

From: [Simac, Kristin](#)
To: kproffitt@mt.gov; [Woodruff, Susannah P](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: random polar bear question
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:14:51 PM

Hello ladies,

I agree with Kelly's recollection.

I bet the tent was set up a mile from the den. I remember seeing the AF poke her head out of the den, but I do not remember seeing her or any cubs fully emerge from the den. We had been outside fiddling with gear getting ready to leave the camp when we noticed the bear. We went back inside the tent until she went back in the den and then we left. We returned (not sure how many days later) to the camp, but never observed any of the bears again.

Hi Kelly,

I hope Montana is treating you well. From Geoff's facebook posts, it appears there are lots of trails to enjoy in the area.

Take Care,
Kristin

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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