

Idaho Black Bear Rehab, Inc.

IBBR

www.bearrehab.org

Ruggles

Black Bear Habitat



Founded in 1989 - Non-profit organization

Mission is to give all orphaned cubs a second chance at life in the wild by:

- Rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing orphaned cubs whenever possible.
- Instituting bear rehabilitation programs and training rehabilitators in states where the option currently does not exist.
- Working with state wildlife agencies to establish bear rehab as a standard part of their wildlife management policies.
- Educating the public about bear rehab and our shared responsibility to protect wild bears and their habitat.
- Continue learning and sharing rehab methods to successfully release orphaned cubs.

Bears arrive at IBBR all year.



- Age on arrival has ranged from three (3) weeks to seven (7) years.
- Arrival weights range: 1.27 kg / 2.8 lbs – 33.11kg / 73 lbs.
- Release weights range: 22.68 kg / 50 lbs – 97.07 kg / 214 lbs.



Not a One-Size-Fits-All Approach

After caring for over 200 bears during the last 25 years, IBBR has found that each bear's individual personality is as distinct as the variety of personalities we find among humans. Rehabilitation of bears can never take a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Besides providing for a variety of physical needs, such as those facing newborns, malnourished, injured, or bears fighting disease, support for emotional trauma, or inquisitive and active minds, rehabilitation must be customized for each and every bear. IBBR is well known for adapting rehabilitation techniques and facilities to fit the needs of individual bears.

IBBR Rehabilitation of Black Bears





Infants



8-12 Weeks



4 months



6 months



8 months to release



7 yr old female
w/yearling cub

Myths and Fallacies

- Bears will become habituated / food conditioned.
- Bears won't know how to fend for themselves.
- Bears will experience human/bear conflicts.
- Bears need to be in a “wild” environment during rehab.
- Nobody cares about an individual bear.

Habituation / Food Conditioned



Usually when the term habituation is used it is meant to imply that the bears are attracted to humans for food and other needs.

However, bears that are fully habituated to humans ignore them. Thus, habituated bears would not necessarily be attracted to humans for food and other needs. *

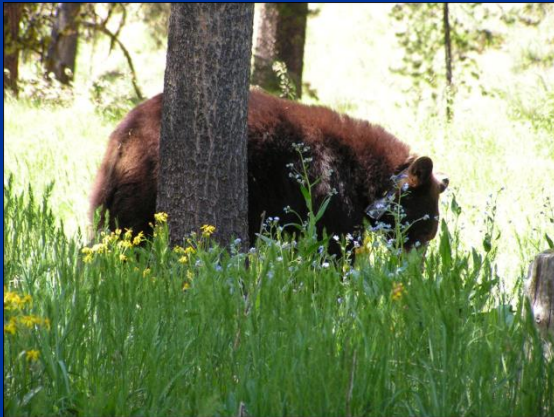
To date, over 95% of IBBR bears are considered successfully released, as they sustained themselves and did not become involved in a human/bear conflict during the first month post release.

* Whitaker and Knight 1998; Rogers et al. 2011.

Learning to Fend for Themselves



IBBR's experience has shown that the behaviors and skills that black bears need to survive in the wild are instinctive and do not need to be taught.



5 yrs post-release

Human/Bear Conflicts.

Key elements for a successful reintroduction into the wild:

- Adequate high quality habitat
- Minimum contact with humans for 7-10 days post release
- An opportunity to socialize with other bear cubs during early development
- Individual personalities

Near-urban rehab facilities



Opportunities to Explore



Socialization



Remote Monitoring



Security



Nobody cares about an individual bear...



Individual members of the public have the opportunity to become aware of a program that supports the notion that “one bear” does make a difference, and that “one person” can make a positive impact on wildlife populations. The chance to report an orphaned or injured bear; the knowledge that their individual concern will result in that bear receiving humane and appropriate care; and that because of their initial action, a bear will be returned to the wild – this is the beginning of fostering an inherent position that all citizens have a stake in the environment and its wildlife populations.

Ready to go...





Releasing multiple bears



Releasing w/ fear



A second chance at freedom...



Let's Talk Data

Total Bears Received 217

Bears currently in rehab	1
Died prior to Release from pre-existing injury/illness	10 (.046)
Died During Tranquilizing	1 (.005)

Total Released 205

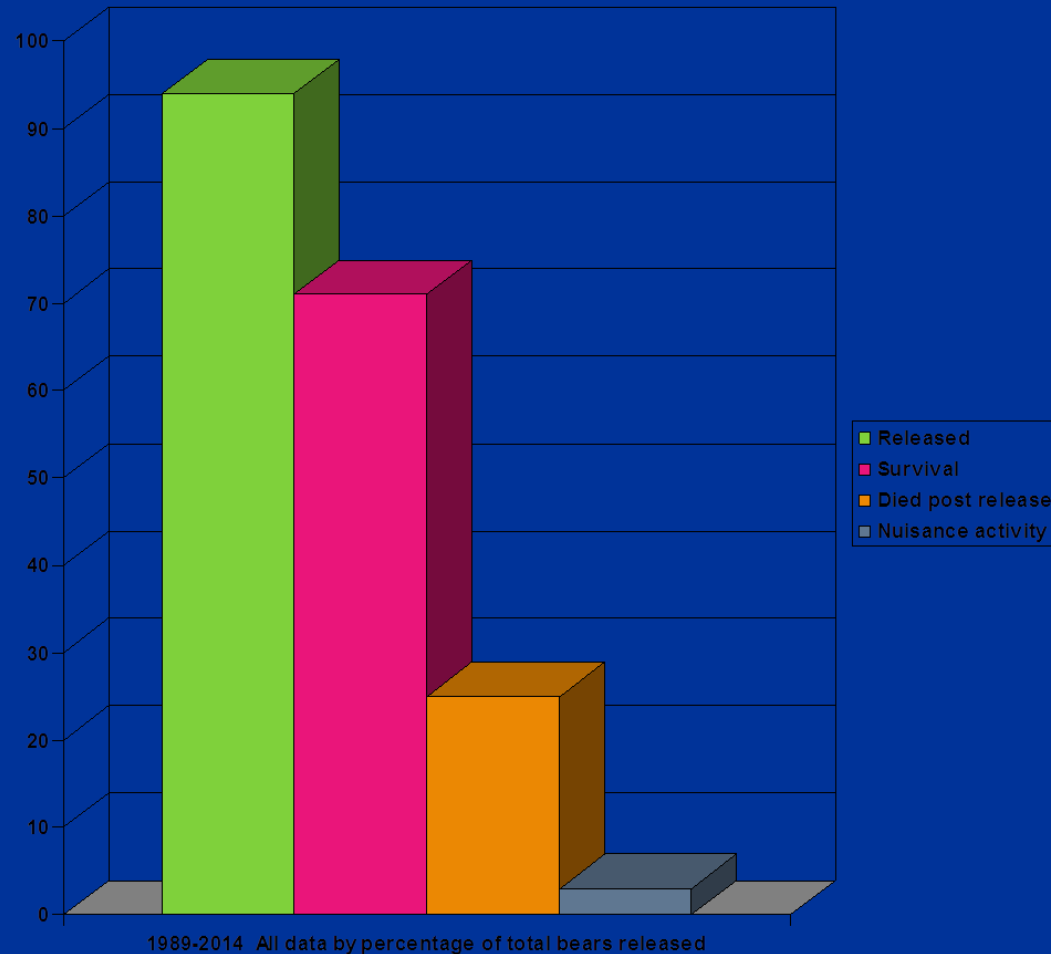
Post Release Data 111 (.541)

Human/Bear Conflict
1st 30 days 3 (.015)

Human/Bear Conflict
31days to 1year 4 (.019)

Died within 1st 30 days
(excludes Conflict) Vehicle 2 (.010)

Post Release Data Pending To Date
94 bears (62 Idaho Bears) (.458)



Be BearWise



Be BearWise



Many of the situations that result in orphan cubs, injured bears, property damage, and personal injury, can be avoided by educating the public, and offering tips and solutions on how to co-exist peacefully with bears in their wild environment. IBBR is committed to sharing information with the public, and wildlife agencies - information that can offer potential solutions to problems that lead to injury, illness, and orphan-states of bear cubs.

Cooperative Efforts

Search
& Rescue



Medical
Treatment



Data
Collection

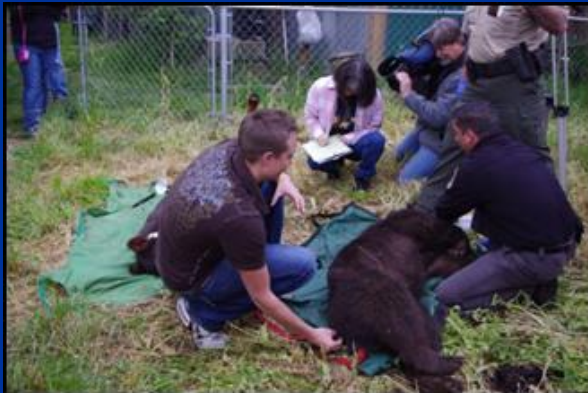


Release &
Tracking



Positive Image Management is a Benefit to Government Agencies

“Rehabilitation programs also have provided positive educational and public relations value to governmental entities charged with managing wild bear populations...”



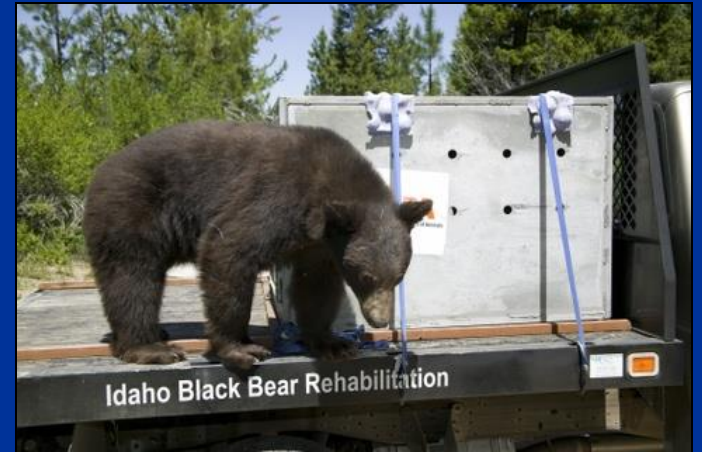
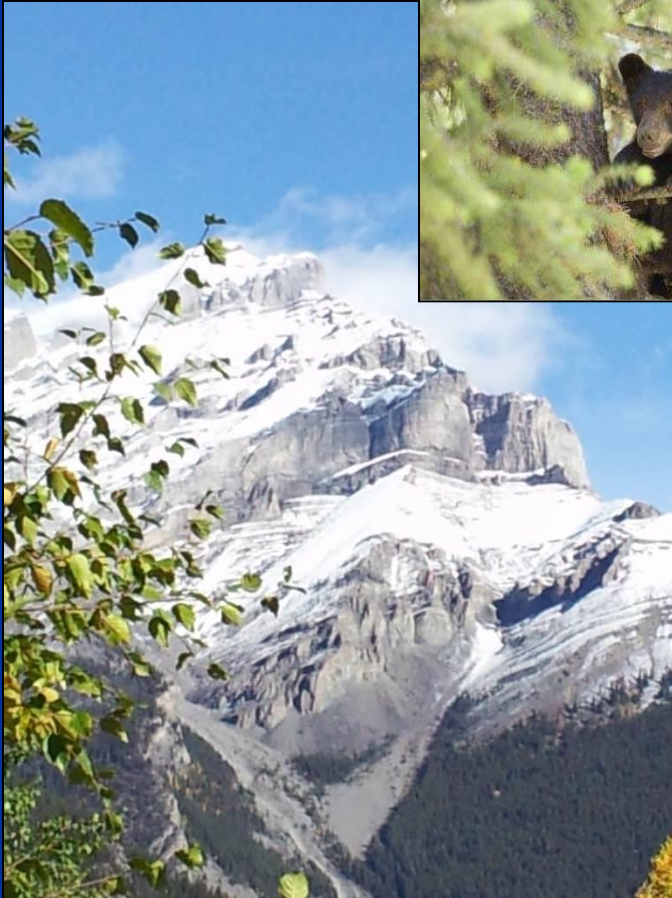
Scientific Value of Rehabilitation Programs

Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding in China – cite the programs of IBBR as a potential model in efforts to return Giant Pandas bred in captivity to the wild. “The experiences of rehabilitation and reintroduction with other bear species is valuable in planning for the eventual reintroduction of giant pandas...”



The Associated Press. *Bear rehabilitators from around world look to black bear center in Idaho for guidance.* International Herald Tribune, The Global Edition of the New York Times 17 July 2007. Accessed online January 8, 2009.
[http://www.iht.com/articles / ap/2007/07/18/america/NA-GEN-US-Bea](http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/18/america/NA-GEN-US-Bea)

The Future



- Ethical and science-based protocols concerning injured and orphaned black bear need to be incorporated into wildlife agency regulations and management plans.
- Wildlife agencies should integrate the fluid nature and adaptive needs of bear rehabilitation when drafting policies and procedures meant to regulate bear rehabilitation.

- Black bear rehabilitators should be a part of, and major contributor to, agency black bear management policies as they affect black bear rehabilitation.
- Black Bears can be successfully rehabilitated at facilities near urban areas.
- Consistent standards need to be developed to define conflict activity with appropriate response methodology.

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