

Anchorage Bear Committee 22 April 2003 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Sinnott, Jessy Coltrane, Sgt. Dennis Allen, Craig Gales, Lilly Goodman, Colleen Matt, Herman Griese, Dan Bosch, Mark Sledge, Kellie Pierce, Bruce Seppi

Others Present: Bill Sherwonit, Doug O'Hara

Adoption of last meetings summary and the agenda for the current meeting

ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSED

- **311 Number:** Still no change to the status of the 311 number
- **State Park rangers aversive training** The training is scheduled. Rick will be doing the training, but it has not been done yet.
- **Standardize bear safety message** No new developments
- **Bear resistant garbage containers** Colleen sent a list of bear resistant containers to Craig. Craig indicated that they all looked up to standards for use by WMI.
- **Bear call statistics** Jessy has completed the graphs and sent them to John McCleary.
- **Bear Signs** Representative of land holding agencies reviewed their policies on signage concerning bear encounters and sightings. The following was reported:
 1. John McCleary: City parks has no protocol for bear signage, but they are taking the lead from State Parks.
 2. Mark Sledge: Elmendorf posts signs for brown bear activity as well as permanent warning signs in areas frequented by bears.
 3. Bruce Seppi: BLM does not have consistent signage or policy. The Campbell Creek Science Center acts independently on posting bear sightings.
 4. Kellie Pierce: Ft. Richardson doesn't have any consistent signage policy. They seasonally post bear activity warning signs in Cottonwood park.

Representative from land management agencies formed a sub-committee to come up with a consistent policy to be endorsed by the ABC concerning bear signage.

- **Bear safety and ecology for kids** Lilly produced bear paw stickers that read, "When in bear country stay in groups. Don't run from a bear." She will make them available only to people who are doing presentations for kids.
- **Bear Hotspot Map** The brochure is done and available for distribution.
- **Defenders of Wildlife door hanger campaign** Jessy will get with Karen to help her identify target neighborhoods. The door hangers will be distributed during the media campaign kickoff week in May.

- **Article on bears and garbage for the community councils** Rick forgot!
- **Community council presentations** Rick, Dan, and Jeff have attended seven community council meetings to present information on bears and garbage. Rick put together a power point presentation addressing the garbage issues in town.
- **Tipper Carts from WMI** Craig reported that the tipper carts would be leaving the manufacturers in a few days. Saturday, May 3rd was set as a tentative date to test the carts at the zoo. Rick will contact the zoo and let Craig know when the test is scheduled for.
- **Bear deterrents web site** There is some hold up with the contract, but we have received the OK from Headquarters. However, the website probably won't be up and running until July 1st.
- **Red Tags for garbage cans** Jessy received a new graphic to replace the bear/pig. Craig has the final draft of the tag, and they should be printed by next week.
- **Letter to the Municipality about bear-resistant garbage containers** The muni is on hold until we have a new mayor.
- **Considering bears in trail planning**
 1. Rick attended the last Parks and Rec technical advisory group meeting. The main consultant for the city seems aware of wildlife issues.
 2. Rick and Jessy walked part of the proposed Rabbit Creek Greenbelt trail.
 3. The public process for Title 21 has not started yet.
- **Schools in Bear Country** Jessy and Rick compiled an outline for the school district to address bear issues on school property. After receiving comments from the ABC, they will take the outline to the school district's Risk Management Division for comments.
- **Media Campaign** On 16 April, the ABC met to discuss the media campaign concerning bears and garbage in Anchorage. The campaign will begin with the initiation of Clean Up week on May 3rd. Colleen and Lilly are working to produce the PSA's for the campaign.
- **Creek Cleanup** Anchorage Waterways Council is sponsoring a municipality wide creek cleanup on May 17th. There will be a picnic at Valley of the Moon for all participants. This would be a good venue for handing out information on bears and garbage.
- **Bear Habitat Map** The bear habitat subcommittee met and discussed definitions for habitat categories for black and brown bears. Jessy generated maps and will be e-mailing them to everyone for comment. In addition, Rick compiled the definitions of the habitat categories, and these will be sent with the maps. Any comments are to be sent to Jessy, so that she can promptly incorporate them into the maps.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

TRAIL SIGNAGE

- The ABC discussed the pros and cons of having consistent signage. Everyone agreed that consistent signage throughout different agencies and areas would be more effective in reaching people with important safety messages.
- There are two kinds of signs that need to be addressed:
 1. Permanent warning and safety signs
 2. Temporary signs when there is elevated risk in an area
- Temporary signs should only be posted when:
 1. There is a carcass on or near a trail
 2. Bears have recently charged people in the area.
 3. After an incident involving a bear and a human
 4. Food conditioned bears in the area
- It was agreed that the ABC should come up with a recommended policy concerning signage and to standardize signage
- A subcommittee for signs was formed to resolve these issues. Subcommittee members include: John, Bruce, Jerry, Mark, and Kellie.

ENFORCEMENT REGARDING ATTRACTIVE NUISANCES IS INCONSISTENT

Why?

- Different missions for different enforcement agencies
- Cost/Benefit of enforcement
- Lack of man/woman-power
- No sense of responsibility

Target Audience

- Enforcement agencies
- Land managers
- Magistrates

Messages

- Consistent enforcement will change public behavior/ achieve compliance
- Lead by example

Tools

1. APD briefings and coordination among State Parks, ADF&G, and City Parks and Rec.
2. E-mail loop about enforcement and successes
3. List of options (tippercart, etc.) to Magistrates
4. PSA's and press releases on regulation and showing successes by enforcement agencies

5. Website listing of citations
6. Compare notes in Fall 2003

Citations will be given starting May 10th.

Evaluations

- Red tags on garbage by WMI
- Citations written
- Debriefing in the Fall

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 13TH AT FISH AND GAME
8:30-11:30***