

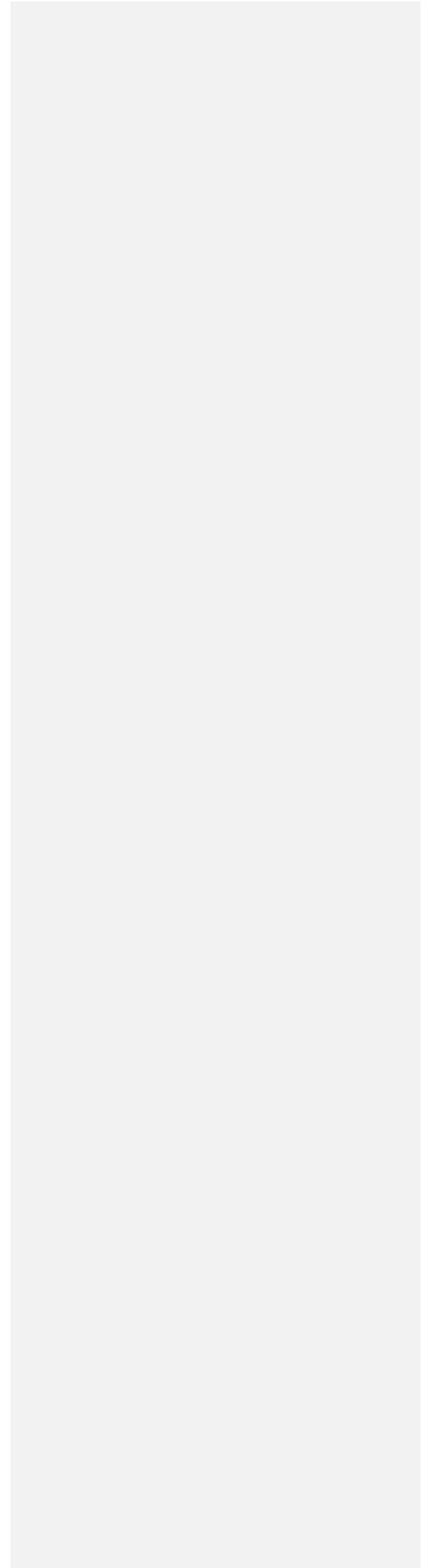
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936

BEAR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
Glacier National Park
(Revised April 2010)

Recommended by: _____
Mark Foust **Date**
Chief, Division of Visitor and Resource Protection

Charles J. Potter **Date**
Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management

Approved by: _____
Chas Cartwright, Superintendent **Date**



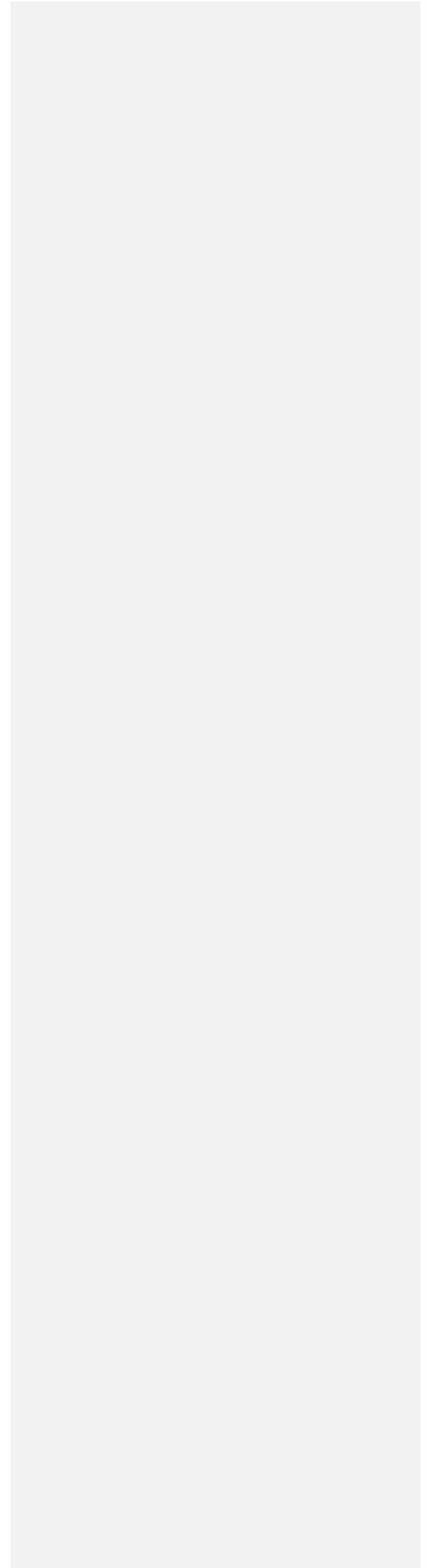
BEAR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

CONTENTS

<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.0	DEFINITIONS	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	3
3.0	PROGRAM	3
3.1	Bear Monitoring System	3
3.2	Awareness Orientation and Information Distribution.....	4
3.3	Bear Management and Handling Training Criteria.....	4
4.0	INFORMING VISITORS AND CONCESSION EMPLOYEES	5
4.1	Before Visitors Arrive in the Park	5
4.2	Before Concession Employees Arrive in the Park.....	5
4.3	Visitors Entering and Traveling Through the Park.....	6
4.4	Scheduled Interpretive Programs and Walks	6
4.5	Backcountry Information	7
5.0	PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT ACTION	7
	Preventing Bears from Using Developed Areas and Artificial Food Sources	
5.1	Frontcountry Areas.....	7
5.2	Backcountry Areas	9
6.0	SPECIAL BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS	11
6.1	Granite Park	11
6.2	Apgar Mountains	11
6.3	Mt. Altyn/Mt. Henkel.....	11
7.0	PREPARING FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	12
7.1	Hazing and Aversive Conditioning.....	12
7.2	Readiness for Trail Closure	13
7.3	Firearms, Immobilization and Capture Equipment.....	13
7.4	Preparation for Relocating Bears	14
7.5	Bears Destroyed	15
7.6	Bear Mortalities Found	16
7.7	Research Capturing	16
8.0	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	16
8.1	Considerations for Implementing Management Actions	16
8.2	Individuals Responsibilities for Decisions.....	17
8.3	Responsibility for Management Actions.....	18
8.4	Carrion	21
8.5	Photography of Bear Management Operations	21
9.0	FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION	22
9.1	Reporting Management Actions	22
9.2	Evaluation of Bear Management Actions	22
9.3	Evaluation and Revision of Plan and Guidelines.....	22

APPENDICES

A	Bear Information Management System.....	24
B	Authorization to Handle Grizzly Bears.....	27
C	Bear Training Standards.....	30
D	Schedule of Refuse Collection.....	34
E	Letter to Landowners, Concessionaires and Residents.....	36
F	Bear Tagging Plan.....	38
G	Field Guidelines for Management Actions.....	41
H	Wildlife Management Action Form.....	46
I	Bear Pepper Spray Position Paper.....	48
J	Best Practices for Storage of Petroleum Products.....	49
K	Non-Law Enforcement Firearms Policy.....	51



DEFINITIONS

Definitions are meant only to describe the terms as used in this guideline.

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR: Condition where a bear charges and/or attacks one or more people in an unprovoked, non-defensive manner.

AVERSIVE CONDITIONING: Application of negative reinforcement aimed at behavior modification of a specific animal(s) using hazing techniques on a consistent basis.

BACKCOUNTRY: Park lands that are essentially undeveloped or natural in character, at least 250 feet from established roadways and developed areas.

BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT: A written authorization to engage in overnight backcountry camping.

BEAR ENCOUNTER: Interaction within close proximity between bears and humans in which the bear(s) exhibit behavior identifying awareness of human presence, (altered course, bluff charge, fled the scene, etc.), but not resulting in property damage or human contact.

BEAR SIGHTING: Bear(s) observed by people without behavior by the bear indicating awareness of human presence.

CLOSED AREA-BEARS: Trails, campgrounds, developed areas and/or adjacent lands that have been determined to be potentially hazardous to human use due to bear activity, if carcass is present, or where bears are foraging or remaining in the area. Only authorized personnel who are properly trained and equipped will be assigned to patrol closed areas. Entry into closed areas by unauthorized individuals is a violation of 36 CFR 1.5(f).

CONDITIONED: Describes bear behavior defined by any one or more of the following: has sought and obtained non-natural foods, destroyed property, displayed aggressive (non-defensive) behavior toward humans. Bears which repeatedly and closely approach people or repeatedly touch tents, backpacks or food storage containers in campsites where people are present, will be considered conditioned.

DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR: Reaction by a bear to protect itself, its young, or a natural food source, if surprised or in response to harassment.

DEVELOPED AREA: Roads, parking areas, picnic areas, front country campgrounds, concessions and administrative facilities, residences and/or adjacent lands.

FREQUENTING: Repeated observations or confirmed reports of bear sign or activity at short intervals in the same general area.

HABITUATED: Refers to a continuum of bear behaviors including one or more of the following circumstances: is tolerant of human presence, has become accustomed to frequenting developed areas, backcountry campgrounds, trails or roadsides, but has retained its natural foraging behavior.

Comment [j1]: These definitions, adapted from DENA, were added to increase clarity.

Comment [j2]: Added this language to deal with bears that exhibit unacceptable behaviors.

Comment [j3]: Inserted concept of tolerance and deleted reference to overly familiar.

HAZING: The short-term use of noise, pain, and/or other non-lethal aversive stimulus to move an animal away from a specific area.

LIVESTOCK: Domesticated riding/pack animals and cattle that are (1) personal property kept for personal and commercial purposes (to include concession and trespass animals), or (2) property of the United States Government.

MANAGEMENT ACTION: Any action taken by management due to bear activity that directly affects the bear and/or the public. This includes, but is not limited to, trail postings, trail closures, area closures, campground closures, bear relocations and bear removals.

NATURAL BEHAVIOR: Condition where a bear displays behavior consistent with what is found or expected in a free ranging natural population of bears without exhibiting “habituated” or “conditioned” characteristics.

POSTED AREA: An area, most commonly a trail, that is posted at all reasonable entry points with a sign (“Bear Frequenting Area”) to warn the public that a bear has been frequenting the area.

RELOCATION: A management action in which a bear meeting specific criteria is taken from the area where a potential problem has been identified and transported to a predetermined location.

REMOVAL: A management action in which a bear meeting specific criteria is removed from the Park population or destroyed.

Comment [j4]: Added 'area closures' as a management action.

Comment [j5]: Deleted the term 'Overly familiar with humans'.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Glacier National Park “Bear Management Guidelines” are intended to be used as a field guide for meeting the objectives of the Bear Management Plan.

These Guidelines will be reviewed biennially and updated as necessary. Comments and recommendations should be addressed to the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana 59936.

3.0 PROGRAM

3.1 Bear Monitoring System

Park personnel will report all bear observations, including reports from visitors, (BIMS reports, see Appendix A) to the Division of Science and Resources Management through the online BIMS entry form. Employees, concessionaires, or others without computer access may use paper BIMS forms.

The BIMS Clerk will review online BIMS entries and code and enter hardcopy reports into the computerized storage system each morning, as possible. All bear incidents and management actions will be reported to Glacier Dispatch in a timely manner and will be followed by a Case Incident Report within five days, (refer to “Reports and Procedures” in the GNP Law Enforcement Guidelines). Designated bear management personnel should review BIMS entries frequently for accuracy, and report any corrections to the BIMS Clerk. The reports will be evaluated by the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management, or designee, who will present any recommendations for additional action to the appropriate District Ranger.

Anyone recording a sighting report which should be analyzed for possible management action should immediately contact the appropriate District Office.

- 1) Designated staff will have password-protected access to the BIMS system so that they may conduct searches and queries. District offices and Information Centers will have access to a generalized reporting utility.
- 2) A summary list of sightings, incidents and management actions by drainage or area, that are within the capabilities of the current computer monitoring program, are available upon request.

The objectives of this reporting and information system are:

- 1) To provide the Staff and field personnel with pertinent information for use in making logical decisions regarding bear/people management.
- 2) To provide accurate information for alerting field personnel to potentially hazardous bears and/or bear situations.
- 3) To provide base information for Resources Management and Research Programs.

3.2 Bear Awareness Orientation and Information Distribution

Training and the distribution of information are the responsibilities of the Superintendent, delegated to the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management.

An annual Bear Management Orientation and Awareness training program agenda (see Appendix C) will be developed by a Wildlife Management Committee (designated by the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management and Chief, Division of Visitor and Resource Protection) and approved by the above Division Chiefs.

Informational subject material and educational programs will be reviewed, monitored and evaluated by the appropriate permanent supervisor. All seasonal personnel should consult with their permanent supervisor, prior to presenting public programs.

A Case Incident Report will be submitted after each training or program session, other than scheduled interpretive programs, which describes the training or program presented and lists the names of NPS or Concession employees who attended. If it is a public presentation, state the number of people attending. All new permanent and seasonal Park employees and concessionaire employees will receive a bear safety packet upon reporting for duty. The packet will contain a minimum of the "Waterton/Glacier Guide" and the "Enjoy Them at a Distance" sheet.

3.3 Bear Management and Handling Training Criteria

Additional specialized training (beyond Orientation and Awareness) is required for management action decisions. Bear management actions such as posting, closing, patrols of closed areas, incident investigations, etc. will be under the direction and supervision of designated personnel who have successfully completed training criteria described in Appendix C.

Written certification will be placed in official personnel files for designated personnel who have successfully completed established training and qualifications standards. Certification may be suspended or revoked at any time for reasons which include, but are not limited to: failure to meet required training and experience criteria, willfully participating in unsafe conduct, and actions which are determined to be negligent. The duration and remedy for suspension or revocation situations will be at the discretion and consensus of the direct supervisor, District Ranger, Division of Science and Resources Management Chief, Division of Visitor and Resource Protection Chief, and Superintendent.

An annual training agenda will be developed by the Wildlife Management Committee and approved by the Chiefs, Division of Science and Resources Management and Division of Visitor and Resource Protection.

Comment [j6]: Removed the requirement that the Superintendent provide written certification of completion of training. Added requirement that documentation be added to employee OFF.

4.0 INFORMING VISITORS

Bears will be interpreted as free-ranging wild animals, a part of the naturally functioning ecosystem of Glacier National Park. All information on bears will emphasize that the potential for having a dangerous interaction with a bear can be minimized, but not eliminated, by controlling the nature and the degree of human activity. Through Park literature and other means of communication the Park user will be clearly informed that the potential for injury or death from bears does exist.

There are opportunities for interpretation, both prior to the visitors' arrival in the Park and during their stay.

Park Service employees will not address bears by pet "nicknames."

Bear spray inquiries may be addressed by providing the visitor with a copy of Appendix I of this document, bear spray publications produced by the Center for Wildlife Information, or handouts produced by bear spray manufacturers which do not endorse an individual manufacturer but explain the proper use, selection, and application of bear spray.

4.1 Before Visitors Arrive in the Park

The Waterton-Glacier Guide, which contains information concerning bears, will be included in responses to all mail inquiries regarding visiting Glacier National Park.

Bulletin boards with appropriate bear information and warning signs should be in place as early as spring opening allows and should be kept in place as late into the fall as necessary.

Park management will review all news releases concerning bear management and safety in Glacier. Interpretive programs will be available to visitors, area schools and organizations on a continuing basis throughout the year.

The Glacier Natural History Association has a number of bear related publications for sale with biological, habitat, and safety information regarding bears which are available at all visitor information facilities and for mail order sales.

The public Glacier National Park website will contain educational information on bears, including facts about their ecology, identification, and on how to safely recreate in bear country (<http://www.nps.gov/glac/naturescience/bears.htm>).

Comment [j7]: Added this paragraph about our public website.

4.2 Before Concession Employees Arrive in the Park

Concession employees (Glacier Park Inc., Glacier Park Boat Company, Swan Mountain Outfitters, Glacier Wilderness Guides) will be provided general information on bears and living and working in bear country, when possible, prior to their arrival in the Park. General Orientation Sessions targeted at concession employees containing information on bears and bear behavior will be presented early in each season at various locations throughout the Park.

4.3 Visitors Entering and Traveling Through the Park

A printed alert (“Enjoy Them At A Distance”) will be provided at all staffed Park entrance stations to caution first-time visitors in bear country, along with the Waterton/Glacier folder and/or the Waterton-Glacier Guide, both of which contain information concerning bears. The bear alert handout unequivocally warns against feeding bears, leaving food out where it might attract bears and approaching bears seen near roads or on trails. Care will be taken to assure that bus passengers, Golden Eagle and Golden Age Passport holders are given the bear alert. The bear alert handout will also be available at entrance stations when not staffed.

The appropriate District Ranger will assure that a sign, which informs visitors that bears inhabit Glacier and can be dangerous, is posted at each of the Park’s entrance stations, at the Cut Bank Entrance, at both Park entrances on the Chief Mountain Road and at the entrance to each auto campground in the Park. District Rangers will assure that bulletin boards containing warnings and current information on bear safety are located near all restrooms in large auto campgrounds, and near the fee collection box in smaller auto campgrounds.

At or in the immediate vicinity of each trailhead, a sign will be prominently located by Ranger personnel warning hikers that they are entering bear habitat and listing measures to minimize the risks of traveling and camping in bear country.

The District Ranger will assure that posts are in place for these signs. Ranger personnel will check frequently that signs are maintained after installation. Standard signing should be in place as early as spring opening allows and should be kept in place as late into the fall as necessary.

4.4 Scheduled Interpretive Programs and Walks

All public programs will include the following specific comments on bear safety:

- 1) Interpreters will emphasize the importance of proper food and garbage storage, that feeding any wildlife is prohibited, and that regulations are strictly enforced, both for visitor safety and to protect the wild character of the bears. They will point out there are inherent dangers in traveling and camping in bear habitat. Camping and hiking practices, which contribute to safety in bear country, will be described emphasizing the strong recommendation that visitors not hike alone.
- 2) Interpreters at public programs will explain the closure system (see sections 6.0 and 7.0).
- 3) All guided walks will include at the beginning some introductory comments to the effect that bears COULD be seen and that, if one is spotted, all visitors should remain motionless and silent and await the interpreter’s instructions. If a bear is encountered on a guided hike the interpreter will take action to insure visitor safety and notify appropriate District Rangers.

If a management action is required, the interpreter will remain at the trailhead or safe location along the trail, until relieved, to provide warnings and information to other hikers. If circumstances suggest that the trail may be closed, assign one visitor to report to the nearest ranger station, and to remain at the trailhead until designated bear management or District Ranger

personnel arrive to take whatever action is necessary.

If a grizzly is near the Logan Pass Visitor Center, wooden walkway, or parking area, the Communications Center will be notified and bear management assistance requested. A Logan Pass interpreter will monitor and interpret the situation for visitors. Consideration should be given to providing right-of-way for the bear. If the bear approaches the visitor center, it may be closed and appropriate protection personnel notified. An interpreter may remain with any visitors outside the closed area, and keep them informed. The continued presence of grizzly bears in the open meadows adjacent to the wooden walkway may result in its closure.

4.5 Backcountry Information

Refer to the “Backcountry Permit Writing Guidelines” and “Backcountry and Wilderness Maintenance Standards” (Appendices C and E of the Backcountry Management Plan), found in the Backcountry Ranger Handbook.

5.0 PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT ACTION

Preventing Bears From Using Developed Areas and Artificial Food Sources

1) Enforcement and Regulations

Regulations which prohibit feeding of wildlife will be strictly enforced by protection personnel. Park employees will promptly report any violation of these regulations.

Marked and unmarked patrols and strict enforcement programs will be utilized by protection personnel to reduce bear feeding, illegal camping, entering closed areas, unsanitary conditions, and other infractions, which lead to bear/human encounters.

Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Paragraph 2.10 (d), prohibits anyone from leaving food unattended or stored improperly where it could attract or otherwise be available to wildlife.

5.1 Front Country

1) Garbage Handling by Residents and Businesses

The Superintendent will issue a written request to all Park residents, Inholders and Park concessionaires, encouraging proper garbage storage and disposal. See Appendix E.

Landowners and concessionaires in the Park will be responsible for storing garbage so that it is not accessible to bears.

Citations may be issued when sanitation regulations are not followed within the park. The responsibility to comply with appropriate sanitation regulations will be included as an addendum to existing concession contracts and special use permits. The addendum will also be required to renew revocable use permits for park landowners operating businesses within the Park. Should requests for proper regulation compliance fail, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

2) Garbage Removal Schedule

The Chief of Facilities Management will assure that garbage removal is scheduled and performed to keep garbage cans from overflowing in Park housing areas, roadsides and auto campgrounds.

Garbage from campgrounds where bear problems are most probable will be collected late each day. Late garbage pickup is especially important at picnic areas on weekends and holidays. (See Appendix D for garbage pickup schedules.) Maintenance will assure that bear proof garbage cans are available when needed.

3) Campground Patrol

Ranger personnel will circulate through auto campgrounds every evening as necessary to assure that food, garbage, cookware, and beverage containers are stored properly and to talk with visitors about bears and camping in bear country. Unsecured and unattended food and food containers which might attract AND may provide a food reward for bears or other wildlife will be removed from unattended campsites and properly stored until claimed by the owner. Written notification will be left at the site, informing the owner as to the location of his/her property.

Regulations will be enforced when food, garbage, cookware and beverage containers are not stored properly and warnings or citations may be issued. In general, citations should be issued whenever the property (food, containers, utensils, etc.) would attract and provide a food reward to a bear or other wildlife and where it has been determined that the parties were/are fully aware of the requirements for securely storing attractants. This would include such items as food, coolers with food in them, cooking equipment or utensils with food on them, beverage containers with beverages in them, etc.

Campground and Ranger staff will encourage visitors to secure items which may be attractants but not provide a food reward when not in use through verbal, educational contact. Campground managers will remove and secure any unsecured and unattended food and food containers which might attract wildlife AND may provide a food reward. Both elements (attraction and reward) must be obvious and compelling. Food coolers (see note below) will be secured regardless of their content since bears are easily conditioned to the object as a food source.

Entering a visitor's campsite to secure their personal property is a serious matter. The reasons to take such an action must be *obvious and compelling*, and must clearly result in a safer environment for visitors and wildlife.

The intent of securing food and food containers is to prevent wildlife (bears in particular) from receiving a food reward. In this context, it may not be appropriate to secure clean plates and utensils or empty and clean beverage containers since there is no perceptible food reward involved.

A number of innovations have happened with regards to bear resistant food storage devices, including some coolers that meet this definition. Park staff should be aware of such Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee approved devices, which if used properly are not considered food attractants. Further information about approved devices can be found at: http://www.igbconline.org/BEAR_RESISTANT_Mar2010.pdf.

All property left abandoned in excess of 24 hours may be impounded.

Comment [j8]: Added language to clarify how food storage regulations are implemented.

Comment [j9]: Added language regarding new food storage devices.

4) Food Storage Lockers

Food storage lockers have been provided in designated campsites at many frontcountry campgrounds. These are provided for hikers, bicyclists, motorcyclists or other campers without automobiles. Sites with food lockers will be properly signed and patrolled to assure proper storage and use. It is the responsibility of the District Ranger to assure adequate signing and proper use of these lockers.

Backpackers and tent campers without vehicle storage space should camp at sites containing food storage lockers or use food hanging devices. Signs at the entrance to the campground, Rangers and Campground Hosts will direct campers to campsites where food storage or food hanging devices are available.

5) Bird Feeders, Pet & Livestock Feed

Bears of both species in this ecosystem have been documented to approach bird feeders, pet food, and livestock feed, and as a result, have become conditioned. Many of these bears have been killed as a result of this behavior caused by human placed attractants. In an effort to comply with the National Park Service mission, the Endangered Species Act, and to set the best possible example, park residents, landowners, and employees, must refrain from having these attractants available within Glacier National Park. **The presence of bird feeders, as well as unsecured pet and livestock feed within the park at housing, concession, and administrative facilities is prohibited and is in direct conflict with the emphasis placed on food security throughout the remainder of the park and adjoining lands.**

6) Areas Adjacent to the Park

Glacier National Park will act as a catalyst to promote sanitary handling of garbage, related to wildlife protection, in areas adjacent to the Park.

7) Petroleum Products

Petroleum products, such as motor oil, grease guns, gasoline, and their containers do not provide bears with a food reward but are potential bear attractants. While there are no known incidents of bears seeking out or consuming petroleum products in GNP, there are cases of bears being attracted to and consuming petroleum products in localities near GNP. Refer to Appendix J in this document for recommended petroleum storage practices. Park visitors may not be able to implement these practices in campgrounds, parking areas, or trailheads.

Comment [j10]: Inserted language introducing best practices for storage of petroleum products.

5.2 Backcountry

1) Backcountry Patrol Cabins

Anyone who uses a backcountry patrol cabin will pack out all garbage. Park personnel will assure that any food, horse feed, or other attractants left in a cabin are stored in such a manner as to make them unavailable to bears and other wildlife.

2) Chalet Garbage

Garbage and other trash will be retained indoors in tight containers, such as plastic bags inside a standard garbage can. Such garbage and trash will be removed on a schedule frequent enough to prevent excessive accumulation and odor. Chalet garbage and trash will not be left unattended at

the trailhead, unless it is placed in an approved bear-proof container. During chalet reconstruction, park service crew leaders assigned to backcountry chalet project work will be responsible for appropriate food and garbage management. During concession operations, park concessionaires will be responsible for appropriate food and garbage management at Granite Park and Sperry Chalets

3) Logan Pass

A Ranger trained in bear management will be stationed at Logan Pass, when feasible, throughout the summer to monitor bear and visitor use of the area and to provide expertise in situations involving bear activity. The Ranger will work closely with other NPS personnel in the Logan Pass area to assure implementation of a comprehensive bear management program.

4) Backcountry Campgrounds

If available information indicates a higher probability of bear incidents at a particular backcountry campground, the attributes of the campground will be analyzed to determine if the campground should be moved or closed or if other management actions should be accomplished. District personnel, the Chief of Science and Resources Management, Wildlife Biologist, Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection, and the Wilderness Specialist will participate in the analysis and appropriate recommendations will be made to the Park Superintendent.

All aspects of backcountry campground management related to bear management and visitor use will be evaluated annually by District personnel, Wildlife Biologist, and the Wilderness Manager. The Wilderness Manager and responsible District Ranger will make recommendations to the Chief, Division of Visitor and Resource Protection who will be responsible for acting on the recommendations to resolve problems.

Ranger personnel will inspect backcountry trails and campgrounds on a regular basis to contact visitors and to be watchful for garbage and food storage problems, and compliance with the Backcountry Guidelines. Whenever feasible, they will correct the situation at the time of inspection.

Pit toilets, food storage devices, and other backcountry facilities will be maintained as specified in Backcountry Maintenance Standards.

5) Undesignated Backcountry Campsites

Persons camping in “undesignated” areas where no means of hanging food and/or garbage is available will be required to use approved portable bear-resistant containers. Containers will be considered approved after being certified ‘bear resistant’ by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The IGBC testing protocol can be viewed at:

<http://www.igbconline.org/FinalBearResistantContTestingMay2008-09.pdf> and a current list of approved containers can be found at:

http://www.igbconline.org/BEAR_RESISTANT_Mar2010.pdf. IGBC approved containers are available free of charge at permit issuing stations, when food storage regulations are in effect.

Comment [j11]: Added language clarifying our approval of bear resistant containers.

6) Trail Brushing

Trail brushing may lessen the probability of surprise encounters with bears by improving sight distance along the trail corridor. Trail maintenance planning will identify high priority areas and will assure that brushing is conducted on a regular cyclic basis.

7) Disposal of Fish Entrails

When cleaning fish in developed areas, garbage cans should be used for the disposal of entrails. When cleaning fish in the backcountry, entrails may be legally disposed of by puncturing the air bladder and depositing them in deep water in the lake or stream from which they were taken, at least 200 feet from the nearest campsite or trail.

This regulation is intended to provide a sanitary and safe method of disposal of entrails in bear habitat instead of burying, burning, depositing on the ground, or packing out.

Comment [j12]: Edited to be consistent with our fishing regulations.

6.0 SPECIAL BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS

6.1 Granite Park Chalet

A Ranger trained in bear management will be stationed at Granite Park, when feasible, to monitor the area and contact campers and chalet area visitors as necessary, to assure that food and garbage are stored properly and to discuss bears and hiking and camping in bear country. Rangers and Interpreters assigned to Granite Park duty should refer also to section 4.3.

6.2 Apgar Mountains

The Apgar Mountains, with the exception of the Apgar Lookout Trail, may be closed to human use when grizzly bears congregate in the Apgar Mountains in the late summer.

Large numbers of grizzly bears annually congregate in the Apgar Mountains in late summer and early fall to feed on huckleberries. The density of grizzly bears in the Apgars has been estimated at 0.54 to 1.7 bears per square kilometer (Martinka 1976, Kendall 1983). Minimum counts of unduplicated sightings of grizzly bears in the Apgars in various years have ranged between 20 and 31 bears (Kendall 1983).

The Apgar Mountains thus constitute important seasonal habitat for a significant portion of the Park's grizzly bear population. Closure to human use during the period of grizzly bear concentration will prevent disturbance of the bears during a time of weight gain critical to winter survival.

6.3 Mt. Altyn/Mt. Henkel

The south and southwest facing slopes of Mt. Altyn and Mt. Henkel, in the Many Glacier District, are known to be areas where grizzly bears congregate. They are drawn to the area to feed on seasonally available serviceberry, buffaloberry, huckleberry, wild onion, and biscuitroot. This is also an area of high visitor use where upwards of 300 people/day hike to Iceberg Lake and the Ptarmigan tunnel during the peak of the summer visitor season. Climbers also traverse these slopes to reach the summits of Mt. Altyn and Mt. Henkel. The juxtaposition of large numbers of

people and numerous grizzly bears creates a potentially hazardous situation. Grizzly bears may be displaced from important habitat, or may become increasingly habituated to human presence, and thus are at risk of becoming food conditioned. Food conditioned grizzly bears may become a risk to human safety.

To reduce this risk, all areas above the Iceberg/Ptarmigan trail east of Ptarmigan Falls, above the Many Glacier Hotel access trail between the Iceberg/Ptarmigan trail and the Hotel T, and above the Many Glacier Road east of the Hotel T and Appekuny Cr. to the Mt. Altyn/Mt. Henkel ridgeline may be closed when grizzly bears begin to congregate in the area. In this case, congregation will be defined as at least 3 different independent grizzly bears being spotted in a 24 hr period on each of 3 consecutive days between Appekuny Cr. on the east to Ptarmigan Falls on the west.

Visitor Services, Interpretation, and Resource Management staff will verify sightings and use the BIMS to record these observations. The closure will be lifted when grizzly bears cease congregating in the area, i.e. when the conditions prompting closure are no longer met.

Comment [j13]: Inserted language describing the Altyn/Henkel special bear management area.

7.0 PREPARATION FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

7.1 Hazing and Aversive Conditioning

Hazing and aversive conditioning techniques are used to correct inappropriate behavior of bears.

Early intervention may prevent bears from becoming conditioned, thus minimizing the need for relocation or removal, minimizing the risk of accidental or illegal mortality, and minimizing the risk of human injury. Inappropriate behavior of bears includes those behaviors that warrant management action. Most hazing and aversive conditioning will occur in frontcountry and developed areas, but may occasionally be appropriate in backcountry areas. Hazing and aversive conditioning actions may be considered successful when the undesirable behavior ceases and the bear is unharmed.

Hazing of Grizzly bears will be permitted only by letter of authorization, issued annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after application (see Appendix B). The Wildlife Biologist is responsible for submitting a timely request for authorization to haze and/or handle Grizzly bears.

Techniques approved for use on black and grizzly bears include the siren or horn, cracker shells or “bear bangers/screamers” capsicum spray, trained bear dogs, rubber bullets, or other “thumper” devices. Such techniques may be used by personnel currently certified at Level II or higher (see Appendix C) for hazing habituated roadside bears. All hazing actions will be documented. A case incident report will be done for those instances where it appears likely that further actions with the specific animal are likely. In cases that do not meet these criteria, the action will be noted on the BIMS form.

Comment [j14]: Inserted language approving the use of ‘bear bangers’ or ‘screamers’.

In the backcountry, these techniques may be used only on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the District Ranger and concurrence of the Wildlife Biologist. The rationale for this is based on National Park Service policy, which requires Glacier to manage the backcountry (which is proposed for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System) in accordance with the Wilderness Act, so as to not impair its wilderness characteristics until such time as Congress acts. This requires us to protect and manage these areas to preserve the natural conditions and so

that they generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Routine use of hazing techniques could compromise these objectives; therefore all backcountry management actions must be carefully scrutinized.

For all hazing or aversive conditioning actions:

- 1) Visitors present will be informed of the action to be taken and why (preservation of the bear).
- 2) All bears to be aversively conditioned should be readily identifiable or marked with paint or dye, so effectiveness can be analyzed.
- 3) Documentation of conditions and results is completed on a Case Incident Report after each use of any technique, when it appears likely that further actions with the specific animal are likely.
- 4) All other use is documented on the Bear Sighting Report (BIMS).

Additionally, cracker shells or rubber bullets, or other projectiles may be used only if the following conditions are met:

- 1) Visitors will be moved to safe locations, preferably inside their vehicles or a building, prior to the discharge of any projectile. Efforts will be made to clear the area of visitors prior to the use of cracker shells or rubber bullets if appropriate.
- 2) No flammable material is near the target areas.

As new or additional information becomes available regarding aversive conditioning, additional hazing or aversive conditioning techniques may be used with the approval of the Wildlife Biologist.

7.2 Readiness for Trail Closure

All patrol and interpretive vehicles will carry signs for posting and closing trails and campgrounds, and barriers (chain, rope, or other barricades) for trail closures. Rangers and Interpreters on backcountry duty will carry signs and equipment for posting and closing backcountry trails and campgrounds. All signs will be posted in accordance with the Backcountry Wilderness Maintenance Standards, which contain a summary of bear management signs (see Appendix E of the Backcountry Management Plan).

7.3 Firearms, Immobilization and Capture Equipment

All persons using capture equipment, firearms, and drugs in bear management or other wildlife management activities will be properly trained and qualified. Bear management personnel will not patrol an area that has been CLOSED due to a bear management action without a Park radio, bear spray, and/or an authorized bear management weapon.

Appendix K of this document describes the standards and qualification requirements for the use of firearms in resource management areas. The policy of Glacier National Park is as follows:

Comment [j15]: Generalized the wording to allow patrol of closed trails without a firearm.

The primary purpose for the issuance of a weapon to resource management personnel is for the protection of the visitor in case of animal attack, or for the disposal of animals. Secondly, the weapon is available for personal protection in case of an animal attack during management actions, or the patrolling of areas closed due to bear problems.

Comment [j16]: Inserted reference to appendix K and deleted references to off-duty carry by employees.

Inventories of all immobilization and capture equipment will be maintained in the districts, and records will be kept up-to-date on all drugs received and used. The Wildlife Biologist has Park-wide responsibility for drug use in bear immobilization and will be provided with use records as drugs are used.

The Science and Resources Management Division will be responsible for the proper disposal of all pharmacological agents used in bear and other wildlife management to prevent usage of those that have expired. An inventory of all wildlife management drugs on hand in each district will be reported to the Wildlife Biologist by December of each year to assure a full and current accounting. All empty drug bottles will be accounted for on forms provided at the time the bottles are issued. All drugs expected to expire before the next season will be turned into the Wildlife Biologist by December of each year. The Park Wildlife Biologist is responsible for submitting the DEA drug permit request each year.

All used syringes and disposable darts will be disposed of according to established protocol for Bio-Hazards. A Case Incident Report, bear handling form, and mortality log (as necessary) must be prepared following every bear management action.

7.4 Preparation for Relocating or Removing Bears

The Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management will evaluate the possibility of relocating grizzly bears from the Park to areas outside the Park ,or from outside the Park into the Park, in consultation with cooperating agencies, the USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, and in accordance with Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines. All management actions resulting in capture, movement, and/or death of a grizzly bear, or grizzly bear attacks resulting in human injury will be reported to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (Chris Servheen) at 406-243-4903 or 406-240-6506. Note: **All grizzly bears moved in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem must be radio instrumented.**

Regional relocations will generally be preferred to enhance population levels in the greater ecosystem. While in captivity, relocation candidates will be isolated from human activity and will be kept in a cool, shaded area, given water, but not food, and held for less than 24 hours, if possible.

Decisions to relocate or remove individual bears will be based on a behavioral analysis using two categories: habituated, and conditioned. These definitions can be found in the Definitions section of this document.

Bears that are classified as HABITUATED may be released on site with behavior modification, or relocated within the Park (including bears captured outside of the Park) if a suitable release site, free of circumstances similar to the capture site, is available. HABITUATED bears may be relocated to other ecosystems or the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem outside of Glacier to enhance threatened populations. Bears of both species that are classified as CONDITIONED

will be relocated outside the Park by cooperating agencies, placed in zoos, or destroyed if behavioral modification has been attempted, failed, or is not practical.

District Rangers will inform their supervisor of any bear capture. The Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management, will also be notified of any grizzly bear captured. If the bear is to be relocated within the Park, a release site location will be determined by consensus of the District Ranger(s) of the affected area and the Chiefs of the Division of Science and Resources Management and the Division of Visitor and Resource Protection. All Divisions will be notified of releases for employee and visitor safety. Radio discussions about release sites should not occur, except in emergency situations.

Prior to release of a bear in the backcountry, District Rangers will check with Glacier Dispatch for permits issued for the area in which the bear is proposed to be relocated. If the area is clear of permits and the site is selected for release, the backcountry office will enter an advisory in the computer for no less than 48 hours after the bear is released.

Relocation site selection will be on a case-by-case basis, and may include releases on-site or relocations as far as possible from the point of origin. Remote release sites will, generally, be free of human developments or activity, and some sites may require the use of a helicopter in the relocation process.

Established procedures involving helicopter use and landings will be coordinated by the Park Aviation Manager with approval by the Deputy Superintendent.

7.5 Bears Destroyed

Except in emergency situations involving life safety concerns, the incident area will be closed and cleared of visitors before removal of the bear.

Removal of grizzly bears is governed by 50 CFR 17.40 and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Guidelines. Except in emergencies involving life safety concerns, the USFWS, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator should be consulted prior to removal. Carcasses of all grizzly bears killed should be sent to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks laboratory in Bozeman, Montana for analysis, per Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines. Waterproof tags should be attached to any bear carcass removed from the park with the following information:

-Date of Death or Date Found: -Location: Description and UTMs

-Collector and phone number: -Cause of Death (if known):

-What information is requested from the lab? (X-rays, corpora lutea, cause of death, time of death, etc.)

-What parts, if any, does the park want returned (hide, skull, etc.)?

The use of carcasses or bear parts by Glacier National Park for study collection, interpretive programs, exhibits, or research must receive written approval from the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management prior to removal of the hide, internal organs, or bone matter.

7.6 Bear Mortalities Found

If a bear is found dead, the immediate area should be treated as a crime scene, and not be disturbed until personnel qualified in wildlife law enforcement have completed a crime scene investigation and the Wildlife Biologist has been notified. If the dead bear is a grizzly, the Wildlife Biologist will make a full report to the USFWS, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator.

Bear carcasses resulting from naturally occurring mortalities will be treated as carrion. Items to be collected (if feasible) are hair and DNA samples, a premolar tooth (if black bear), and skull (if grizzly bear). The discovery and collection will be documented on a Case Incident Record, and samples turned over to the Wildlife Biologist for disposition. Contact should be made with the Wildlife Biologist to determine if other parts should be collected. If the carcass is perceived to be vulnerable to theft or likely discovery, consult with the appropriate District Ranger concerning disposition of the carcass.

7.7 Research Capturing

Bears may be trapped and radio instrumented for research and monitoring purposes, after a thorough review of alternative methods to achieve research objectives. All research applicants will comply with Glacier National Park and USFWS permit procedures. Note: **All grizzly bears moved in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem must be radio-instrumented.** The Wildlife Biologist will insure that the USFWS and other appropriate agencies are notified when grizzly bears are radio-collared to facilitate cooperative monitoring.

8.0 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management actions are defined as any action taken by management due to bear activity that directly affects the bear and/or the public. This includes, but is not limited to, trail postings, trail closures, campground closures, bear relocations, and bear removals.

The park superintendent is ultimately responsible for all bear management actions within Glacier National Park, and has delegated many operational decisions and responsibility to the District Rangers, with some exceptions (see 8.1-3). Level II and III trained personnel should consult with the District Ranger prior to implementing other than emergency actions.

8.1 Considerations for Implementing Management Actions

- 1) A "Wildlife Management Action" form (see Appendix H) will be completed for situations where immediate actions by field personnel are not critical for protection of life and/or property. File the completed original copy of the Wildlife Management Action

form with the original Case Incident Report.

- 2) A conditioned bear may be removed from the Park by relocation, or destroyed, if behavioral modification (aversive conditioning) has been attempted and failed, or if modification actions are not practical.
- 3) A habituated bear may be released on site with behavioral modification, relocated within the Park, if closing the area is not feasible or successful, and the bear has not become overly familiar with people.
- 4) Exceptions to # 2 and # 3 may be made for habituated or conditioned bears which display defensive behavior resulting from overt or illegal human actions.
- 5) Bears with no known record of problems, which are inadvertently captured during a trapping operation, may be released on-site or relocated in the Park and will not be tagged.
- 6) Hazing may be conducted by Level II or higher Bear Management trained personnel (see Appendix C) in accordance with Section 7.1.
- 7) All management actions will be documented on a Case Incident Report.

It will be the responsibility of the District Rangers to assure standardized implementation of the above guidelines by presentation of a single, specific action chart (Appendix G) for Park-wide use by field personnel.

8.2 Individuals Responsible for Decisions

Decisions to take management actions (including destroying a bear) listed in the Guidelines (section 8.1), except in the following four cases, will be made by personnel specifically trained in bear management, who will report actions as soon as possible to the responsible District Ranger and the Communications Center.

In all situations not critical to life or property, management decisions should be documented on a "Wildlife Management Action Form" (see Appendix H).

The following decisions will be made only by the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent based upon recommendations from Resource Management Staff and District personnel:

- 1) The decision to kill a bear in situations where immediate action by field personnel is not critical for life safety. Examples: Bear meets criteria for removal, but has already been captured or its location is not known.
- 2) The decision to allow LIMITED camping, i.e., hard-sided campers only, or to CLOSE an auto campground, except in emergencies. In this case, emergency is defined as significant aggressive behavior, property damage, personal injury, or fatality. In emergencies, the decision to temporarily close an auto campground rests with the District Ranger.
- 3) The decision to use a helicopter to move a trap or a bear. (Helicopter policy in Glacier National Park requires the approval of the Aviation Manager and Deputy Superintendent for any touchdowns in the Park.)
- 4) The decision to accept bears trapped by another agency outside Glacier National Park. Park wildlife staff will provide recommendations through the Chiefs, Division of Science and

Resources Management and Division of Visitor and Resource Protection, on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the behavior that caused the animal to be trapped, conformity to behavioral definitions of this guideline, release location, time of year, and likelihood of success.

In all management actions which require follow-up (postings, investigations, closures), the individual responsible for the initial decision will also be responsible for follow-up actions.

The individual who makes a decision to close any area will inform the District Ranger and Glacier Dispatch as soon as possible. Glacier Dispatch will notify the Chiefs, Division of Science and Resources Management and Division of Visitor and Resource Protection, and Information Centers throughout the Park.

8.3 Responsibilities for Management Actions

1) Posting of Bear Warning Signs on a Trail

The District Ranger will be responsible for posting “Bear Frequenting Area” signs on both ends of a trail segment(s) when it requires a posting. If bear(s) or bear evidence is not observed during two consecutive (but not in the same day) routine patrols, signs will be removed and the communications center notified. A trail should be posted if a bear is observed frequenting the area.

2) Investigations

The District Ranger will be responsible for obtaining details on incidents or sightings and, if necessary, close and check the trail and pertinent area thoroughly. Upon completion of such investigations, the District Ranger will determine whether to keep the area closed or open it. The Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management and/or designated investigation team are available to assist as required. Short term investigative closures may be implemented to substantiate reports, allow bear movement across a trail, or through a well defined area. If upon investigation the report is unsubstantiated or it is determined animal has moved out of the area, the area may be reopened and not require multiple patrols.

3) Limiting Access to a Campground

After a decision by the Superintendent to limit camping, implementation will be the responsibility of the District Ranger. Use will be limited to hard-sided camping units. Some camper vehicles, such as VW buses and similar units, have a small canvas-sided pop-up-top. These types of vehicles will be allowed in campgrounds with the hard-sided restriction, as long as they are not popped up during the night.

It will be necessary for campground personnel to make an effort to notify the owners of this particular type of vehicle of the fact that their top must be down during the night hours.

There are certain types of trailer campers with tops that rise; however, all sides, and in fact, the entire external surface of these units are hard-sided. They usually utilize fiber glass panels which slide into place as the unit is cranked up. This type of trailer camper is hard-sided, and will be

allowed in campgrounds designated for hard-sided camping.

4) Closure

The District Ranger will be responsible for placing and installing closure signs and physical barriers at trailheads and junctions leading to a closed area. A trail or backcountry campground should be closed if a bear is observed remaining in close proximity to the campground or trail, feeding naturally, and/or displaying neutral or aggressive behavior, or if carrion is discovered in a campground or along a trail which may attract bears and pose a risk. In general, areas more than ¼ mile off trail would not be subject to closure, unless safety is a significant issue. Backcountry campgrounds near the closed area may also be closed at the discretion of the District Ranger. Ranger personnel should check daily to assure that trailhead closure signs are in place. Every effort should be made to inform people in campgrounds and along trails of our actions (before, if possible).

Comment [j17]: Added stronger language re: informing the public per Oldman BOR.

Short term investigative closures may be implemented to substantiate reports, allow bear movement across a trail, or through a well defined area. If upon investigation the report is unsubstantiated or it is determined that the animal has moved out of the area, the area may be reopened and not require multiple patrols.

Nighttime closures may be implemented as a preventive measure in high visitor use/high bear use areas. The closure may be removed in the morning after the area has been patrolled.

Ranger escorts of visitors through a closed area should be limited to the initial evacuation of the incident area. Once the area is closed and cleared of visitors, no subsequent visitor escorts through the closed area are permitted, except in enforcement situations.

Bear management personnel will not patrol an area that has been CLOSED due to a bear management action without a Park radio, bear spray, and an authorized bear management weapon.

Comment [j18]: Modified to include bear spray.

Bear Management trained personnel will patrol the closed area daily, if feasible, in heavy-use areas such as Grinnell Glacier, upper Two Medicine or Avalanche Trails, (but not less than two patrols in a five-day period); and every two days, if feasible, in light-use areas such as Poia, Otokomi, Cobalt or Quartz Trails (but not less than two patrols in a ten day period). If the bear(s) is not encountered or observed, and if there is no physical evidence of the bear(s) after two consecutive patrols, the trail and/or campground may be reopened. The area may also be reopened if the bear(s) is observed leaving the area or if the same bear(s) is observed in another area.

Observations, findings, and evidence must be documented on a Supplemental Case Incident Report, (IO-344). If a different bear is encountered during the patrol of a closed area, that sighting should be treated as a new situation.

If information suggests that the frequenting or closure condition no longer exists for a posted area, the special condition postings should be removed. Standard bear warnings and information signs will remain in place.

Postings and closures may be removed effective 11/20 each winter consistent with food storage and undesignated camping regulations. Postings or closures may be left in effect after this date at

the discretion of the District Ranger, if specific conditions warrant.

Under certain circumstances, and with the prior approval of the District Ranger, park employees and other appropriate wildlife professionals on official business may accompany a Level III Bear Management trained personnel into a closed area.

In addition, park employees may be authorized, in writing by the responsible District Ranger, to enter areas which are closed due to high seasonal bear densities (such as the fall Apgar Mountain concentration) or where bears are remaining in an area feeding naturally and/or displaying neutral behavior without the company of a Level II or higher Bear Management employee. The Park radio and bear spray should be visible upon entering the closed area.

5) Relocating or Removing a Bear

Only trained and necessary bear management personnel will be present in the immediate vicinity of the operation during capture and handling actions (also see section 8.5).

“Removal” means to relocate the bear to an area outside the Park or destroy it. The preferred option will be to capture and relocate bears to an area outside Glacier National Park in which case the accepting agency must be fully informed of the reasons requiring the bear’s removal.

“Relocation” means to move the bear to another area within the Park. Habituated bears may be relocated or released on site with behavior modification; however, a bear will be relocated, or released on site, more than once only if a thorough review of the bear’s history by the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management (or designee) indicates a high probability of a successful relocation and/or other extenuating circumstances. Bear release sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis with concurrence of the Wildlife Biologist and District Rangers of affected areas.

When practical, one Ranger will stay with an immobilized bear during relocation within the Park, to monitor the bear’s condition. Bears removed to outside the Park may be tagged with Park ear tags, if other tags are not available. The ear tagging of all bears will be done according to established guidelines, which allow identification by placement and color of ear tags.

Bears inadvertently captured may be released on site. Ear tags, tattoos, micro-chips, or radio collars will not be placed on bears inadvertently captured.

All grizzly bears moved within the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem will be radio-instrumented. All bears moved should have a microchip implanted and/or be lip tattooed.

If chemical immobilization is necessary and the situation is not an inadvertent capture, a microchip should be placed (if available), and a bear handling form completed. The completed form should be sent to the office of the Wildlife Biologist.

A conditioned bear may be removed from the Park, by relocation or being destroyed, if behavioral modification (aversive conditioning) has been attempted or failed, or if modification actions are not practical.

A decision to destroy a bear (see section 8.2) may be made if it meets the criteria for removal (see section 7.4) and one of the following conditions exists:

- a. A life-threatening emergency.

- b. Capture measures are not feasible, or are unlikely to promptly remove a problem bear.
- c. Capture measures have been unsuccessful.
- d. A relocation site within the Park is not available.
- e. Relocation alternatives outside the Park do not exist.

Records of all bears that have previously been tagged in the Park are available through the office of the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management.

8.4 Carrion

Naturally occurring carrion in the backcountry (see definition section) shall be left undisturbed and in place until such time that it no longer represents a potential food source or attractant to a bear.

The rationale for this policy is based on our objective to retain the primitive character of Glacier's backcountry, which is managed so as to preserve its natural conditions, and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Exceptions to this policy include:

- *carrion that poses a threat to a management action or emergency operation
- *dead animals that are so small or decomposed that they do not represent a realistic attractant for a bear
- *carrion that is verified to be associated with a wildlife crime, other human induced mortality, or domestic livestock
- *situations involving lengthy closures of popular destination day use areas (as per Chief Ranger direction)

Explosives may be utilized to eliminate carrion when one of the situations listed above occurs, and other methods are not practical.

Naturally occurring carrion in developed frontcountry areas should be removed to a remote site.

8.5 Photography of Bear Management Operations

1) Any photography, still or video, of bear management operations, if done by other than NPS employees must have the approval of the Chief Ranger or the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management. Any photography, still or video, of bear management operations must be done under safe conditions. The person in charge of the operation has the authority to establish a safe zone and exclude all personnel not directly involved with the handling operations.

2) Photographs taken are the property of the USNPS (including negatives) and should not be released to public media without the concurrence of the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management, and the Public Affairs Officer.

3) All personnel involved in bear management operations should have, as a minimum, basic briefing in bear management procedures and appropriate safety measures. This is especially critical with respect to photographers, pilots or others not directly involved in actually handling the bear.

- 4) Video tapes and still photographs of management actions can serve as a valuable training and public education tool but their value must be weighed against the safety and control concerns enumerated above.

9.0 FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION

9.1 Reporting Management Actions

Every bear management action will be fully documented as to methods used and effects on the bear; the following documentation will be completed: BIMS report (see Appendix A), Wildlife Management Action Form, Bear Handling Form, and a Case Incident Report. The investigating Ranger will use the GNP Bear Incident Interview Questionnaire (found in the Bear Management Field Operations Manual) for personal injury incidents.

The destruction of any grizzly bear will be reported immediately by the Chief, Division of Science and Resources Management to:

- a. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chris Servheen, 406-243-4903
- b. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Ken McDonald, 406-444-2612

All management actions resulting in capture and relocation of a grizzly bear will be coordinated per “Guidelines for Determining Grizzly Bear Problem Status and for Control Actions in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem” (under revision). Any injury or death as a result of a bear attack will be reported to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chris Servheen, 406-243-4903, and the Intermountain Region Office.

9.2 Evaluation of Bear Management Actions

Every bear-caused injury and every bear handling, relocation or mortality will be evaluated by incident participants and others designated by the Chiefs, Division of Science and Resources Management and Division of Visitor and Resource Protection for follow-up management action or for improving management strategies and tactics. Every bear-caused human fatality will be reviewed by a formal “Board of Inquiry” which should include the Wildlife Biologist, at least one ranger familiar with Park bear management activities, and individuals from other cooperating agencies as appropriate. The investigation team will produce a report detailing the events surrounding the fatality and the resulting management actions.

9.3 Evaluation and Revision of Plan and Guidelines

The Wildlife Biologist and the Wildlife Management Committee (designated by the Chiefs, Division of Science and Resources Management and Division of Visitor and Resource Protection) will be responsible for preparing and submitting annual summary reports and updating the Bear Management Plan and Guidelines.

Biennial review of the Bear Management Plan and Guidelines will consist of a request for

written comments from employees regarding the Park's bear management program. Other agencies will be sent copies of the Bear Management Plan and Guidelines, after each major revision for their evaluation and comments. This input will be discussed by management personnel in scheduled evaluation meetings and the results incorporated into the Bear Management Plan or Guidelines.