



BEAR ENCOUNTER FORM

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

Please complete this voluntary form if you had any interaction with a bear that was concerning, if a bear entered camp or approached you, if a bear needed to be deterred, and particularly if a bear obtained human food or trash or damaged any gear or property.

Return completed form via email to: **wrst_ranger_team@nps.gov** AND **kyle_cutting@nps.gov**
 or by mail at: Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, Attn: Kyle Cutting, PO Box 439, Copper Center, AK 99573

1. **DATE OF ENCOUNTER:** _____

2. **TIME OF ENCOUNTER:** _____

3. **GROUP SIZE DURING ENCOUNTER:** _____

4. **GROUP TYPE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**

- Park Visitor
- Outfitter
- NPS Employee
- Contractor/Researcher/Permittee
- Local
- Other: _____

5. **ACTIVITY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**

- Backcountry camping (overnight)
- Front-country/Road-based camping
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Berry Picking
- Other: _____

6. **TYPE OF ENCOUNTER:**

- Encounter (bear interaction)
- Sighting with no interaction
- Human injury
- Property damage, if yes, describe:

7. **LOCATION: PLACE NAME AND GPS COORDINATE IF KNOWN):**

Place name and GPS coordinate (if known):

8. **BEAR SPECIES:**

- Black Bear
- Grizzly Bear
- Unknown

9. **NUMBER OF BEARS:**

Total Number of Bears: _____
 Number of Adults: _____
 Number of cubs: _____

10. **DISTANCE TO BEAR:**

Initial: _____
 Closest: _____

11. **FOOD:**

Did bear(s) obtain human food during encounter?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

If yes, how did bear(s) obtain food?

- Food left as bear(s) approached
- Food obtained from bear resistant container
- Food from backpack/camp
- Food from garbage
- Food from cabin
- Other: _____

12. HUMAN/BEAR BEHAVIOR:

Before seeing the bear, what were you doing:

- Hiking
- Fishing
- Cooking
- Rafting
- Sleeping/Inactive
- Other: _____

What did you do when you saw the bear(s)?

(Number in order of occurrence):

- ___ Left the area completely
- ___ Stayed in the general area
- ___ Walked away
- ___ Ran away
- ___ Stayed stationary and quiet
- ___ Photographed bear
- ___ Made noise
- ___ Fired pepper spray
- ___ Fired gun
- ___ Wounded bear
- ___ Killed bear (report kill to AK Department of Fish & Game)
- ___ Other: _____

What was the bear(s) doing when first encountered?

- General feeding
- Feeding on carcass
- Moving towards
- Moving away
- Laying down
- Standing still
- Standing upright
- Making noise (whoofing)
- Other: _____

13. VEGETATION TYPE:

- Tundra/low brush
- Open, tall (>2m) brush
- Dense, tall (>2m) brush
- Open forest
- Dense forest
- River bar
- Lakeshore
- Campground/Trail
- Alpine
- Other: _____

14. FURTHER DESCRIBE ENCOUNTER: