 2012. Credit: John Kipping- <http://www.dolphincharters.com>

Training

Tania and Kyle conducted a slurry of early season bear trainings for NPS employees. Tania continued her exhausting yearly tradition of two weeks of bear-intensive trainings, giving a non-stop pile of bear presentations covering bear behavior, ecology, research, and GLBA bear management. Kyle gave training to Lodge Staff and to NPS staff who missed the primary training period. Christopher opportunistically worked with educating SAGA, independent researchers, and visitors. Themes include emphasizing the importance of stand your ground principles, having and keeping bear spray accessible, making noise, and determining the difference between defensive and non-defensive bear behavior during an encounter. As always, loaner bear spray is available for NPS employees and researchers. Bear spray gives people the confidence to stand their ground: running from a bear is the wrong decision. To quote the bear-aware wisdom of famed mafioso Tony Soprano, “Don’t act like dinner, or you will be!”

WILD Night!
Bears and Wolves and Moose, Oh My...

Community Potluck and Wildlife Research Presentations
Thursday, May 31st at 6:00pm, Gustavus School multipurpose room

SCHEDULE
6:00 POTLUCK AND MUSIC
7:00 OF WOLVES AND MOOSE
8:00 BEARS IN THE BAY
8:30 BEARS IN GUSTAVUS
9:30 LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Bring a tasty dish and learn more about your local animal neighbors!

With Kevin White and Ryan Scott of ADF&G, Tania Lewis and Kyle Pinger of NPS
Contact: Tania Lewis at (907) 997-2658

In June the bear team organized the **WILD Night**, a community potluck featuring presentations by NPS and ADF&G wildlife researchers. WILD Night was a hit, with over 75 participants, live music, and tables full of incredible food! After dinner the crowd was treated to outstanding presentations ranging from Juneau urban bear management, mountain goats, Gustavus and GLBA bears, wolves, and many other fascinating topics. Community outreach is a critical part of successful research and management. A great potluck is the way to go!

Recent and Ongoing Bear Research Projects

Distribution of Black and Brown Bears in Glacier Bay

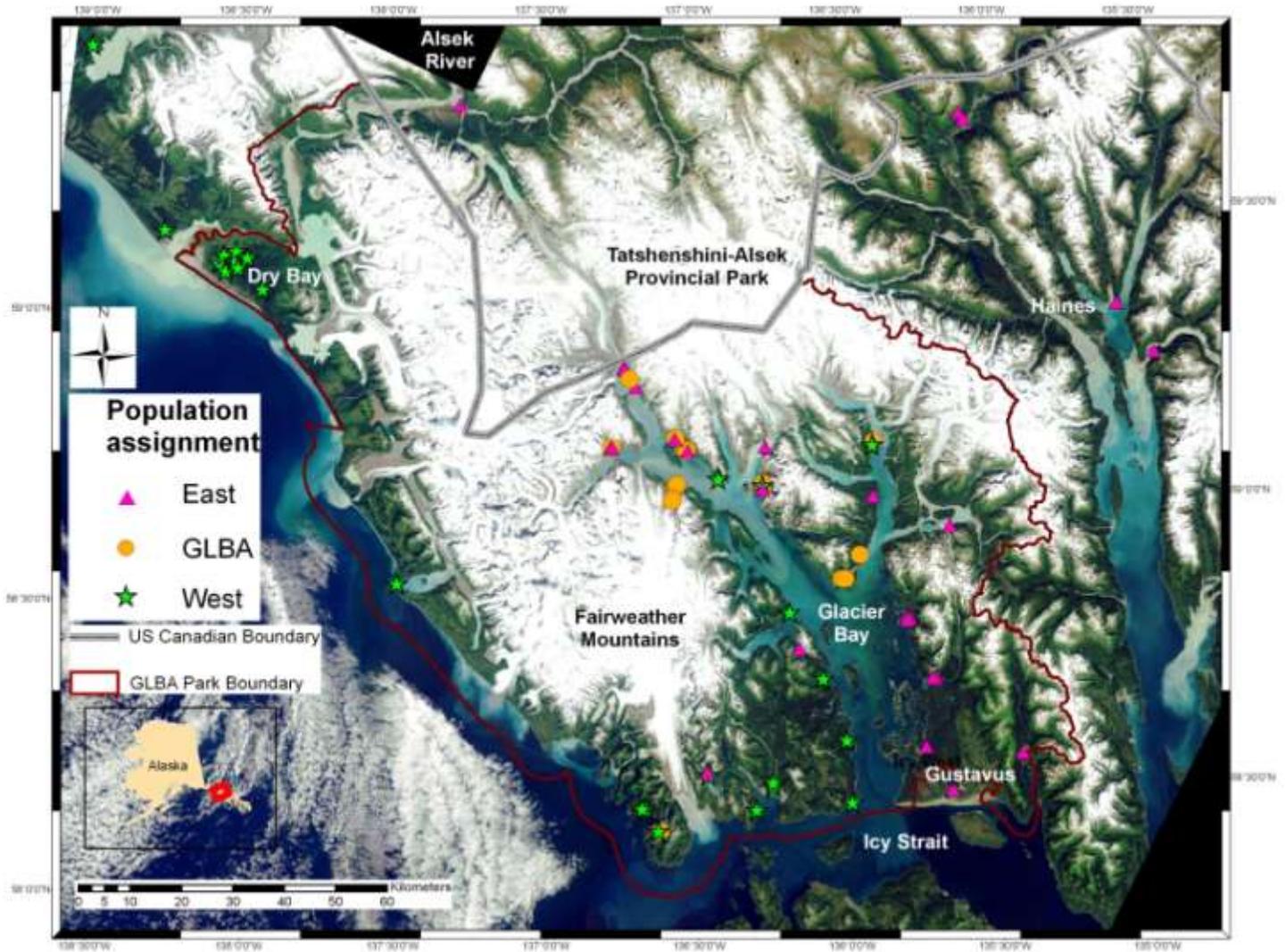
The deep fjords, islands, and mountains which characterize Southeast Alaska were shaped by a mixture of geological processes and dramatic glacial periods of advance and retreat. From the Little Ice Age until 260 years ago Glacier Bay was largely covered in ice. Since then the glaciers have receded at an unprecedented rate, exposing a new bay and a freshly sculpted land. Mammals colonized Glacier Bay as the glaciers receded. Migrating bears arrived in the new land looking for [sources of food](#), including early successional species such as willow catkins, soapberry, alpine sweet vetch (bear root), and field oxytrope (locoweed). The glaciated mountainous landscape and wide fjords of this unique bay have geographically influenced the colonization of the bay by bears by acting as barriers and directing the flow of migration. Glacier Bay has a wide spectrum of rapidly varying habitat, ranging from moonscape glacial outwash to rich old growth forest.

A study from 2009-2010 investigated the distribution of bears along the length of the bay, in relation to the plant and stream succession of the landscape and the number of years the land has been exposed by glacial retreat. The study explored patterns of distribution among present bear populations. Bear tracks and hair collected from rub trees were analyzed to help understand how modern Glacier Bay bears are influenced by the unique landscape surrounding Glacier Bay. Anecdotally, the recently forested southern bay have been inhabited only by black bears while brown bears in Glacier Bay have been associated with old growth forests of the outer coast and recently de-glaciated areas. This study discovered that black bear distribution is strongly associated with closed forest cover. Surprisingly however, brown bears were found in every part of the bay, including the young forests in the southern bay. This discovery indicates that brown bears are in an ongoing process of colonizing Glacier Bay, expanding their range into the forelands, including the town of Gustavus.

Population and landscape genetics of brown bears in Glacier Bay, Alaska

A study conducted in 2009-2010 examined the genetics of bears across Glacier Bay. Bear Hair DNA from 105 brown bears was collected from sites spanning across Glacier Bay National Park. Genetic and landscape analysis can be used to show how the landscape and population structure of brown bears are intertwined in Glacier Bay, and to help determine likely sources for brown bear re-colonization in the recently de-glaciated region.

Results show that there are three genetically distinct groups of brown bears in Glacier Bay and that the rugged Fairweather mountain range and the wide fjords of Glacier Bay are both barriers to dispersal. Two genetic groups range far beyond the parks boundary to the west and east, and one group was isolated long enough to undergo genetic drift and develop a genetic signature unique to northern Glacier Bay. This endemic subpopulation likely stems from an original group of colonizers from the east, while the other two groups are more recent immigrants. One recently immigrated group likely moved into the bay from the northwest, the other arrived from the northeast, and represent a second wave of colonization along the shoreline of Glacier Bay. These recent immigrants are beginning to mix with the original colonizers after years of separation, and soon the unique genetic signal of the original colonizers will vanish.



Distribution of brown bears by genetically distinct sub-population. Orange circles indicate individuals from the endemic (only found in Glacier Bay) GLBA group.

Gustavus Forelands Bear Population Study

There has never been a baseline population estimate for bears in the Gustavus forelands. Both the NPS and the state of Alaska make management decisions which impact bears. Bears recognize no boundaries, moving between Glacier Bay National Parklands and Alaska state property. Once a baseline bear population estimate exists, ADF&G can make better informed harvest management decisions. This study is critical to understanding trends in bear populations in the forelands. One question this study may someday shed light on is whether or not Gustavus constitutes a “population sink,” meaning the harvest rate for bears exceeds the reproduction rate resulting in a negative population growth rate.

Bio. Tech Kyle Pinjuv is spearheading this population study with help from the rest of the Bear Team. In order to discover the number of bears in the forelands, we have utilized bear rub trees and scented hair traps in order

to collect samples of hair from different bears for genetic analysis. Rub trees are evidence of a fascinating bear behavioral characteristic: bears may rub, claw, and bite certain trees repeatedly over time, often along a regularly used bear trail. The trees may be identified by their claw and bite marks, and are often covered in sap. The process of rubbing against the tree deposits hair samples. We increase the quality of these samples by tacking small pieces of barbed wire to the tree, which is more likely to snag hair.



A motion sensor camera captures a brown bear satiating itself on a sappy barbed wire rub tree.



A brown bear paws through scent-bait: note the flagged suspended barbed wire. Hair was collected!

In order to increase our sample size of bear hair and possibly attract bears who do not rub on trees, we installed hair traps. These are enclosures of a single strand of barbed wire placed in proximity of regularly used bear corridors. In the center of these enclosures we place a pile of rotten wood and pour an odiferous attractant on it, such as a mixture of rotten cow's blood, fish fertilizer and glycerin. In addition, we applied small amounts of skunk essence to the trees within the trap for further enticement. The bears slip underneath the barbed wire, depositing hair on the individual barbs. We have motion sensor cameras on the traps which suggest that bears spend very little time investigating once they determine that there is nothing to eat.

The hair samples are genetically tested to identify individual, species, sex, and more! This will help us compile a list of bears that are "marked" by their hair samples, and "recaptured" in order to statistically model a minimum population number. This type of genetic hair sampling is noninvasive, relatively inexpensive, safe for the bears and researchers, and can be a tremendous source of information.

Who Are We? *The “B” Team*

Kyle Pinjuv, Bear Biological Technician.



Kyle arrived in 2010 as a volunteer, after which he was hastily snapped up by us. This is his second season as a bear technician. Kyle is completing fieldwork for his graduate thesis at The Evergreen State examining the population of bears in the Gustavus forelands. Kyle expects to have completed his degree by spring 2013. For the first time managers will have a population estimate for bears in the Gustavus forelands. It's a pretty important thing to know! Kyle is a superb photographer, guitar player, and stubborn optimist.

Tania Lewis, Wildlife Biologist.



Tania graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in May and is relishing the freedom of completion, while tundra-swan diving into new projects. Her thesis is titled: *Shoreline Distribution and Landscape Genetics of Bears in a Recently Deglaciated Fjord: Glacier Bay, Alaska*. This is available in story book form at the GLBA library and in PDF form on the GLBA network. Since graduation, Tania has started a glaucous-winged gull monitoring study, thus Broadening her interest in things which Begin with the letter “B” including: Bears, Banjos, Beverages, Bicycles, and Birds.

Christopher Behnke, Bear Biological Technician



Christopher graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Northern Studies and Natural Resource Management and is completing his third season as a bear biologist technician in Glacier Bay National Park. Christopher has been diving headfirst into published literature on glaucous-winged gulls, and continues to assist in front-country bear management, along with working for the GLBA Interpretive Division leading “Bear Hikes.” He will serve as adjunct professor for University of Alaska Southeast teaching *Introduction to Sea Kayaking* in fall 2012 and continue his pursuit of higher education. He plays guitar, fiddle, and other things. He is known for pontificating to excess about *Wilderness*, *Naturalness*, *Self-Discovery*, and other culturally specific abstractions as they relate to agency value systems.

Bicycles, Bears, Biologists, oh my!

The “B” team is committed to reducing their carbon footprint by largely eliminating their NPS motor vehicle usage and utilizing bicycles for day to day work requirements. We hope that other NPS divisions follow in our groundbreaking pedal strokes. In the exact words of famed astronaut Neil Armstrong (RIP), “*One small pedal stroke for a hippie biologist, one gallon of non-domestic oil for other divisions!*”, or something to that effect. We encourage bicycle use for our health, and for the health of the planet! If you care about bears, and other sensitive wildlife, ride a bicycle!



Bear Bikers.

Acknowledgements

As always, the bear team is endlessly indebted to the myriad host of selflessly generous individuals who have assisted in our research and bear management. In no particular order of importance: THE VIS staff, for watching our hike plans, fielding our radio calls, assisting us with hair collection, and tolerating our multitudinous mistakes. Leslie Skora, Kevin Colson, Ryan Scott, Kevin White, Lewis Sharman, Lisa Etherington, Margaret Hazen, Gus Martinez, Albert Faria, Tom Vandenberg, T.J. Flanagan, Sarah Betcher, Laurel Carver, Adam Clardy-Oneal, J.T. Mclaughlin, Mike Stone, Andrew Gertge, Hiroko Yoshii, Sharon Grant, Barbara Morford, Barb Bruno, Amy Brodbeck, Neil Barten, Rob Fisk, Gene Fiebich, Christina Rinas, Shahed Dowlatshahi, Patrick Mershon, Lauren LaRocca, Kaylin Elder, Katie Unertl, Kelly Capelin Captain Deb Johnson, VIP Jim Johnson, and Serac Captains Fritz, Jim and Don. If you aren't on here, you know who you are, and so do we. Thank you!



Blueberry bear observes the observers near park headquarters in August.

Bear Incidents/Encounters 2012

DATE	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
5/21/2012	N. Fingers Spit and Island	Interaction 1) Large black bear "indifferently" foraged in close proximity to campers. Campers moved camp to island. Second interaction, a small black bear (different bear) swam across to island, bear approached camp "arrogantly" and did not respond to active verbal and hand waving. Bear did not seem stressed, just wanted to eat. The next day the group counted 11 bears	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Early in season. Small bear possibly dominance testing. No human food procured.
5/26/2012	End of Wachussett (1 mile from tide flat) north side	25 minute encounter between three kayakers in camp and two brown bears, mom and cub, 2 year old appx. Bears repeatedly approached campers, who stood ground, were not trying to pass, but lingered in area feeding, and occasionally approaching. Not responsive to air horn, yelling, waving. Finally, an aggressive step forward by the campers caused the bears to walk away.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. High Snow year, low veg, poor beach foraging. Early in season. No food procured.
5/29/2012	Bartlett lake, east trail on right	Jeff Jemison, ADF&G researcher, reported that he came across a largely consumed moose carcass by the Bartlett Lake trail.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Early in season. Carcass may be an attractant but was already consumed.
5/30/2012	Reid Inlet, 3/4 miles south	On May 30, Andrew and Carlos Nevaro (naturalist) spotted a brown bear feeding on a moose carcass approximately 3/4 of a mile south of Reid Inlet. Andrew described the terrain containing large boulders and high cliffs. The moose was just above the intertidal and was apparently fully intact.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Carcass is defensible, but users tend to be kayakers on water, considering rocky shores - camping unlikely.
5/31/2012	Reid Inlet, 3/4 miles south	Camper woke up to find brown bear 20 feet from tent-it was sleeping, but turned over and looked. Bear did not move or get up. Kayakers carefully carried kayak to water, "in hopes the bear would leave" Campers abandoned tent and gear, returned three hours later, bear still on beach. Campers yelled, bear moved. Campers removed camp with "no change of behavior from the bear".	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. High Snow year, low veg, poor beach foraging. Early in season. No food procured.
6/2012	Point George, just north	Campers woke at 10pm by a brown bear: light brown small adult/large sub adult male bear pawed and nipped at tent, sniffing, head under fly for 30 seconds. Bear approached group's kitchen while feeding on grass. Group stood ground and protected gear. Bear departed, returned again the next day to forage with no incident.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Normal bear behavior, great job on standing ground and defending gear!
6/29/2012	Scidmore Bay/Cut	Two brown bears, one large, one medium, were running down beach at Scidmore cut towards paddler, veered into woods: kayakers packed and retreated to boats in water. Large bear appeared, swam in water, scratched on tree. A third bear emerged.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Perhaps weaning, perhaps dominance testing in a major wildlife corridor.
7/5/2012	Island across from Sundew Pt.	Kayaker witnessed a brown bear kill a moose calf. The bear then dragged the carcass back into the alder.	Informal advisory to VIS and Bear Committee. Normal bear behavior.
7/9/2012	East Reid inlet, near stream	Cruise ship sighting: Large brown bear seen bluff charging a campsite where a single person stood by their tent. Two others emerged from the tent, appeared to back away.	No action: campers were not identified nor communicated with by bear techs or VIS regarding this encounter. No further information available.
7/12/2012	Tidal Inlet	Campers "repeatedly approached" by mama brown bear and 2 cubs. Did not respond to yelling. Campers went into brush, remerged on beach behind passing bears.	No action: suspect passing bear scenario. Normal bear behavior.
7/16/2012	South of Russell Island Shore	Bear canisters and double kayak moved in middle of night while camping, stuff knocked around, PFD missing, kitchen drybag and Thermarest chairs missing, no food acquired. No bear seen.	No action: Unknown cause

7/27/2012	Gloomy Knob. (S. Vivian exit)	Camped on Gloomy Knob in violation of closure. Bear cans knocked around in middle of night. Awoke to find a large brown bear sleeping next to kayak and food. Bear had popped water bag. Bear awoke to sounds of wolves howling and left area. Returned as campers were packing to leave, campers defended gear and stood ground. LE's on boat saw encounter.	No action: Area already closed to camping; campers in violation, informed by LE's.
7/29/2012	N. Vivian exit (Gloomy Knob)	Campers set up tent, then noticed mama brown bear and three cubs feeding on kinnickinik in bushes right next to tent. Campers backed away, and watched mama bear and cubs feeding for one hour, trying to reclaim gear. Bears ignored people and gear. At one point a cub pawed at the tent. Campers yelled. Bears retreated after a while.	No action: Normal bear behavior.
7/31/2012	Creek at Wolf Point	Mama brown bear with 2 cubs were chased out of the salmon stream by a large brown bear. The bears then "approached" the observing campers, who were cooking in intertidal. At 100 yard the campers organized their gear, dumped their food into the water when the bears were 30 yards away. The bears then stopped, smelled the air for 30 seconds, and then ran away.	No action: Normal bear behavior.
8/1/2012	Hugh Miller Inlet	Bear can moved 100 yards overnight, presumably by a bear.	No action: Normal bear behavior
8/3/2012	Near Kidney Island	Black bear feeding on natural veg. nearby camp: hazed bear when it began feeding too close for their comfort. Bear ignored them.	No action: Normal bear behavior
8/8/2012	Muir Point	Campers had eaten and were walking, encountered bear feeding: bear growled/woofed. Campers backed away, hands in air, talking, bear approached people while feeding. People hazed bear, no reaction. People left area.	No action: Normal bear behavior
8/20/2012	Bartlett Cove	NPS employees were approached at close range by a subadult black bear in front of the lodge. They deployed bear spray and bear left.	No action: further education for NPS employees hazing techniques.
8/21/2012	Ibach Point	Group of six approached directly by a non-defensive sub-adult brown bear. They grouped up, defended gear. Bear approached kayak, group advanced to protect it, and altered bears course. Bear fed on strawberries 1 mile distant.	No action: normal sub-adult behavior. Excellent stand your ground techniques!
8/22/2012	Ibach Point	Same group (next morning) encountered same bear, which approached them directly from 1 mile distant. Group organized camp to defend gear. Bear rolled rocks in intertidal before heading up the beach towards them as close as 35 feet. They group yelled at it, and it veered off course and headed into the woods.	No action: normal sub-adult behavior. Excellent stand your ground techniques!

Advisories and Closures

6/8/2012	Ptarmigan Creek/ "Mary's Beach"	A medium sized adult brown bear with darker brown coloration approached and circled two campers twice over a 6 hour period. The bear damaged a water bag and picked up a kayak, also rolled bear cans about, no food was acquired.	News release advisory for VIS to inform public. Persistent snow cover and low vegetation growth presents increased likelihood of bear incidents. Education necessary.
7/25-8/25	Gloomy Knob -South Vivian Lake exit.	Persistent wolf pack and brown bear concentrations at the South Vivian exit salmon stream. Popping wolves have remained in the stream area.	Temporary closure to foot traffic and overnight camping at the south shore of gloomy knob. Additionally, vessels must maintain 100 yard minimum offshore distance.