



Klein, Kimberly <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Bears' departure

4 messages

Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 9:09 AM

To: "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>, "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Hi Christopher and Kimberly – This is a follow-up to my voice mail. See attached emails documenting likely departure of Endicott sow and cub. Please advise on next steps.

Beth Sharp

Wildlife and Habitat Specialist | Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

3800 Centerpoint Drive, Ste 1400 | Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Office: 907-777-8436 | Cell: 907-242-5700

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Lance Douglas - (C)" <ldouglas@hilcorp.com>

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist <AlaskaNS-EnvironmentalSpecialist@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk <AlaskaNS-Endicott-SecurityDesk@hilcorp.com>, Bo York <byork@hilcorp.com>, Jeff Staley <jstaley@hilcorp.com>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Sun, 2 Apr 2017 02:24:16 +0000

Subject: bear departure WITH pic's 4-1-17

Looks like they left the den about 4pm on Saturday and headed NE heading past the tip of Pt Brower when I lost them in the fog.

Sorry for lousy pic's but it was 2 miles out with a cheapo telephoto lens. They were taken about 5pm.

The one image has the cabin on Pt Brower in it for context.

Assuming we see nothing on the camera, we will go out on snow machines Sunday am and confirm tracks heading out and none returning.

Cross your fingers....

LAD

Lance Douglas

ACS Environmental Tech

Hilcorp-Endicott

ldouglas@hilcorp.com

907-659-6541

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From: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Mon, 3 Apr 2017 16:48:17 +0000

Subject: FW: Bear departure 4-1-17 5pm

From: Lance Douglas - (C)

Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 10:58 AM

To: Beth Sharp ; Jeff Staley ; Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk ; Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist ; Bo York

Subject: RE: Bear departure 4-1-17 5pm

Just got back from snow machine ride.

Found the set of exit prints and no returning prints.

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We had a good binocular view of den area from down on the ice and looks quiet there.

LAD

From: Beth Sharp

Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 10:18 AM

To: Lance Douglas - (C); Jeff Staley; Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk; Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist; Bo York

Subject: RE: Bear departure 4-1-17 5pm

They're crossed! We still need to wait 24 hrs from last sighting before declaring her gone, so Sunday 4pm.

From: Lance Douglas - (C)

Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 6:21 PM

To: Jeff Staley; Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk; Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist; Beth Sharp; Bo York

Subject: Bear departure 4-1-17 5pm

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Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Mon, 3 Apr 2017 15:54:58 +0000

Subject: Monday morning observation

Just got back from a loop around the bridge and den area and saw no new tracks of any kind.

Also had a good view of the den area with the binoculars and see no new prints or sign of activity.

Did a good scan of the entire east Sag delta area from the top of the res bridge and see nothing.

LAD

Lance Douglas

ACS Environmental Tech

Hilcorp-Endicott

ldouglas@hilcorp.com

907-659-6541

7 attachments



bears 2 miles 4-1-17.JPG
89K

bears departing 4-1-17.JPG
100K



bears pt Brower 4-1-17.JPG
83K



tracks heading NE.JPG
28K

 noname.eml
378K

 noname.eml
50K

 noname.eml
5K

Klein, Kimberly <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 1:53 PM

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Cc: "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>

Beth,

Thanks for the information. Per our conversation this afternoon, we understand that Hilcorp plans to open the Endicott road shortly. The bears were last seen Saturday around 5:00 pm, heading NE. Snowmachine surveys were conducted Sunday and Monday, and they have not been seen again, and no new tracks have been detected. As Christopher explained in his March 20th email, if the den entrance is not under 24-hour observation but the bears were last observed departing the area and they haven't returned within a 48-hour period, we then assume they have abandoned the den. Based on the reports from Security personnel, this would allow us to assume the den is abandoned by about 5:00 pm this afternoon.

There are two concerns to deal with at this point. First, there is still some uncertainty regarding whether or not the bears have departed. They may have returned to the den sometime during the night on Saturday or Sunday morning. A FLIR image of the den site might help to confirm she is gone. A conservative approach would be to keep the road closed for another day or two, but given that snow machine surveys have not detected any new tracks, the protocol allows the road to open. Assuming this is the case, we advise Hilcorp to continue observation and monitoring and to alert all personnel in the greater Endicott area in case she does return or in case she lingers in the larger area for longer than expected (rather than making the normal bee-line for the ice).

The second concern is whether the sow and cub are still in the area and may return to the den. We discussed allowing the road to be opened under the same restrictions as during the den occupancy (low speed, keeping a traffic log, restricting traffic to as needed only) for the next few days. This may be helpful because the den entrance is not under continuous surveillance, making it difficult to know if the sow and cub were to return.

Although this would be unusual after last visiting the den 48 hours ago, the heightened monitoring and security presence would allow Hilcorp to be ready to resume road closures quickly if needed.

As we discussed, it will be important to maintain control of the site to prevent anyone from approaching or entering the den until it is confirmed to be empty and until a preliminary investigation can be made by USFWS or an appointed representative. We'll discuss this further.

Thank you again for your continued vigilance and proactive protection of this delicate situation. We will all be happy and excited if the pictures from Saturday are the last we see of the Endicott Rd. bears.

Kimberly Klein

Incidental Take Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(907) 786-3621
Kimberly_Klein@fws.gov

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To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist <AlaskaNS-EnvironmentalSpecialist@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk <AlaskaNS-Endicott-SecurityDesk@hilcorp.com>, Bo York <byork@hilcorp.com>, Jeff Staley <jstaley@hilcorp.com>

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Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Wed, Apr 5, 2017 at 12:58 PM

To: "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>, "Putnam, Christopher" <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>, Geoffrey York <gyork@pbears.org>

Cc: BJ Kirschhoffer <bj@pbears.org>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Enviro Tech - ACS <AlaskaNS-Endicott-EnviroTech-ACS@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Field Foreman <AlaskaNS-Endicott-Field-Foreman@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist <AlaskaNS-EnvironmentalSpecialist@hilcorp.com>, John Barnes <jbarnes@hilcorp.com>, Bo York <byork@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk <AlaskaNS-Endicott-SecurityDesk@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - EHS - Specialist - Endicott & Northstar <AlaskaNS-EHS-Specialist-EndicottNorthstar@hilcorp.com>

Hello Kimberly,

This is a follow up to our phone call confirming there has been no sign of the sow and cub since Saturday evening and no other signs that they have returned. The Endicott Road will go back to normal operations. We have barricaded the den site to keep out the looky-loos to maintain the integrity of den (see attached photo). The slope is currently in Phase 2 so the site will likely get buried again. You mentioned you and Christopher won't be able to make it up for a den inspection. In Geoff's email below he indicated PBI typically investigates vacant dens.

Geoff/BJ – Would you do the inspection when BJ goes there to dismantle the camera set-up? Lance put up a barricade to keep people out of the den site. I wanted to let them know how long they need to maintain the barricades. The flagging will likely need a little sprucing up after the blow, hope we don't lose our do-not-enter sign!

Thanks everyone,

Beth

From: Geoffrey York [mailto:gyork@pbears.org]

Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 10:21 AM

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Bears' departure

Great to hear Beth and looks like a success!

We'll wait to hear from FWS, but we typically investigate vacant dens when possible and take a variety of measurements. The cooler is fine where it is until BJ heads up in a couple of weeks unless he directs otherwise.

Cheers from the Chukchi Sea (out doing capture work with FWS from Red Dog's Port Facility)-

Geoff

On Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 10:14 AM, Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com> wrote:

Hello Gentlemen,

Wanted to get you in the loop. Looks like sow and cub have left. I have a message in to Christopher Putnam at USFWS. After we get buy-in that the den is vacated permanently, how do you want to handle the next steps? Do you/USFWS typically inspect the den after it's vacated?

-Beth

From: Beth Sharp

Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 9:10 AM

To: Putnam, Christopher <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>; 'Klein, Kimberly' <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>

Subject: Bears' departure

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barricade.JPG
80K

BJ Kirschhoffer <bj@pbears.org>

Wed, Apr 5, 2017 at 1:08 PM

To: Beth Sharp <esharp@hilcorp.com>

Cc: "Klein, Kimberly" <kimberly_klein@fws.gov>, Christopher Putnam <christopher_putnam@fws.gov>, Geoff S York <gyork@pbears.org>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Enviro Tech - ACS <AlaskaNS-Endicott-EnviroTech-ACS@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Field Foreman <AlaskaNS-Endicott-Field-Foreman@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Environmental Specialist <AlaskaNS-EnvironmentalSpecialist@hilcorp.com>, John Barnes <jbarnes@hilcorp.com>, Bo York <byork@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - Endicott - Security Desk <AlaskaNS-Endicott-SecurityDesk@hilcorp.com>, Alaska NS - EHS - Specialist - Endicott & Northstar <AlaskaNS-EHS-Specialist-EndicottNorthstar@hilcorp.com>

Hi Beth,

Typically PBI/BYU does investigate the dens after the bears have departed. We would like to do the same unless Christopher objects.

April 20th is the earliest we could be onsite to remove the camera gear and peer into the den. The gear should be fine onsite until our arrival in two weeks. If it is not too much trouble to maintain your barricade that would be helpful to us. If the den does blow in (usually they do) we can use snow probes to find the structure.

BJ

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<barricade.JPG>