

# A Bear for the Public: Visitors and Their Management at Dens

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# Acknowledgments

- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Brigham Young University
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Donors
- Numerous student volunteers



# Study Area



# Long-term, Low Budget, Lots of Attention



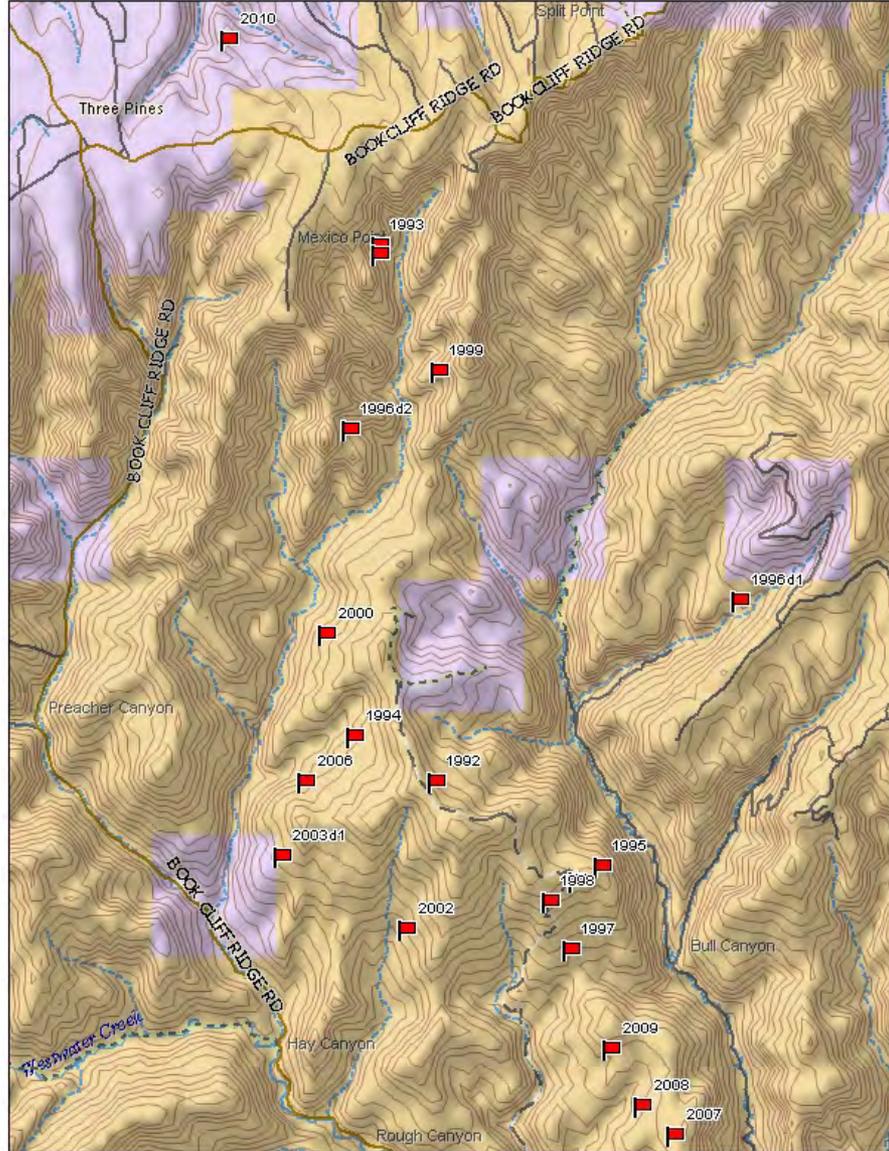
# Heidi: An Accommodating Bear 1992-2011, 19 yrs. & 17 dens



# Den Types



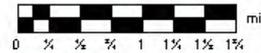




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# Reproduction

- In 3 of 19 years, Heidi was without offspring in the den.
- Percentage of Heidi's cubs surviving to year one was on the average for the study site
- A minimum of 760 visitors saw this female.  
Who were these folks?



# The Masses: Who are they?

- University students and colleagues
- State and federal agency employees
- Youth groups and adult leaders
- Family
- Friends
- Friends of Family
- Friends of Friends





# Dens for the Public -- How?

- Consider den accessibility
- Consider prior experience with the bear
- On-site orientation and education



# Dens for the Public – How?

- Small research party goes ahead to assess
- Continuous monitoring of anesthetized female
- Gentle persuasion



# Injury and Institutional Legal Concerns

Brigham Young University  
Utah, Idaho, Hawaii

## ACTIVITY AND TRANSPORTATION ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

This is a legally binding Agreement made by me with Brigham Young University (BYU). I fully recognize that there are significant dangers and risks to which I may be exposed by participating in **black bear denning research on the East Tavaputs Plateau**. These hazards include **hiking dangerous terrain, exposure to inclement weather, and transportation on all-terrain vehicles**.

Moreover, I am particularly aware of the dangers involved in providing my own travel not conducted or supervised by BYU. I further understand that BYU does not require me to participate in this activity, but I want to do so, despite the possible dangers and risks and despite the rights I am waiving by signing this Agreement.

I, therefore, agree to assume and take upon myself all of the risks and responsibilities in any way connected with this activity and transportation associated with it. In consideration of and in return for being allowed by BYU to participate in this activity, I release and agree to indemnify BYU (and its governing board, employees, and agents) from any and all liability, claims, and actions that arise from injury or harm to me, from my death or from damage to my property in connection with this activity. I understand that this Agreement covers liability, claims and actions caused entirely or in part by any acts or failures to act of BYU (or its governing board, employees, or agents), including but not limited to negligence, mistake, or failure to supervise by BYU.

I recognize that this Agreement means I am giving up, among other things, rights to sue BYU, its governing board, employees, and agents for injuries, damages, or losses I may incur. I also understand that this Agreement will be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Utah and that it binds my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, as well as myself.

I have read this entire Agreement, I fully understand it and I agree to be legally bound by it.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF YOUR RIGHTS. READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Releaser's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) of Activity

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department/Unit



# Efforts to Include All







# Why do this?

- Public relations bonanza
- Outreach and education
- Public appreciation of bear biology
- Emotional, life-changing experiences
- Outdoor social experiences



“Life Has Loveliness to Sell . . .”

