BEARS FIRST

Idaho Black Bear Rehab., Inc.

June, 2002



Too little for the big enclosure



Weighing the bears - one at a time please!

2000 - THE YEAR IT RAINED BEARS

Once again it's been a long time between newsletters. During 2000 we received a total of 22 bears from Idaho, Oregon, and Utah - 23 if you count the straggler that arrived in January, 2001. What a formidable amount of work to feed and care for all those bears. Most of the cubs arrived late summer or early fall after a summer of food shortages, droughts, and fires. Some cubs were orphaned due to the fires, others separated from their mother, some probably abandoned, and some we never knew what happened to their mother.

Tas, Whispa, and Willow started things off during the spring of 2000. We called them the 3 Musketeers as they did everything together, even after other bears arrived. The infamous Taz was certainly the star of the whole year. She was our Olympic champion - such an athletic bear, never taking a fall she didn't mean to take, but certainly causing us many heart palpitations with her antics. She could climb anywhere, do anything, solve any problem....and what a personality. Of course, she was the leader, always getting the others in trouble and then looking completely innocent as if she just happened to be in the area while the others did the dirty deed. During the early summer, 4 more cubs arrived. In Sept., cubs orphaned during the summer months began to arrive.

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Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc. * 6097 Arney Lane * Boise, Idaho 83703 USA Phone: (208) 853-3105 * Fax: (208) 853-3105 * E-Mail: IBBR2327@aol.com Before long, we had 22 bears. We started the hibernation process in Dec. with the orphans that arrived that spring and summer. The cubs from Oregon & Utah were sent back to their home state for denning during Dec. and Jan. Most of the fall arrivals were much too underweight to survive hibernation. Sadly, one of the cubs died of pneumonia a few days after he arrived. He was just too underweight and his system had shut down. However, the others continued to gain weight and regain the growth lost due to the drought, lack of food, and fires. In Feb., most of the remaining 11 cubs went into semi-hibernation, but the warm days of March brought them back out and feeding continued once again. The first part of April we transferred them from the hibernation enclosure to the main enclosure. By now the yearlings weighed anywhere from 86 pounds to 146 pounds. It was quite an experience watching the yearling bears rearrange everything in the enclosure. They would move a huge log stump as if moving a feather. We released the yearlings after hunting season (see story on May, 2001 release).

DEDICATION OF OUR NEW ENCLOSURE

On July 29th and 30th, 2000 we celebrated the completion of our new bear enclosure. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) funded the new enclosure with a



Any holes in up here?



The buses arrive



Mayor Ted Ellis

donation from Pam Walker. Pam was a loyal supporter of WSPA's Libearty Campaign for bear projects around the world. When she passed away, Pam left a donation for WSPA to use in helping bears. Thanks to her generous donation and WSPA, we completed the new enclosure in the spring of 2000. This enclosure can easily support 15 orphaned cubs during

the rehab process. It was designed by Greg Allen of Hummel Architects, IBBR, and WSPA. A special thanks to John Beecham for his dedicated work in overseeing the project to complettion. WSPA and IBBR hosted a one time only open house to dedicate the new bear enclosure. The wonderful people at Garden City Hall joined in and helped make it a successful weekend. They provided transport buses from the fairgrounds to and from the open house. Overland Lumber donated a truck so people who brought fruit or dog food for the bears had a place to leave their donations. We hosted approximately 200-250 people during the two days. The BBC documentary "Born to be Wild" included some footage of our dedication and most of the local media attended as well. We'd like to thank the following people for their help in making the dedication a success:

Victor Watkins, WSPA Wildlife Director - UK Headquarters John Beecham - IBBR VP & Hornocker Wildlife Institute Susan Sherwin WSPA Campaigns Manager - US office Greg Allen - Hummel Architects Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game & Fish & Game Reservists Western Idaho Fairgrounds Jay Parker - Parker Portraits Tom & Kathy Robb Jane DeChambeau - Signature Treats and Other Things Heather Clark - Garden City Public Library Craig Eckles, Randy Dearden, & everyone at Garden City Hall A-1 Plumbing Dave Nicholls - American Pump Co. Dave Collins - Boise Forestry K-F Electric Michael Massey - British Broadcasting Corp. Tara Wertz - Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife Mayor Ted Ellis - Garden City Judy McLaughlin - Albertson's Grocery Stores Grasmick Produce Sue Nass - Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game Boise Visitors & Convention Bureau Chris Isaacs Global Travel Bill Curtis - Overland Lumber Morgan Corder - Seven Oaks Sprinkler Viking Fence Larry Bainbridge Levi Holt - Nez Perce Tribe Pacific Sprinkler

BBC DOCUMENTARY - BORN TO BE WILD

During 1999 and part of 2000 BBC producer Michael Massey and his crew visited from London several times to film the documentary "Born to be Wild." Amanda Burton, actress and star of English TV, hosted the documentary. She was

delightful to work with (even though Sally kept stepping on her lines) and added a specialness to the film that would have been lacking with anyone else. She had a great sense of humor, and was very willing to step in and help with the work as well as the fun stuff. One day after filming, we met with architect Greg Allen to discuss the design of the new enclosure. Amanda heard me comment that I was already tired of constantly making formula. While we discussed the designs, Amanda made 2 days worth of formula and even cleaned the kitchen. We were all tired after a full day of filming, yet she willingly stepped in to give me a much needed break from one of the chores I faced each day. What a pleasure it was to work with her and get to know her.

The documentary aired in Europe during October, 2000 and I understand it was a tremendous success. We never heard the final count, but people were saying 4-7 million viewers saw the program. It aired on Animal Planet the week of May 5th, 2000. Since then it's been aired a few times on



No autographs, please. I'm just a regular bear.

Animal Planet. IBBR thanks producer, Michael Massey, his staff, and the BBC for their dedication in making a film that helped show the process of raising and releasing orphaned bear cubs.

FALL FRUIT DRIVE 2000

In October, 2000, KIVI, Channel 6 did a local story on the bear program and aired our plea for fruit. We've done many stories locally during the past 14 years, but none brought the response we got this time and it was never as desperately needed as it was then. The response was overwhelming - we tried to return all the calls and arrange for volunteers to pick up the fruit if those donating couldn't bring it to us. If we missed you, please know we tried very hard to reach everyone.



I could sure use some fruit. I'm a growing bear! The community provided enough apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, and acorns to feed the 22 bears until hibernation. That meant we could use what funds we had to purchase dog food. Our appreciation goes out to everyone who called as we would never have been able to provide enough fruit for all of those bears until they were released. Many people called who have fruit trees, and kindly allowed us put them on our fruit source list for the future. That's invaluable to us when we have bears desperately needing fruit each year. Fruit is always a bear necessity. We are also very grateful to Grasmick Produce for providing fruit during those times when we needed it most and Custom Butcher for donating freezer space to store some of the fruit.

Many people volunteered to bring the fruit to us. For those who couldn't come to us, we arranged for volunteers to go all over the valley picking up donations of fruit. There are too many to name individually here, but we are **very appreciative** to all of you.

A special thank you to Nunzio Lagattuta who arranged for the school kids in Emmett to collect fruit fallen off trees in the orchards - Tracey Cutler and the all the people at the Hays Shelter who helped collect fruit (and did it again in 2001) - Tracy Zamzow, Dennis & Anna Rohman, and several owners of small orchards who donated fruit. From those who donated fruit to those who collected it or picked it up, you should all feel very good about helping to bring these cubs back from starvation. You helped us return healthy bears back to their own world, ready to take charge of their own lives

after a difficult and scary start.

DECEMBER, 2000 DENNINGS * SPRING, 2001 RELEASES

During the month of Dec., 2000 and January, 2001 we sent the Oregon and Utah cubs back to their home states for denning. After we started the bears in hibernation here for 2 to 3 weeks, officers from each state came to take the cubs back to their own states to finish hibernation in dens there. Also in December, we denned 6 Idaho bears who were already in hibernation here and had sufficient weight to survive the remaining 5 to 6 months of hibernation. All 6 Idaho cubs had radio collars. We were thrilled to have actor & singer David Soul and his son Brendan go on the release with us (see story on page 6)

In spring, we found one of the smaller cubs dead after his collar indicated he wasn't moving around. Apparently a larger bear killed him, as we found a few large piles of bear scat in the area. Sad as it is, the cubs must take their place in the wild and face the same dangers as any other bear. One of the cubs managed to chew off the radio collar, but the rest did just fine. We tracked them through early September, until the radio collars dropped off. They were being bears and doing what bears do. They avoided people, stayed out of trouble, and survived - the desired result of a successful release. Releasing bears in spring is not an option we prefer, but sometimes it's unavoidable. Although denning bears in Dec. is certainly preferable for the bear, the spring release does give us a chance to see the rehab bears doing what bears do. In December, we put the cubs in dens while they are tranquilized. We cover the dens with pine boughs and snow,

and that is the start of their new life as a wild bear. During the spring release, we get to watch briefly while they climb trees, forage in the wild onion beds, chase each other, and play without any chain link barriers. If we are lucky, we get a few minutes to enjoy their new freedom with them. Sometimes, they charge out of the carriers and in a matter of seconds are out of sight.

During the May, 2001 release we were honored to be joined by several special guests. Mark Jordan from ITN Nightly News in London was filming a story on the dancing bears of Bulgaria. He joined us to show our release and what they hope to accomplish with a similar program in Bulgaria. Also joining us were two film crews doing stories on the bear program, Two Hand Productions and Imago



Jeff Rohlman shows David how to fit the radio collar

Productions. Emre Can from the Turkish Society for the Conservation of Nature joined us to take back what he

learned for a rehab project with the confiscated dancing bears of Turkey. Fish and Game reservists, Elaine Rex, Susan



Freedom - it's back to the real world now

Northcutt, and Lloyd Markus came along to help with the release. Tom Hazdor of Wideye Productions took video for a Fish & Game film and Jay Parker of Parker Portraits joined us to capture the release in pictures for IBBR.

All of the 11 bears released May. 2001 had radio collars. With the exception of one bear shot while taking an interest in a rabbit hutch, they remain elusive, staying out of sight and out of trouble. We continued to check on all the bears until the last collar dropped off in the fall.

Our appreciation to Tim Murphy and the staff of Animals R' Us for his help in treating injuries, tranquilizing, and giving medications as needed with all the bears during a very hectic year.

2001 Bears

During 2001, we received 6 cubs from Idaho, California, and Wyoming. The first arrival was Booster, a 12 week old cub from Northern Idaho. Tim and Ame Cochnauer from Wild Animal Rehabilitation of Idaho took care of the cub for about a month before sending him here in hopes he would have the company of other bears. Raising a single bear cub is never easy - not impossible, but as with all wildlife, it's much better to have a cub raised with other bears. He was definitely a challenge until the others arrived. At the end of June we received 3 cubs from California. Two came from Yosemite National Park and one from Sequoia National Park. In July, we received two cubs from the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. We are so grateful to Kate McCurdy of Yosemite National Park, Rachael Mazur of Sequoia Kings National Park, Scott Roth & Pat Hnlicka of US Fish and Wildlife in Wyoming for saving these cubs and giving rehab a

chance. Booster certainly benefitted from their arrival. He was much more interested in playing with the other bears than having his foster mom around. The Sequoia cub took to him immediately. She was the only female, weighed about 8 pounds compared to his 35 or 40 pounds. She was almost like a mini bear and from the day she arrived, she began following him around like a puppy dog until he started paying attention to her. From then on they were inseparable playmates.

The California cubs returned to Yosemite National Park and Sequoia Kings National Park in January to finish hibernation in dens in the mountains. We were surprised to have the new Director of the US National Park Service and a Congressman go with the bears on the California denning.



Sequoia and Booster



One very big Yosemite bear - Oct. 2001 - still drowsy from the tranquilizer after health check and getting weights (35 lbs on arrival - 147 lbs when this picture taken - 170 lbs when returned to California in Jan., 2002

When visiting our National Parks or camping in bear country, we would like to remind everyone to listen to park rangers and store your food safely in bear proof containers. Remember you are in the bear's home now. Don't be the cause of temptation that results in a problem bear and orphaned cubs. Think about the bear's safety as well as your own and follow the rules. All too often, the old saying "A fed bear is a dead bear" becomes reality.



Nonprofit Update

No dentist needed here!

We truly seem to be jinxed on this one. In May, 2000 we thought we had the application almost completed only to have it sidelined once again. During the

last two years, it's been in the hands of five different people, each of whom completed a portion, but none of whom could do the whole application. We're down to the last 2-3 pages, but can't seem to get those done. Sally is convinced it's jinxed and we will never get this project completed. We'd like to prove her wrong. Anyone out there with any knowledge or experience in applying for nonprofit status that can help us by finishing the application and checking it over for us?



Do you suppose he knows I stole his apple?



Yikes! Where did that bear come from?

SPEAKING FOR THE BEARS

By Sally Maughan

I have a variety of dreams and hopes for the bears and the future of bear rehab throughout the world. All of us in IBBR try hard to ensure the cubs have the best we can give them, and that we're doing the best we can for them. Sometimes, our best isn't enough, but last year, the seemingly impossible happened. Over the years, I've watched the impact these orphaned cubs have on people. The bears reach out and touch the heart of so many. This time, a very talented actor, singer, musician, and all around nice guy, David Soul, reached out and touched the bears in his own special way.

One of my personal dreams for the bears was to persuade David Soul to narrate the training video we planned to film in 2003. As hopeless as that seemed to everyone else, in my heart I knew that David was the only one I wanted to speak for the bears on this video. If the video was to be the best it could be for the bears, then he was the only one to do it. Why David Soul? Like millions of others, I loved the TV series Starsky and Hutch - Antonio Fargas, as Huggy Bear(definitely need to name a bear after him). Bernie Hamilton as Captain Dobey, David Soul as Hutch, and Paul Michael Glaser as Starsky. I also enjoyed the other series and many TV films David starred in, but it was his beautiful voice and the music he created that touched my heart. Rarely a day went by that his music wasn't playing in this house.

Over the years, practically every bear who came through this program grew up listening to David's music. During the thousands and thousands of hours I spent observing the bears at all times of day and night over a five year period, it was often David's music that kept me going. With sometimes as little as 3 hours sleep and a 14 hour a day job, I still faced hours of work taking care of the bears and putting in the observation time. That observation time is the very foundation of the bear program and accounts for much of the documentation and credibility we have today. I credit David and his music for making that possible, for keeping me going when the will & the stamina were long gone. For that reason, I felt he was the perfect one to speak for the bears and narrate the training video.

David was living and working in London at the time. I sent him a letter explaining why I wanted him to speak for the bears on the video and asked permission to use some of his music as well. Unknown to me, WSPA contacted him after that, inviting him to come to the US as a surprise and go on the December, 2000 release with us.

I was expecting Victor Watkins, Jonathan Owen, and Karen Branagh from WSPA in London to come for one of the Idaho dennings that Dec. I wasn't expecting David Soul! Thanks to the bears, there are many "once in a lifetime



David takes Pele to the den

moments" in my life that will always be special. However, few compare to the moment I turned and realized the person I saw standing there was David. There were a few brief seconds when my brain didn't register what my eyes were

seeing. However, it didn't take long to realize that was the voice I'd listened to almost daily for years. How did it feel to have a seemingly impossible dream become a reality for the bear program? In those first few seconds, I saw David standing there surrounded by every bear I'd known during the past 12 years, those dead and those still alive. It was as if, in spirit they all came to share that moment, to witness the dream become reality.

David and his son Brendan went with us that day to put the bears in their mountain dens for hibernation and then returned the next day to talk about the

returned the next day to talk about the bear program and the video. He not only agreed to narrate it, but agreed to let me use whatever music I wanted, volunteering to re-record the songs if the words didn't quite fit the scene. I described the scene in the video in which I hoped to use the song Simple Life. David softly sang a few lines of the song as I described the scene.....now that's definitely one of those most memorable moments! If you haven't heard him sing, you are missing something really beautiful. You can find more information about the CD "Leave a Light On" on David's web site at

<u>http://www.davidsoul.com</u> or on <u>http://www.davidsoul.org</u>. I'm so honored to call him a friend, both personally and on behalf of the bears. David has been very supportive of the bear program and we've already started some preliminary filming on the video. He even offered to do a benefit



Hey....I recognize that voice!

concert for the bears, but we weren't able to work out the logistics. Maybe sometime in the future we can plan "An Evening with David Soul" here in Boise where you can both hear some beautiful music and learn about orphaned cubs.

David, how can I ever thank you for taking time from your hectic life to care about the bears, for agreeing to do the video, for letting us use your music, for turning a dream into reality, and for being a friend. Although people are blessed to be touched by the bears, I think the bears are blessed to be touched by you and your music.

Children and Bears

We'd like to thank Lesley Winton of WSPA and the children at Tranent Primary school in Scotland for sending us their poems about the bears. We're sorry we can't print them all, but here are a few, printed as written.

Fiona Wallace - Primary 7B

Willow is to forest as forest is to Willow Whispa is to freedom as freedom is to Whispa Taz is to friends as friends is to Taz Poachers are to jail as jail is to poachers Bears are for the wild as the wild is for bears



Home at last!

Catherine Morgan - Primary 6

Hi, I'm Taz. I didn't have much luck When I was young mum was hit by a truck I am the most playful out of all three But I'm the boss and they always follow me!

Hello I am Whispa I'm a bit shy I was found in a yard but nobody knows why I just like to relax and watch the other bears My favourite foods include avocado and pears

And I am Willow, OK I'm a bit rough But being a bear can sometimes be tough I was found in a bag outside Portland Zoo Sally says I'm distant at times too!

We thank you WSPA for taking us into care At the Idaho Black Bear Centre we call our home there We can now be happy, play and dance Thank you WSPA for a second chance



Taz, Willow, & Whispa



Lee Curley - Primary 4

Once there was a bear who needed rescued in the cold and with no mum his mum was run over but he will be warm with WSPA

Bears shouldn't be caught in cages they should be in the wild and WSPA has saved the bears and possibly the world

Jennifer Langlands - Primary 7

Taz Willow and Whispa All alone in the world One found in a bag, no mother One found wandering in a garden, no mother the other found wandering still no mother! Orphans the lot of them Until now thanks to Sally!

PROJECTS FOR 2002 - 2003

Most important on our list of projects were refrigerators to store the fruit during hot weather and a way to store dog food without feeding it all to those cute little mice who think we got it just for them. Ron and Christine Lee's donation helped us make both needs a reality this spring. We now have two more refrigerators and Idaho Fish & Game reservist, Bret Brandi delivered a large metal storage container that he spent weeks building for us. Ron & Christine helped at a time when, for most of us the last thing we would be thinking about was someone else. Christine is recovering from serious health issues and we wish her the very best in her own rehabilitation. She loves bears and we thank both of them for thinking of the bears during such a difficult time in their own lives. And special thanks to Bret for all his hard work building the container.

Late Model Pickup Truck

One of the most recent items we added to our wish list is a late model pickup truck that fits our specific needs. When they are ready to return to their home state, we are transporting bears back to those states. Renting a pickup is not only expensive, but it's nearly impossible to guarantee we'll get one with a bed big enough to hold the two large transport carriers and seating for the sometimes 4-5 people in the release team. The bed needs to accommodate two metal carriers that are approximately 2' 6" wide x 4' 2" long and have seating for at least 4 people.

Bear Support

After the 170 pound Yosemite bear and the 173 pound Wyoming bear, we decided to strengthen the roof on the new enclosure. When you see a bear like that swinging from the roof, it makes your heart stop. Cubs who are held until spring can easily weigh



John Beecham & Tom Rob - California bears loaded in the rental pickup & heading home

160-170 pounds by the time they are released. We need to strengthen the roof to insure it will support the weight of even the strongest cub. Project cost is estimated at approximately \$1100.



Hanging out

Web Site

Gerry Carlson started work on our web site. He did an amazing job of putting the main web page together just as we wanted it. Since Sally is an admitted perfectionist, it was no easy task to get that page just perfect, but Gerry did that & a lot more. Then came the news. Gerry, who retired early from the Secret Service was recalled to active status after the tragic events of September 11th. We'll continue to work with Gerry as his time permits & thank him for all his work. For now Soren Jacobson of Managementreporting.com and Tessa Day at WSPA will help us set up the web site. We will send out a notice when the web site is active. Many of you have also asked about an adoption program. Until this year, WSPA handled the adoption program for our orphaned cubs on their web site. They have discontinued their adoption programs for the time being. The adoption program will be managed by Paula Wilshe when our web site is completed.

Training Video & Monitoring System

We have already started filming some of the footage for the training video to be completed in 2003. This video will show the rehabilitation process and various stages of development the bears go through during their time with us. David Soul graciously agreed to narrate the film and let us use some of his music. We are also hoping to have a monitoring system donated that will allow us to put live video on our web site. Both will provide schools, bear projects, wildlife rehabilitators, bear biologists, and others working with bears around the world the opportunity to view the cubs behavior while in rehab.

Sprinkler System

We desperately need to install a sprinkler system in the front part of the property. We already have a sprinkler system on top of the new enclosure to keep the grass growing inside. The rest of the property is watered by dragging hoses around - at least a 2 day project. Sally's mother took on that job when the bear program started in 1989. Now, at 88 years old, it's getting to be more than she can handle. Nor does Sally have time to fit it into her schedule & it's not feasible to have

volunteers doing the job. Since we host so many visitors working with bears from all over the world, it's important to maintain the grounds as best we can. If anyone has the knowledge to install a system or is willing to donate materials and labor, please call us.

NOW WE START ALL OVER AGAIN

Our first cub of the year arrived recently from Utah. At 9 ¹/₂ pounds, he is a tiny cub with a sweet temperament. With all the fires already this year, it could be another bad year for bears. Please keep the orphaned cubs in mind if you can help them again this year by donating money for food or any of the above projects.



Can't you see I was sleeping!

BEAR NECESSITIES - WISH LIST

URGENT:

\$\$\$\$ to upgrade enclosure roof - Late model pickup big enough to hold release team and carriers - Sprinkler system & volunteers to install it

GENERAL SUPPLIES:

Bath & hand towels - Large, medium, & small Vari-Kennels - Lumber - Postage stamps Printer to donate printing for our rehab manual - Large tree logs or stumps for climbing for climbing - Sony or Fuji mini DVC camcorder cassette tapes - Kodak 24 or 36 Max 400 film

SPECIALITY ITEMS - AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL ORDER FROM UPCO

(800 254-8726 - no substitutions please) Milk Matrix #99882 (20lbs) - Esbilac #9498 (5 Lbs powdered) Vionate #615 (2 Lbs)

FORMULA ITEMS:

Jars of Gerbers fruit baby cereal - Flavored Yogurt - Honey - Cans of condensed milk (not evaporated) - Natural applesauce - Boxes of oatmeal -Boxes of Gerbers cereal - Cottage Cheese - Elk or deer bones (hunters - save the rib cage or legs for the cubs to chew on)



Ruggles - 1989 - He started it all!

FOOD ITEMS:

20 Lb sacks of Albertson's **chunk style** dry dog food - Pedigree **Chopped Chicken** canned dog food - Bread - Acorns & Hazelnuts - Fish (salmon or trout) - Raw carrots - Cans or jars of fruit

Fresh fruit of all kinds: apples, peaches, pears, grapes, plums, cherries, apricots, watermelons, cantaloupes, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, strawberries

Sally Maughan - President Tom Robb - Vice President Carol Whitehead - Vice President Valerie LeBoeuf - Secretary BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Beecham - Vice President Steve Audain - Vice President Roy Butler - Treasurer



Idaho Black Bear Rehab., Inc. Attn: Sally Maughan 6097 Arney Lane Boise, Idaho 83703 USA