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**Bear cubs swamp Garden City rehab**

*Jason Kauffman*

*Staff*

Center needs funds and labor to build roof to protect **cubs**

Jason Kauffman

Staff

More **bears** have arrived at the Idaho Black **Bear Rehab** Inc. center in **Garden City**, putting an even bigger strain on facilities, volunteers say.

By the second week of December, the **rehab** center had taken in a record number of orphaned black **bears** for a single year -- 33 . Since then, the center has gotten three more hungry, energetic black **bear cubs** .

After **bear cub** number 33, Sally Maughan, the center's president, requested help from the public. The rehabilitation center is devoted to returning **cubs** back to the wild.

Maughan has been unable to provide a covered space for every **bear cub** and now hopes to add to the center by building additional roofing.

Maughan said that without additional cover, some of the **bear cubs** will be unable to escape from the elements.

Treasure Valley residents responded by offering building supplies and labor after hearing of the center's plight.

Maughan said she was optimistic the center would get its new roof after she received offers of help from the community.

"We had a lot of people call to help build the roof," she said.

Earlier this week, though, plans for building the roof hit a snag. Volunteer engineers discovered the new roof's large size may require steel framing.

For now, plans for the new roof are in limbo, Maughan said, as she waits for word from **Garden City** officials about whether wood or steel framing will be needed.

The center, which is licensed by Idaho Fish and Game, typically releases black **bears** either in winter or in spring. Since they began operations, the center has released 89 **bears** back into their natural habitat.

#### How to help

Sally Maughan of Idaho Black **Bear Rehab** Inc. said the center's needs include:

Financial support. Money would go toward purchasing materials and paying workers needed to construct additional roofing.

Labor. Anyone with construction experience to help build additional coverage.

Donated materials. Wood, cement and colored tin roofing.

To help the center, send e-mail to [infobearrehab.org](mailto:infobearrehab.org), or call Sally Maughan after working hours at 853-3105.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Jason Kauffman at [jkauffmanidahostatesman.com](mailto:jkauffmanidahostatesman.com) or 377-6439.

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