

From: Brad Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide
To: [Servheen, Chris](#)
Subject: Re: Grizzly Bear Research Trapping to Begin in Grand Teton NP
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 1:13:38 PM

Hi, Chris. Thanks for your reply and I appreciate your time.

While I certainly understand safety concerns, with all due respect, the assertion that a photographer's presence is a distraction is simply not a valid justification without taking into consideration the experience of the person making the request. That said, on a professional level the assertion is mildly offensive to both photographers and the biologists conducting the operations. Photojournalists have historically covered everything from wars, natural disasters, riots and funerals without being a distraction to those involved. If a news organization can work with the U.S. Marines to be on the front lines to document the invasion of Fallugah, Iraq, I am confident the professionals on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team are capable of conducting their business during a grizzly bear capture as a photojournalist documents the operation from a respectful distance.

The interest in the IGBST capture operations comes not just from us, but primarily from our readers, both local and beyond. As the delisting of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species List draws near it would be a great benefit to the public to see how the IGBST is working to ensure the bruins are set on a successful path to survive and thrive in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I would also like to think that, as a taxpayer-funded group managing a public resource on public lands, that the IGBST would be as transparent as possible with those who make your research possible.

If you ever reconsider and would like to offer the general public a more comprehensive look into the work the IGBST does, feel free to email or call. I can provide references to those with whom I've worked to cover capture operations of other large carnivores in this area, namely cougars and wolves. They will vouch for my professionalism during the operations and that I did not serve as a distraction to their team. The stories and photography we produced were all well-received by our readers.

Regards,
Brad

Brad Boner, chief photographer
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Follow on Twitter @JHNGphoto

On May 18, 2015, at 6:23 PM, Servheen, Chris <chris_servheen@fws.gov> wrote:

Dear Brad,

Thank you for your inquiry. The permit stipulation that only trained personnel are permitted to participate in grizzly capture and handling actions is in the permit for the safety of both the capture crew and the bear. Photographers can be a distraction and such distractions can hinder proper care during complex capture events. Grizzly bear capture is inherently dangerous and unpredictable and we take great care to minimize the risks to bears and crews. We have been consistent with the many requests we get by denying photographers access to research capture operations. There is no media exemption to this clause in the permit. Thank you for your interest in grizzly bears, but photographer presence during capture operations could compromise the safety of both the crew and the bear.

Sincerely,

Chris Servheen

On Mon, May 18, 2015 at 4:44 PM, Brad Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide <photo@jhnewsandguide.com> wrote:

Hello, Mr. Servheen. I was wondering if you'd had a moment to review my request in the inquiry below.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Brad

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On Apr 30, 2015, at 1:11 PM, Konishi, Kathy <kathy_konishi@fws.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Boner,

I forwarded your request to our Grizzly Bear Recovery Office (Chris Servheen at chris_servheen@fws.gov). I'm sure he will contact you soon in response to your inquiry.

Thank you,

Kathy

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Kathy Konishi
Recovery Permits Coordinator & Assistant Recovery Coordinator
Division of Endangered Species - Region 6
U.S. FWS Mountain-Prairie Regional Office
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, MS 60120
Denver, CO 80225
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Hours: M-Th 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM
F 7:00 AM - 3:30PM (every other Friday off)

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On Thu, Apr 30, 2015 at 11:03 AM, Brad Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide <photo@jhnewsandguide.com> wrote:

Hello, Mrs. Konishi. Jackie Skaggs in Grand Teton National Park public affairs forwarded the press release below regarding grizzly bear capture operations in GTNP this summer. I am emailing to inquire about the possibility of accompanying the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team on one of their collaring operations. This is an issue that is of ongoing interest to our readers, and I think it would be a great benefit for them to see how this publicly-funded agency is working to restore and manage a very popular resource on public lands.

We have requested this access to these activities in the recent past, and IGBST manager Frank Manen indicated he was bound by language in their USFW research permit that states only persons to be in the vicinity of their activities are authorized personnel needed to accomplish the work being conducted. We would like to request a media exemption of the wording in this permit so that we may respectfully observe and document one of these operations. If you could point me in the right direction as to whom I should direct this inquiry, I would greatly appreciate it.

I have been working at the News&Guide for 11 years now and have participated in several capture and collaring operations of other large predators, including wolves and cougars. We have a proven track record of following safety protocols and instructions from those conducting the operations. If you would like to review those articles, please feel free to ask.

I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to your reply.

Regards,
Brad

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Skaggs, Jackie"
<jackie_skaggs@nps.gov>
Subject: Grizzly Bear Research Trapping to Begin in Grand Teton NP, Public Cautioned to Heed Posted Warning Signs
Date: April 30, 2015 at 8:43:13 AM MDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK NEWS RELEASE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park
PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Jackie Skaggs/ 307.739.3393
Andrew White/ 307.739.3431

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 30, 2015 15-26

Grizzly Bear Research Trapping to Begin in Grand Teton National Park
Public Cautioned to Heed Posted Warning Signs

MOOSE, WY —Biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) plan to conduct scientific research and trapping operations within Grand Teton National Park as part of ongoing efforts required under the Endangered Species Act to collect data and monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Monitoring of grizzly bear distribution, as well as their food selection and other activities, is vital to recovery of grizzlies across the GYE. Trapping operations will begin Wednesday, May 6, and

continue through June 30, 2015.

Trained professionals with the IGBST will bait and trap bears at remote sites across Grand Teton National Park. Once trapped, grizzly bears are sedated to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study. All trapping and handling are done in accordance with strict protocols developed by the IGBST.

Trap sites will **not** be located near established hiking trails or backcountry campsites, and all sites will be posted with bright-colored warning signs around the closure perimeter. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs. All backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas must obey the warnings and stay out of the closure area.

It is critical that all members of the public respect these warning signs.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team was established in 1973 to research and monitor bears across the GYE in a collaborative effort between federal land managers and state wildlife agencies. Gathering of critical data on these protected bears is part of a long-term research effort to help wildlife managers devise and implement programs to support the ongoing recovery of the GYE's grizzly bear population.

The IGBST is composed of representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

For more information regarding grizzly bear trapping,
call IGBST at 406.994.6675.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

More than 20,000 National Park Service (NPS) employees care for America's 407 national parks & work with communities across America to help preserve local history & create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit the NPS at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice via Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, & on YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

Photo Credit: Jackie Skaggs, GTNP public affairs officer

Jackie Skaggs
Public Affairs Officer
Grand Teton National Park &
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
307.739.3393
jackie_skaggs@nps.gov

“The long fight to save wild beauty represents democracy at its best. It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues — self-restraint. Special privilege and conservation are ever at odds.” Edwin Way Teale



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Christopher Servheen, Ph.D.
Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
Region 6 White Nose Syndrome Coordinator
Polar Bear Recovery Team
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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<http://www.cfc.umt.edu/GrizzlyBearRecovery/>
<http://www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/>

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." - Thomas Huxley.