



## May 2008 Weekly Highlights

### I. Departmental/Bureau News

**A. Upcoming:** None

**B. Current:**

#### **Hair sheds light on elusive carnivores**

The status of many carnivore populations is of growing concern to scientists and conservationists, making the need for data pertaining to carnivore distribution, abundance, and habitat use ever more pressing. But the elusive and wide-ranging nature of many carnivore species makes them inherently challenging to study. A newly published book by Island Press entitled "Noninvasive Survey Methods for Carnivores" is a comprehensive guide for wildlife researchers who want to use "noninvasive" research techniques (those that minimize disturbance to the animal being studied) coupled with cutting-edge laboratory and statistical techniques to sample carnivore populations. The chapter, "Hair Collection", by USGS scientist Katherine Kendall and USDA Forest Service scientist Kevin McKelvey, provides an overview of hair snagging methods used to collect hair from carnivores such as bears, cougars, wolves, and wolverines. For more, contact Katherine Kendall, 406-888-7994 or [kkendall@usgs.gov](mailto:kkendall@usgs.gov).

#### **Workshop focused on "bearing" in mind careful handling procedures.**

The USGS-Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) sponsored a workshop on immobilization, handling procedures, and emergency care for captured bears at the University of Wyoming's biological station on Jackson Lake (AMK Ranch) May 17-18, 2008. The workshop was attended by 29 people from various state and federal management agencies responsible for capture and handling both black and grizzly bears within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The workshop was lead by Dr John Murnane, contract veterinarian for the study team with support from USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center personnel Mark Haroldson, Chad Dickinson, and USGS Craig Whitman. The goal of the workshop was to increase the standard of care for handled bears with an emphasis on safety for both bears and people. For more information contact Mark Haroldson, 406-994-5042 or [mark\\_haroldson@usgs.gov](mailto:mark_haroldson@usgs.gov)

**II. Agency Work on Presidential Initiatives:** None

**III. Notable Congressional Activity:** None

**IV. Press Inquiries/Media**

- **Newspapers/magazines/wires, etc.**
- **Broadcast and Film**

USGS research biologist Katherine Kendall's bear research was featured on the Daily Planet show (Discovery Channel Canada) on April 29, 2008 at 7pm and 11pm ET (approx 5 minute segment). This story was the result of a film interview Kendall gave on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to Agatha Kowalski of the Discovery Channel Canada - Daily Planet.

USGS scientist Katherine Kendall gave a film interview to NBC News Correspondent Michael Okwu on Wednesday May 21st for an NBC Today Show story that will air mid-late June. She discussed the Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project and was accompanied by USGS Central Region Chief of Communications, Dave Ozman.

**Other** (Forum meeting, press conference, media training, etc): None

**V. Key FOIA Requests:** None