

From: [Proffitt, Kelly](#)
To: [Woodruff, Susannah P](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: random polar bear question
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:25:23 AM

Susannah,

I can't really remember the details. I think they they (and us) were there for a few days and we did some observations of their behavior, and I'm not sure if the bears or us left first. But, I can say that if my impression had been that our camp caused the bear to abandon her den, I would have been upset about it and I would remember it. And yes, hope to meet you in person at some point! Good luck with the pbear project!

Kelly

From: Woodruff, Susannah P <susannah_woodruff@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Proffitt, Kelly; Simac, Kristin
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: random polar bear question

Thanks for the quick response Kelly! Yes, that was a while ago—so I am sure details are fuzzy. The information about the disturbance apparently comes from a Federal Register notice? Or so it says. I am not sure of the source of the data as I am just one of the people tasked with how to “classify” them—so this was one of many records we were given by the Regulatory Program. Maybe the information came from one of Tom Smith’s reports?

It sounds like from your recollection, they didn’t leave the den (I mean abandon the den) while you were still there. You left before they did? So in other words you don’t know when they actually left the densite?

And on another note Kelly, we’ll have to meet in person someday. We have many close friends/colleagues (Ben Jimenez, Gretchen Roffler, and I am sure more)! So hopefully some day we will actually meet. And today I am bombarding you with emails...sorry about that!

I’ll give a call if I need more clarification. Thanks again!
Susannah

From: Proffitt, Kelly <KProffitt@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:37 AM
To: Woodruff, Susannah P <susannah_woodruff@fws.gov>; Simac, Kristin <ksimac@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: random polar bear question

Hi Susannah and Kristin,

Wow, that was awhile ago! This is what I remember: We setup a tent camp and had 2 snowmachines that traveled every 2-3 days from the camp to Badami. I don't know how close

the camp was to the den, but I would guess at least 800m. We had to use scopes to see the den, you couldn't see it with the eye or binocs. The camp was established prior to den emergence, and occupied periodically prior to emergence. The bear came out, we observed she had a cub (can't remember how many) and within a few days past emergence we packed up and left. I don't remember thinking that we had disturbed the den or caused her to abandon the den, so I guess I'm surprised (or my memory is bad).

I'll be around all day if you want to call or discuss, 406-579-8920.

Kristin, it's been awhile and I hope you are doing well!! Oddly enough, I ran into Geoff York on a trail in Bozeman about a year ago. I guess we both ended up moving to Bozeman, and I hadn't seen him in 15 years. Small world!

Kelly

From: Woodruff, Susannah P <susannah_woodruff@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:20 AM

To: Simac, Kristin; Proffitt, Kelly

Subject: [EXTERNAL] random polar bear question

Hi Kristin and Kelly,

Craig Perham suggested I contact you regarding clarification on a polar bear disturbance for which we are trying to find out more information. We are trying to classify bear response to disturbance and have been trying to track down information on those disturbances that we have classified as basically "insufficient information". The one listed below is one of them. Basically what I am looking for (if you just so happen to have it!) is what is "close proximity" (like 400 m, 800 m, whatever), any dates (or general date like was it still February?) or idea of how long after the disturbance the bears left. And do you know if they were already out of the den when they were disturbed?

If you don't have any information, that is fine too but thought I would check. We are, of course, under the gun on this and need it by this week (preferably by this afternoon!) so if you don't have time, I completely understand!

Thanks,
Susannah

In spring 2002, noise associated with a polar bear research camp in close proximity to a den is thought to have caused a female polar bear and her cubs to abandon their den and move to the ice prematurely. This record was retrieved from 81 FR 52276, August 5, 2016. No additional details were available.

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