**BEAR EUTHANASIAS 1998 – 2022**

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

**1998**

A total of three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 1998. All euthanasia actions were carried out by Wildlife Management following recommendation by the Wildlife Management Unit and approval from acting Chief of Resources Management and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief histories of each bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #2290:** This bear, a four year old female, was first captured in May 1998 as it was breaking into a tent cabin at Curry Village. The bear had previously been seen breaking into tent cabins on three different occasions and was suspected of several more incidents of tent damage that occurred during this same month. The bear was tagged and relocated to Hetch Hetchy but returned within a week. The bear continued its bold and destructive behavior at Curry Village and was captured a second time and relocated near the park’s south entrance. In June, the bear was seen pulling garbage out of an overflowing dumpster at the Wawona Hotel, found walking down a hallway in the Washburn Building and breaking into a storage room in the main hotel and obtaining food.

Attempts to scare away the bear became more difficult as the bear exhibited bold and unafraid behavior around visitors. The bear also bluff-charged rangers and was present at all hours of the day around the Wawona Hotel area. Due to the bear’s increasingly aggressive behavior and its lost fear of humans, the decision was made to administer euthanasia to this bear on June 17, 1998.

**Bear #2369:** This bear, a two year-old female, was first encountered in 1996 as a cub of the year; one of two offspring of a female that, over the years, had become increasingly conditioned to human food and was euthanized in the fall of 1996. Bear #2369 and its sibling were allowed to go free.

Bear #2369 was next captured in the fall of 1997 in the Curry Village orchard, where numerous car break-ins had occurred. The bear was relocated along the Glacier Point Road and was not seen again until the late spring of 1998. Through the month of June the bear was seen almost nightly in Housekeeping Camp where it was often able to obtain improperly stored food and garbage. During this period, the bear often exhibited aggressive behavior, bluff charging or frightening visitors away from their food. The bear was captured and relocated near Hetch Hetchy after it knocked over and scratched a visitor after she surprised the bear in a Housekeeping unit.

Within five days the bear had returned to the Valley and resumed its bold and aggressive behavior in Housekeeping. Over the next month, six bluff charges by this bear were reported and two visitors were slightly injured when they confronted the bear on their unit patios. Bear #2369’s bold and aggressive behavior progressed to an intolerable level and the decision was made to administer euthanasia on August 31, 1998.

**Bear #1216:** This bear, a twenty-two year old female, was first captured in 1991 after obtaining food from a picnic table in the Swinging Bridge Picnic Area. In 1995 this bear was captured a second time after being seen entering Curry Village tent cabins during daylight hours and was relocated out of Yosemite Valley. In the fall of 1995 the bear was relocated outside the Valley again to prevent YCS employees from feeding the bear.

The bear was not seen again until July of 1998, when it reappeared at Curry Village. On a nightly basis the bear was seen in the tent cabin areas and the Pizza Deck, eating from overflowing trash cans and attempting to find food left in unsecured food lockers at Curry Village. In August, the bear injured an off-duty YCS employee in the Curry Tent Cabin area and was immediately captured and relocated near Lake Eleanor. Four days later the bear returned and exhibited very aggressive behavior towards visitors and Wildlife Management staff. The recommendation to administer euthanasia was based upon the consensus of the Bear Council that the bear posed an unacceptable risk to humans in the Curry Village area. Bear #1216 was euthanized on August 27, 1998.

**1999**

A total of three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 1999. All euthanasia actions were carried out by the Wildlife Management Unit following approval from the Yosemite Bear Council, the Chief of Resources Management and the Superintendent. In addition, one bear was unintentionally killed during a Wildlife Management capture operation. The following are brief histories of each bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #2378:** This bear was first captured in 1996 after it was seen breaking into vehicles in the Curry Village Apple Orchard. In both 1997 and 1998, the bear was captured again in conjunction with vehicle damage. The bear had also been documented as breaking into numerous Curry Village tent cabins and hard-sided cabins in 1997 and 1998. In October of 1998, the bear entered a culvert trap set to catch a bear at Glacier Point that had been forcibly entering NPS hard-sided cabins in the area. After each capture, the bear was translocated out of the area, but returned within a matter of days.

During the fall of 1998, this bear was active in the concession company’s employee housing districts tearing off the doors of eight cabins. During that same week, the bear was seen pulling windows off of the Terrace Kitchen, and tipping refrigerators over inside the kitchen. One resident reported that earlier in the evening, the bear had tried to get into the kitchen while residents were inside making dinner. In July of 1999, this bear was identified breaking into a hard-sided employee residence at Curry Village by breaking a window on the rear of the house. Witnesses watched this bear entered the house on several occasions and come out with food from the refrigerator and cabinets. During the final capture of this bear, it was seen ripping into tent cabins in Curry Village. Based on this bear’s increasing boldness and destructive behavior, it was free range captured on July 19,1999 and given a lethal injection.

**Bear #2364:** This bear, a six-year-old male, had been captured a total of six times since its first capture in 1996. In all cases, the captures were performed in relation to vehicle damage and/or tent cabin break-ins. This bear was also responsible for cabin and vehicle break-ins at Glacier Point in July and October of 1998. On numerous occasions over the past two years, this bear had been seen breaking into vehicles during daylight hours, even with onlookers present.

During the summer of 1999, this bear was involved with nightly car break-ins in all sections of Yosemite Valley. This bear was seen on a nightly basis by Wildlife Management personnel in parking lots and was often seen eating food taken from damaged vehicles. In July of 1999, this bear was captured after it was seen breaking out the window of a parked vehicle in the Curry Village Apple Orchard. The bear was translocated, but after it return to Yosemite Valley, vehicle damage in areas frequented by this bear increased significantly. During the summer of 1999 alone, this bear was positively associated with 37 vehicle break-ins and was strongly suspected of many others. On the night of August 16, 1999, this bear was seen breaking into two vehicles and an occupied NPS residence. Subsequently, this bear was captured for the last time that night in the parking lot of Camp Four and given a lethal injection.

**Bear #3534:** This bear, a female estimated to be six years old, was captured and tagged for the first time in October of 1999. The trap was set in response to a series of 14 break-ins to hard-sided residences in the Wawona area, including three with people inside at the time of the break-in. After being tagged, this bear was positively identified breaking into homes and was seen eating trash on the deck of the Wawona Hotel. On November 3, 1999, bear #3534 broke out the glass door to the Wawona Golf Shop and was found inside by YCS Security. This bear was caught the following night at the Wawona Golf Shop and translocated to the Hetch Hetchy area. On November 16th, residents of an employee dorm in Wawona reported that they had found a bear inside their residence eating out of the refrigerator upon returning home from work. On November 17, 1999, a trap was set outside of this dorm, captured this bear and it was given a lethal injection. Since the removal of this bear, no additional break-ins occurred in the Wawona area.

**Bear #2377:** This female bear, approximately five years old, was initially captured in August of 1996 in Tuolumne Campground and was captured a total of three times. Both previous captures were performed in conjunction with this bear obtaining food from the Tuolumne Campground during the day and at night. This bear was very opportunistic and had become very successful at obtaining food and trash improperly stored or unguarded in both unoccupied and occupied campsites. In 1999, bear #2377 was accompanied by her first litter of cubs and was regularly seen obtaining food with her two cubs in the Tuolumne Campground and employee tent cabin areas. On July 10, 1999, an attempt was made to free range capture this bear in order to attach a radio collar so this sow and cubs could be more closely monitored. During this capture operation, a dart fired at this bear lodged in her abdominal cavity causing the bear to die from internal injuries. This is the first bear to be unintentionally killed during a capture operation since 1995.

**2000**

A total of five bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2000. All euthanasia actions were carried out by the Wildlife Management Unit following approval from the Yosemite Bear Council, the Chief of Resources Management and the Superintendent. The following are brief histories of each bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #3884** This bear, a six year-old male, was first captured in May of 1999 after it was observed trying to open food storage lockers in Upper Pines Campground. The bear was captured and translocated three more times that same year and returned to the Valley each time. During the first capture the bear was fitted with a radio collar but was able to remove the collar before being released from the trap.

The bear was involved with bold entries into occupied campsites in Yosemite Valley campgrounds in 1999 and resumed this behavior in 2000. Wildlife Management personnel observed this bear eating or taking food from food storage lockers on a nightly basis and found it very difficult to haze the bear from an area. On at least four specific occasions, this bear bluff charged Park Service personnel. On May 31, 2000 the bear was captured and euthanized by lethal injection.

**Bear #2295:** This bear, a four year-old female, was captured for the first time in August of 1998 in the Curry Ice Rink parking lot after several vehicles were damaged by a bear. In 1999 the bear was captured and translocated three times due to its increasingly bold behavior of entering occupied campsites in Yosemite Valley campgrounds and obtaining human food.

The bear resumed this bold behavior with a cub-of-the year in 2000. Several attempts to haze this bear from developed areas were unsuccessful, as the bear would reenter campgrounds even while being pursued by wildlife personnel. During the weekend of June 10, 2000, this bear entered an Upper Pines campsite and obtained food from the picnic table after bluff-charging several people. On June 11, 2000, the bear bluff-charged a camper in Upper Pines Campground, causing him to fall over backwards and injure a finger. Later the same night, a camper who felt threatened by the bear shot at the sow at close range from inside his tent. Initially it was thought that the bear had been hit in the chest, but it was determined the following morning, upon the bear’s capture, that it apparently was not injured during the incident.

Based on the aggressive behavior exhibited by the bear and the resulting threat to human safety, the bear was euthanized by lethal injection on June 13, 2000. That same day, the cub was transferred to the state’s only licensed black bear care center, located in South Lake Tahoe after authorization from the California Department of Fish and Game. The bear was returned to Yosemite in January 2001 and was placed inside a den away from developed areas.

**Bear #2227:** This bear, a female estimated to be seven years old, was initially captured and translocated in 1996 after being seen entering tent cabins in the Curry Village Terrace housing camp. In 1997 the bear was trapped in Bug Camp in Tuolumne Meadows following break-ins to tent cabins there. The bear was again trapped in Tuolumne Meadows in August of 1998 in association with vehicle and tent break-ins. In 1999 the bear was seen exiting tent cabins in the Tuolumne Ranger Camp, although was not captured because cubs accompanied the bear. The bear was then captured in the early summer of 2000 in Tuolumne Meadows and fitted with a radio collar before being translocated. Later the same month the bear was trapped in association with cabin break-ins in Tuolumne. Due to the bears persistent and destructive behavior, the threat to human safety the bear posed by entering occupied tent camps, and the high probability that the sow would teach future generations of cubs destructive foraging behavior, the bear was euthanized by lethal injection on June 22, 2000.

**Bear #1250:** This female bear, approximately 14 years old, was first captured in 1991 after the bear obtained food from an occupied campsite in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. In the years following, it was documented that the bear broke into vehicles in the Tuolumne Meadows area. In 1992, 1996, and 1997 the bear was captured in conjunction with multiple vehicle break-ins. Each time the bear was translocated to another area of the park and the break-ins temporarily ceased. On June 2, 2000 the bear was captured at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge after breaking into three vehicles that did not contain food. In the nine years the bear was active in Tuolumne Meadows, the sow produced seven cubs.

Based on the trend of destructiveness exhibited by the bear, the threat to human safety posed by entering occupied campsites, and the high probability that the sow would teach additional generations of cubs destructive foraging behavior, this bear was euthanized by lethal injection on August 8, 2000.

**Bear #1153:** This bear, a 20+ year-old male, had a history of human interaction that dated back to 1988, the year it was first captured in the park. In subsequent years it had been associated with sporadic rashes of car break-ins and campsite incidents in Yosemite Valley. In the past three seasons, the bear had shown an escalation in aggressive behavior that included numerous accounts of bluff charges and reports that it chased Yosemite Search and Rescue employees living in Camp 4 campground on two occasions.

During the summer months of 2000, the Wildlife Management Unit was able to provide hazing to this bear on nine occasions in hopes that the bear would become more reluctant to enter developed areas. However, the bear was still identified in seven human-bear incidents, was a suspect in numerous others, and was frequently seen in Valley campgrounds. The bear had been captured five times over the past thirteen years and was trapped in November to end numerous vehicle break-ins in the Camp Four Walk-in Campground Parking Lot. Based on the trend of destructiveness exhibited by the bear, the threat to human safety, and the likelihood that this bear’s behavior would not be altered with aversive conditioning, the bear was euthanized on November 26, 2000, by lethal injection.

**2001**

Three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2001. All euthanasia actions were carried out by the Wildlife Management Unit following discussions and/or approval from the Yosemite Bear Council, the Chief of Resources Management and the Superintendent. The following are brief histories of each bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #2052:** This bear, an eight year-old female, was first captured as a cub in June of 1993 along with her mother and two siblings after they began causing problems in the Valley campgrounds. Her mother was very habituated and aggressive toward humans and trained her and her siblings in that manner. Bear #2052 was captured eight more times and was relocated out of the Valley on several of those captures, but always quickly returned and continued to get into trouble. In addition, this sow brought her own sets of cubs into Valley campgrounds and taught them to become food conditioned and habituated.

This bear has been involved in several bold campsite entries in Yosemite Valley campgrounds since 1998. Bear #2052 bluff charged visitors while defending food items taken from their campsites and bluff charged wildlife management personnel on several occasions. This sow and her cubs/yearlings were seen on almost a nightly basis by Wildlife Management personnel in parking lots, the Curry Village tent camp, and throughout the Valley campgrounds and were often seen eating food from damaged vehicles or campsites.

A euthanasia memo was issued on her by the Yosemite Bear Council and signed by the Superintendent in May of 2000, based on her escalating level of aggression and destructiveness. However, the bear was not positively identified again in 2000, but reappeared in spring of 2001 along with her cubs and exhibited the same behaviors. On June 12, 2001, this sow and her two cubs broke into three vehicles in Lower Pines Campground and obtained human food. They were treed and remained in the tree throughout the next day until dusk that evening. After leaving the tree, the sow was free ranged darted and subsequently given a lethal injection. Upon the euthanization of the sow, the orphaned cubs were captured and taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

**Bear #3571:** This bear, an approximately four year-old male, was seen for the first time in August 2001 after the Wildlife Management Unit received reports that a bear had been staggering through the Crane Flat Campground for the past couple of days. When Wildlife Management personnel arrived at the campground, the bear appeared extremely emaciated and was struggling to walk. The bear was unafraid of people even when approached to a close proximity. There were no visible signs of injury, but the animal did not appear to be in good health. After consulting with the acting Yosemite Bear Council chair and the Superintendent, Wildlife Management personnel captured the bear and administered a lethal injection on August 7, 2001. A necropsy performed by a Hornocker Wildlife Institute veterinarian was unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the illness, but discovered several possibilities including an obstruction of the large intestine and starvation.

**Bear #2312:** On July 17, 2001 an Aldrich foot snare was reset on the perimeter of the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Parking Lot in an attempt to capture a large, untagged black bear that had been seen breaking into vehicles on the previous night. The snare was originally built on July 3rd near a trail where bears routinely took food and trash into the woods behind the Wilderness Lot.

In accordance with the park’s Aldrich Foot Snare Protocol, HWI personnel checked the snare at midnight and a large, untagged bear was in the snare. The bear was actively thrashing around and was repeatedly hitting the end of the cable. Upon arrival, Wildlife Management personnel approached the bear to obtain a weight estimate, again prompting the bear to vigorously fight the cable, climb the tree as high as it could, and huff. After preparing an immobilization dart, Wildlife Management personnel approached the bear prepared to dart it, but as they turned their lights toward the bear, it pulled out the end of the foot loop that was attached to the tree. Upon breaking away from the tree, the bear ran up into the talus with the other end of the foot loop still tightly affixed around its wrist. Wildlife Management personnel followed the bear while the rest of the Hornocker and NPS crew tried to flank the animal on the talus slope over the Wilderness Lot, but the effort to approach the bear close enough to fire a dart was unsuccessful.

The bear was not seen again until the night of August 10, 2001, when the bear was again captured in an Aldrich foot snare (on the opposite foot) in Lamon’s Orchard and was still wearing the cable around its wrist from its original capture twenty-four days prior. The bear, identified as bear #2312 (an approximately thirteen year-old male), was in poor condition, having lost over one hundred pounds since he was last weighed in June of 2000. The foot where the cable was attached was deeply severed, although the bear still maintained partial use of the limb. It was not apparent whether infection had set in, but maggots were present in the tissue of the foot. Given the condition of the bear’s foot and his overall condition (including a broken jaw that had reset since his last capture on 6/1/00 and very worn teeth), the decision was made in the field to euthanize the animal. A necropsy performed later that day by a veterinarian revealed that one or more of the metatarsal bones in the foot had also been broken, and that the bear was fighting a systemic infection caused by the snare injury.

**2002**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2002. All euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Unit following approval from the Yosemite Bear Council, the Chief of Resources Management, and the Superintendent. The following is a brief history of the bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #3028:** During the month of June, an unidentified small bear(s) broke into nine different residences in the old El Portal residential area. From the reports received by both phone and incident reports, the bear obtained food on at least five occasions, entered three unoccupied homes while people were away at work, and the bear entered six homes while people were inside at the time. The most serious of these entries occurred on July 1, when a bear entered the Palisca residence in old El Portal, while the residence was occupied, and bluff charged a young boy. Although the young boy was able to yell and scare the bear away, the bear tried to enter the residence several more times later that morning.

On July 1, 2002, a culvert trap was set in the afternoon at the residence where the bear forcibly entered the home and bluff charged the young boy. That evening, a yearling black bear was captured, tagged, (#3028, with a readily-visible Blue 42 ear tag) and translocated near Merced Grove. The residents of the home stated that the bear appeared to be the same one that they had seen in and around their house that morning and two days prior.

While this bear was immobilized on July 1, a health check was performed and the bear was found to be underweight, covered with parasites, extremely dehydrated, and had many unexplainable open sores on all four paws, and abscessed teeth. The bear's general health appeared to be very poor. The condition of the teeth made it difficult to age the bear.

A notice went out to all Yosemite employees in the July 2, 2002 Yosemite Daily Bulletin reminding park residents to adequately bear-proof their homes when away, including closing doors and windows.

On July 6th, the Wildlife Office received a report that a small bear with a Blue 42 ear tag was on the front porch of a residence in the Rancheria Flat housing area. The bear was approaching the doorway, which was only covered by a screen door at the time. The resident was able to scare the bear off before it entered the residence. On July 8, it again attempted to enter the Palisca residence at 10:15 a.m., while the home was occupied, by pulling the screen door out. The young boy was able to scare the bear away before it entered the home; however the bear returned two more times that morning, despite being hit with a rock from a slingshot. This bear had also been seen on the front porches of many other homes.

A culvert trap was again set for bear #3028 on the evening of July 8 in an attempt to capture the bear during the night. The attempt was unsuccessful, and at approximately 8:45 a.m. on the morning of July 9, the bear entered the NPS Personnel Office (which was fully staffed at that time) and proceeded to eat food set out in the kitchen. After being chased away by staff in that office, the bear entered the neighboring Yosemite Association office. The personnel there chased away the bear, although the bear initially resisted their hazing. Wildlife and protection staff were dispatched immediately and the bear was captured later that afternoon in a culvert trap.

Based on the health of the animal, its persistent aberrant and destructive behavior, and the threat to human safety posed by entering occupied homes, bear #3028 was euthanized on July 8, 2002 by lethal injection.

**2003**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2003. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, and the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Superintendent. The following is a brief history of the bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #3552**: In July, 2003, reports began filtering into the Wildlife Office about a very large bear frequenting the Old El Portal area. Many of the reports were second hand or were passed on at social gatherings or in other unofficial means. Most reports were sightings of a very large untagged bear in the neighborhood, eating fruit from trees. As the month progressed, many of the sightings that were passed along involved residents attempting to scare the bear away with little success. Some residents claimed that their barking dogs had no effect on this bear. On one occasion, a very large bear obtained pet food left outside on the porch and a resident made an official report that a bear had broken the glass window to a storage area in the back of their house. In early August, a flyer reminding El Portal residents they live in active bear habitat and listing steps to take in order to prevent this bear from becoming food conditioned was distributed to every residence in El Portal. During this same month, a bear gained entry into a home through a screen door and obtained pet food. The bear was not seen, and a bear again broke into the home on at least two more occasions, each time obtaining large amounts of pet food. Although the resident sleeping inside the home never saw the bear, she felt it was a large bear due to the extent of the damage and the enormous piles of scat left behind. Another resident in Old El Portal reported that a very large bear had been coming to his house every night. The resident’s dogs were able to chase the bear away, however the bear moved at a very slow pace and didn’t seem concerned with the dogs. On Aug. 11th, a bear gained entry into this same home by breaking a door window. The resident was not home at the time, and the bear tipped over the refrigerator but did not obtain any food. The resident boarded the window; however the bear returned and tore off the plywood to gain entry into the house yet again.

There were also numerous bear incidents from the Trailer Court throughout the summer. On several occasions, a bear ripped into screens or broke glass windows to obtain pet food stored inside. All of these incidents occurred during the night or early morning and residents inside the home chased the bear away each time. Although there were few reports with physical descriptions of the bear, some people did describe the bear as being untagged and large in size.

On October 6, 2003, a very large untagged bear was captured in a culvert trap in El Portal. The bear, a twelve year-old male, weighed over 500 lbs. and was translocated to Hetch Hetchy.

On October 16th a bear broke into a home in the Trailer Park and tipped over a refrigerator while the residents were inside watching T.V. Their attempts to scare the bear away were unsuccessful and the bear obtained a 50 lbs. bag of dog food. The residents described the bear as shaggy blonde and large in size.

Although bear #3552 was not marked with ear tags until October, the bears physical appearance and very large size made this bear distinguishable from other bears in the area. The bear had been identified breaking into homes and had been increasingly food conditioned to pet food and habituated to humans over the last several months. The bear was growing bold with its attempts to break into occupied homes. Due to this behavior, this bear had become a safety threat to humans.

Based on the trend of destructiveness exhibited by the bear and the threat to human safety he posed by entering occupied homes, bear #3552 was captured and humanely killed by lethal injection on October 17, 2003.

**2004**

Three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2004. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, all euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, and approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Superintendent. The following are brief histories of each bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #2298:** On February 29, 2004, a bear attempted to break into an occupied house behind the clinic in the Valley. The people inside the house heard the bear rip off the screen door and immediately tried to scare the bear away. The unmarked bear did not scare easily from the area. Both the residents and responding rangers reported that the bear was acting strangely and seemed to have an injured right eye. That same week, the Wildlife Office began receiving numerous reports of an unmarked bear that appeared to be “sick.” The bear was observed by biologists and rangers for three days as it frequented the wooded area behind the Ahwahnee Hotel. The bear appeared to be lethargic, unafraid of people, and stumbled when it walked. It was determined that this was the probably the same bear that attempted to break into the clinic house due to excessive secretions coming from its right eye. The Wildlife Office continued to monitor the bear, but made the decision not to intervene in what seemed to be a natural process.

On March 12th, the bear wandered through the Degnan’s Deli area during mid-afternoon and was later discovered in the upper housing area by Wildlife Management staff. The bear was observed stumbling from house to house, and was non-responsive to any hazing attempts. A trap was set in the neighborhood that same afternoon but the bear moved up into the wooded area where it remained for the afternoon. Later that night, Wildlife Management was called out to a report of the unmarked bear wandering through the Tecoya Housing area. The bear was free-range darted and taken to the Wildlife Office. The female bear weighed 72 lbs, all canines were broken off and most of its teeth were rotted. The condition of the bear made it difficult to determine age. This bear was extremely emaciated and its hip bones were protruding from the skin. The right eye was sunken into the skull and it had open sores on the pads of both front feet. The Superintendent was contacted and permission was given to administer euthanasia by lethal injection.

**Bear #1191:** During the month of June, two unmarked yearling bears were observed in Little Yosemite Valley and along the John Muir and Half Dome trails. It was thought they were the offspring of bear #3820, who had two cubs the previous year and was seen earlier in the year with two yearlings. A euthanasia memo was signed for Bear #3820 in September 2003 based on her aggressive behavior, but the Wildlife Management team had been unsuccessful at all capture attempts made for this bear.

Between the months of June and July there were over 20 incidents involving bears described as blond or light-brown yearlings. Most of the incidents involved grabbing backpacks at close range despite visitors’ attempts to deter the bears by yelling. From June 26th to July 4th, a light-brown yearling was involved in bluff charging an NPS employee on two occasions, approaching a visitor and taking the backpack from her back with its mouth, and putting its nose on a visitor’s leg and its front paws on a second visitor’s waist. The bear also caused two injuries, hitting a napping visitor across the face and, in a separate incident, inflicting minor scrapes on the neck and chest of a boy scout while attempting to get a backpack off the boy’s back.

On July 6th, Wildlife Management Staff used a blue paint ball to mark one of the yearling bears. Over the next several days after marking the yearling, the bear was observed approaching people at close range. On July 8th, the Yosemite Bear Council voted to recommend destruction of the blue marked yearling and destruction of the unmarked yearling only if the Wildlife Office received reports of the bear exhibiting aggressive behavior or approaching visitors at close range. The acting Chief of Resources Management and Science and the Superintendent concurred.

The Wildlife Management Staff captured the blue marked yearling on July 12th, in the LYV campground and euthanized the bear by lethal injection. On August 4th, 2004, the Superintendent rescinded the euthanasia memo on the unmarked yearling based on cessation of aggressive behavior by the remaining yearling after the removal of the blue marked bear.

**Bear #3820:** This bear, a nine year-old sow, was first captured in July 1999 at the Sunrise Creek trail junction after she had ripped into an unoccupied tent in the LYV campground. At that time, there were several other reports of this bear obtaining and aggressively defending food that had been hung. Since that capture there had been numerous reports of this bear obtaining food from backpackers in the LYV area. Bear #3820 had also been implicated in several incidents in which tents and backpacks were damaged. Rangers in LYV hazed this bear several times between 1999 and 2003 and as a result she learned to avoid rangers, but continued to be active in and around LYV.

In October 2001, bear #3820 was captured in Yosemite Valley and fitted with a radio collar as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society bear ecology research project. Although there were few reports of the bear obtaining food from campers in Yosemite Valley, she did bluff charge a ranger at Camp 4.

In 2003, the bear was involved in over 25 bear incident reports. Most reports involved improperly stored food, but on at least eight occasions, the bear bluff-charged to chase visitors away from their food. Such behavior indicated that the bear had learned to dominate people to obtain food. On one occasion, the bear bluff-charged a child who was sitting inside an open tent, with no food present. The bear was also accompanied by two cubs of the year in 2003 and was teaching her cubs this behavior.

In September, the Yosemite Bear Council voted to recommend the sow be euthanized and her cubs translocated to a different part of the park. Wildlife Management staff made several capture attempts during the fall of 2003 and early summer of 2004, but all proved unsuccessful.

In 2004, bear #3820 continued to be involved in incidents of bluff charging and chasing people from their food. On July 21st, the bear was captured in the Little Yosemite Valley campground and was euthanized by lethal injection.

**2005**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2005. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, and the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science and Park Superintendent. The following is a brief history of the bear’s behavior leading up to its final capture:

**Bear #3568**: This 4-year old adult male had been captured for management purposes five times since 2001. The bear was first captured as a cub on October 5th, 2001 after its mother, bear #3820 (Orange 19) was captured and released on-site in Lamon’s Orchard as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) bear research project. The family group spent most of October in Yosemite Valley before returning to Little Yosemite Valley (LYV) for the remainder of the year. The family group was active in the LYV area until the yearlings became independent.

After separating from its family group in early summer 2002, bear #3568 began frequenting the Housekeeping Camp area in Yosemite Valley (YV). The bear was captured in a culvert trap on June 21, 2002 and fitted with a yearling size radio collar as part of the WCS bear research project. The bear remained active in the area for most of the season and was identified on twelve occasions, negatively conditioned at least five times, and entered an unoccupied tent cabin once. The bear was captured a third time on July 8, 2003 at Le Conte Memorial and had a significant neck injury when its radio collar failed to detach despite the bear’s significant increase in weight. The collar was removed and the injuries prevented Wildlife staff from replacing the radio collar on the bear for the remainder of the season. The bear was not observed in the YV again until November when the bear was inadvertently captured in Camp 4 and released on-site.

Early in 2004, a bear matching #3568’s description and activity pattern was seen in and around Housekeeping Camp. On July 16, 2004, the bear was captured in a culvert trap in North Pines Campground and its allflex tag was replaced with Yellow 53. According to patrol logs from 2004, the bear was involved in at least 23 bear incidents where food was obtained and was negatively conditioned by Wildlife staff on at least 12 occasions.

During the last week of September 2004, the Wildlife Office received numerous reports of a bear with a faded Yellow or White tag obtaining food in Housekeeping Camp. This was presumed to be bear #3568 based on activity pattern and number of positive sighting made by various bear team members. Many campers reported that this bear had learned to open food storage lockers and was becoming very bold as it learned to approach campsites and grab food despite campers’ attempts at scaring it away. The Wildlife Office also received reports of a bear matching #3568’s description, swatting at a visitor’s legs in order to get food, and jumping on the back of a visitor on October 5, 2005. It is somewhat unclear why the bear jumped on the visitor’s back, although it is suspected the bear was possibly being fed by the visitor. Bear #3568 was captured in Housekeeping Camp on October 7, 2004, two days after the incident, fitted with a radio collar and translocated to Merced Grove. The bear returned to YV within a month, but was not associated with any incidents for the remainder of the year.

Beginning in March, 2005, bear #3568 began frequenting campgrounds in search of human food. The bear had been involved in at least 8 incidents where it was positively identified by ear tag and/or radio collar. Most incidents involved the snatching of food from open lockers and picnic tables while campers were present. It appeared this bear had also learned to open doors to vehicles using either its mouth or paw to lift the door handle. Although the bear responded positively to negative conditioning efforts administered by Wildlife Management, Interpretation, and Protection Rangers, the bear would display aggressive behavior after obtaining food and was often reluctant to abandon food despite low level negative conditioning efforts. On May 1, 2005, a yellow tagged bear injured a camper in Housekeeping Camp, pushing the camper to the ground causing puncture wounds and scratches to the camper’s upper torso. This was presumed to be bear #3568 based on the bear’s description, visual sightings, radio telemetry, and monitoring box data. The bear had been on the camper’s porch and became aggressive when the camper opened the tent door to investigate. There was no food involved in the incident. On May 2, 2005, the bear was captured in Housekeeping Camp and humanely killed by lethal injection.

**2006**

Two bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2006. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following is a brief history of the bears’ behavior leading up to its final capture and euthanization:

**Bear #3012:**

On July 23, 2005, an unidentified bear broke into an occupied residence in YV. The incident occurred during the night and the occupants were able to scare away the bear. A trap was set near this house on July 27th and an untagged bear was captured, fitted with a radio collar, and tagged Green 65 in the left ear. The bear was given #3012 as a permanent identification number. Unfortunately, the radio collar came off soon after the capture.

A bear broke into an occupied residence in the same neighborhood on July 30th. The incident occurred during the day and while the occupants were able to scare the bear away, the bear was very reluctant to leave the area. The occupants were unable to say whether or not the bear had an ear tag. A bear was again observed at this same residence several days later and bluff charged the occupant when he attempted to scare the bear away. Again, it was unclear if the bear had an ear tag.

Bear #3012 was high level hazed by Wildlife Management staff in 2005 on one occasion when it was observed at the Wildlife Office.

On April 5, 2006 a bear with a green tag in the left ear broke into an occupied residence in YV. The occupants attempted to scare the bear away by yelling, slamming doors and throwing water bottles at the bear, which had the front half of its body inside the backdoor window. At one point the bear attempted to bluff charge the occupant through the window. The bear exhibited this behavior, despite the presence of a large, barking dog. The bear finally left after being hit on the head with a heavy lantern. The bear returned to the residence the next four consecutive nights and attempted to pry off the plywood covering the broken window.

Bear #3012 was captured on April 28th by culvert trap across the street from where the April 5 incident occurred. The bear was transported to the Wildlife Office where it was euthanized by lethal injection.

**Bear #3567**:

Bear #3567 was free-range darted June 22,2006, as it was entering Curry Village in mid-afternoon with several people present. This bear had never been captured in YNP and was first observed by NPS personnel the day before, when it entered an unoccupied cabin in Curry Village by tearing through a screen window. The bear was observed in the same area the following morning and had attempted to enter several occupied cabins. The bear was tagged Orange 91, fitted with a radio collar, and translocated to Summit Meadow.

Within five days after translocation, the Wildlife Office began receiving regular reports of bear #3567 along the Mist Trail and the Illilouette Creek area. Throughout the month of July, bear #3567 obtained human food on six occasions after approaching day-hikers eating lunch on the trail. The bear was able to grab backpacks containing food or scare people away from their food. Signs were posted along the trail and Wildlife personnel, along with LYV Rangers increased patrols in the area. The bear also frequented a CCC trail crew camp at Mono Meadows. Food storage methods were less than adequate at the trail camp and the bear obtained food on at least one occasion.

In the early morning on August 5th, bear #3567 returned to the same cabins in Curry Village and obtained a large amount of food from an ice chest left on the front porch of a cabin. It also tore through a screen window of a cabin and obtained food while people were asleep inside. Later that same evening the bear entered two unoccupied cabins within 15 minutes of each other by tearing through screen windows. The bear obtained food in one cabin. The following morning, August 6th, the bear was again back in the area and was observed at several cabin windows. The bear again obtained food from an unoccupied cabin through a screen window. It also tore through a screen window of an occupied cabin. Wildlife personnel were called out to the scene and were able to scare the bear into the talus. From that point on, Wildlife personnel began a seven-day aversive conditioning treatment on the bear. Despite our constant presence in the area, the bear attempted to enter the cabins several times a day for the next five days. The bear was able to elude us on three occasions, obtaining overflowing garbage, and breaking into two occupied cabins through screen windows, but both times the bear was scared away before obtaining human food. On August 12th, the bear left the Valley and traveled up the 4-mile trail. During the aversive conditioning treatment, the bear was conditioned using high and low level techniques over twenty times. The bear had also been conditioned on seven occasions outside the aversive conditioning treatment period.

Bear #3567 was free-range darted in Camp 6 apple orchard on August 19th. The bear was transported to the Wildlife Office where it was euthanized by lethal injection.

**2007**

Three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection in 2007. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following is a brief history of each bears’ behavior leading up to its final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3821, 8 year old female:**

Bear #3821 had been captured 6 times since 2002. The bear was first captured August 3,2002, in an attempt to radio collar bears frequenting campgrounds. She was relocated to Merced Grove, but returned to the Valley by September 9,2002. The bear was again trapped in August 2003 and fitted with a radio collar after it was observed frequenting developed areas. She was trapped again in 2004, but was released without processing due to radio collar priorities for other bears. Finally, she was trapped June 2005 because she had been obtaining food in campgrounds with her two cubs, one of which was also captured and tagged.

In 2005, this bear was detected by the monitoring boxes in the East Valley Campgrounds from July 3rd through November 28th. She was recorded by the monitoring boxes as being in developed areas approximately 100 days during that time period. The bear was negatively conditioned over 65 times; with at least half being high level (paintball gun, shotgun rounds, and pyrotechnics). Bear #3821 was part of an aversive conditioning treatment from July 6 – 13, 2005. During this time, it is unlikely she obtained human food with the exception of one incident where the bear obtained improperly stored food from out-of-bounds campers in LYV. She responded well to the aversive conditioning treatment, running away when any type of conditioning was applied. However, she returned to developed areas two days after her treatment and was consistently in developed areas until the end of the year.

The bear was positively identified in 18 incidents in 2005. She was implicated in many more, but positive identification was not made by the visitors reporting the incidents. The bear was involved in at least 3 incidents where she bluff charged people away from food. On August 10, 2005 the bear bluff charged a family eating at a picnic table and obtained food. Then on August 13th at 2 p.m., the bear broke into an unoccupied hard-sided cabin at Curry Village by tearing off the screen of the bathroom window. The window was partially cracked open and the bear was able to slide the window open and gain entry to the cabin where it obtained human food. When a Curry Village employee entered the cabin for cleaning at 2 p.m., the bear bluff charged the employee. On September 4th, the bear bluff charged a group of campers eating dinner in North Pines Campground but they were able to scare the bear away by hitting it with a large frying pan.

In April 2006, bear #3821 was observed with her two yearlings in Yosemite Valley, but she had lost both her radio collar and allflex tag. The bear was identified by a roto tag in the right ear accompanied by its yearling with a roto tag. On May 26th, a bear matching her physical description broke into three tent cabins at Curry Village. All three cabins contained improperly stored food/toiletries and two cabins were occupied. The bear was able to break the door on two tents, slashed through the canvas on the third tent, and obtained food in at least one of the tents. All three incidents occurred between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Although the occupants of the tents did not see an ear tag, the Interpretation staff responding to the incidents observed a bear with a roto tag in the right ear. There were three additional unoccupied tent cabins broken into when a bear tore through the canvas on two occasions and broke the door on the third occasion, however there were no observations made of the bear involved in these incidents. On June 2nd, a bear matching #3821’s description was observed approaching occupied campsites in Upper Pines at 7:30 p.m. while it was still daylight. The bear was approaching campers eating dinner but did not obtain any food, and eventually left the area.

In June, 2006, the decision was made to euthanize the bear by lethal injection based on the threat to human safety the bear posed by entering occupied tent cabins and campsites. Unfortunately, the Wildlife Management Staff was unable to capture the bear that season. When the bear returned in 2007 with two cubs, she immediately resumed her bold and destructive behavior. On June 11th, the bears were captured and the sow was euthanized by lethal injection. The two cubs were taken to the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Center and will be returned to the park in the winter of 2008.

**Bear #2391, 12 year old female**:

Bear #2391 had been captured 6 times since 1995. The bear was first captured as a cub at Sunrise Trailhead in 1995. She was not seen again until 1999 when she was captured in a culvert trap along the Boystown Fire Road in early September. She was accompanied by one cub and was released on-site. The sow and cub were frequently observed in the Pines campground area, but were never identified at the scene of any incidents. In November of that same year, the sow and cub were captured in Curry Village and translocated to the Wawona South Entrance.

In fall of 2000, bear #2391 was identified on several occasions obtaining food and food trash in the Pines campgrounds. The bear was captured on October 5th and translocated to Trumbull Peak Road. The bear returned within several days and continued to obtain human food from campers in the Valley. The bear was trapped again on October 13th and translocated to Badger Pass.

The bear again returned to the Pines campgrounds in 2001 and 2002. The bear was found in the Pines campgrounds on a nightly basis and was conditioned numerous times. Although the bear never showed any aggressive behavior, she was good at finding food left out along with improperly latched food lockers. She was a constant presence in the campgrounds and often returned immediately after being chased out by Bear Team personnel. The bear was captured in 2002 as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society bear research project, was fitted with a radio collar, and released on-site. In 2003, the bear and her single cub were observed near campgrounds in the late fall but were not associated with any incidents.

In 2004, the bear resumed its behavior in the Pines campgrounds. The bear was in the campgrounds on a nightly basis and obtained food on numerous occasions. She became bold and learned to snatch food from campsites if campers were not within a few feet of their food. She was not afraid to approach a campsite where people were cooking or sitting around the campfire. The bear was captured and radio collared early in the summer which helped to track her movements and chase her out of developed areas. She was conditioned 45 times in 2004, but often returned to the campgrounds immediately after.

In 2005, bear #2391 was conditioned 21 times with 2 high level events and was responsible for 3 known incidents that year. It is highly probable that she was responsible for another 17 incidents. On at least two of these incidents, she entered an occupied campsite within a few feet of the campers. On one of these incidents the bear jumped onto the food locker while the camper was washing dishes on top of the locker. On another occasion the bear bluff charged a camper away from their food.

In 2006, she continued her activity in the campgrounds, this time accompanied by one cub. Her level of boldness increased throughout the summer. By fall the Wildlife Management staff was forced to stay with her every night to keep her out of the campgrounds because she was getting so close to visitors. She was implicated in a number of incidents, including several in which the bear came within three feet of campers and obtained food, one incident of swiping at a camper within close range and another in which a visitor was injured.

The bear returned again in 2007 and was identified entering occupied campsites and approaching visitors for food. On July 22, 2007, a bear matching the description of bear #2391 entered an occupied campsite before dark and swatted at a person after the person attempted to scare the bear away. The bear missed the person by only a few inches.

Bear #2391 was clearly identified in 21 incidents and implicated in over 40 since 2002. Despite being negatively conditioned with bean bags and rubber slugs numerous times, her level of boldness over the years had increased to the point of approaching campers at very close distances, bluff charging and swatting at campers, and causing injury on at least one occasion. Despite over 100 conditioning events (combined low level and high level) she was not deterred from entering campgrounds and was not afraid of visitors.

Bear #2391 was trapped using a culvert trap on July 7th. The bear was transported to the wildlife office where it was euthanized by lethal injection.

**Bear #3079, 1 year old male:**

Bear 3079 was captured on 09/10/07 at the Tuolumne Lodge and euthanized the same day.

Bear #3079 was observed for approximately 4 days around the Tuolumne Lodge before it was captured. DNC employees and visitors that witnessed the bear stated that it was lethargic, unsteady when walking, and often slept under the building. When rangers and DNC employees tried to chase the bear it would run a short distance, then lie down. There were no confirmed observations of the bear being fed, however several employees stated they had seen the bear with an apple or an orange on several occasions from an unknown source.

Wildlife Management staff attempted to dart the bear, but it had crawled underneath the Lodge where it remained overnight. A culvert trap was set but the bear did not enter the trap that night. The following morning, while a ranger was standing near the trap, the bear entered the trap and the ranger was able to close the door behind the bear.

The bear was determined to be a yearling male that weighed 36 pounds. The bear was extremely gaunt, with bones prominent through the skin, and the skin had several red spots on the skin, which was potentially eczema. Based on the bear’s physical condition, its unwillingness to leave developed areas, its apparent lack of fear of humans, it was euthanized by lethal injection. Upon necropsy, it was discovered the bear had no subcutaneous or peritoneal fat. The bear’s muscles were small and atrophied, suggesting that it was metabolizing this tissue. The intestines were empty, and the stomach had a small amount of food left in it from the bait bag inside the trap. The liver color was good, but not bright red and no lesions were found on the liver. The kidneys, heart and lungs all looked normal. It appeared as if the bear was not diseased, but was suffering from starvation. Little natural food for black bears exists at the elevation of Tuolumne Meadows. Other bears that are able to exist in this area rely on human food to supplement their diet. Bear #3079 may have not have learned to obtain human food, was unable to subsist on local natural foods at high elevation, and did not move down in elevation where natural food sources are more abundant.

**2008**

**Humane Euthanasia:**

Two bears wounded by vehicle strikes were humanely euthanized in 2008. Sow #1131 was euthanized after being struck by a vehicle near Crane Flat on May 7th and sub-adult bear #1255 was euthanized near Chinquapin after a vehicle hit it on May 19th.

**Management Euthanasia:**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2008. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following is a brief synopsis of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear # 3879, 16 year old male:**

Bear #3879 had been captured three times since 1999. The first capture occurred on June 6,1999, in the Yosemite Valley trailhead parking lot. The bear was translocated to Hetch Hetchy and not observed again until 2007. In August, 2007, a bear began breaking into unoccupied homes in the Foresta area by pulling out window air conditioning units. Soon after, the incidents stopped in Foresta and began occurring in Yosemite Valley. A bear described as a large adult with a significantly scarred face was observed breaking into homes in Yosemite Valley. The bear was able to enter unoccupied homes through open windows or by pulling out the window air-conditioning units. The highly conditioned behavior escalated and it soon began attempting to break into occupied homes. The majority of incidents occurred when residents left windows open, and then were able to hear the bear inside the house and scare it away. On September 1, 2007, the bear was captured, radio collared, and translocated to Aspen Valley. The bear’s radio collar signal was detected soon after translocation in the Foresta area. The bear resumed breaking into homes. The Wildlife Management Staff was able to track the bear and perform negative conditioning which had little effect on the bear’s behavior. The bear travelled between Foresta, El Portal, and Yosemite Valley, breaking into homes in each location. At the end of October 2007, the bear left the area and its radio signal was not detected.

The bear returned to Yosemite Valley in the spring of 2008 and was detected using radio telemetry and monitoring boxes which logged the bear in the campgrounds 408 times between 4/7 and 4/25/2008. Unfortunately, the bear dropped its radio collar and lost its orange all-flex tag in May. On July 5th, 2008, a resident of Upper NPS housing in Yosemite Valley returned from vacation and discovered a bear had entered his home through an open window and obtained copious amounts of food from multiple refrigerators. Later that night, a bear attempted to break into an unoccupied home in the same area by ripping five screens off windows and doors. Fortunately, all windows were properly latched and the bear was unable to gain entry. At 11:45 p.m., on July 5th, a bear entered an occupied residence through an open window. In addition to attempts from two adult occupants to scare the bear away, there were two large dogs in the home that were aggressively barking at the bear. A scuffle between the bear and one dog resulted in multiple puncture wounds and a fractured shoulder which required medical attention for the dog. Law enforcement rangers and the Wildlife Management Staff responded immediately and were able to scare the bear out of the house. The bear was described by a Law Enforcement ranger on scene as large, with a scarred face and a roto tag in the left ear.

On July 6th, 2008, a large bear entered the nurse’s dorm behind the clinic through a screen door. The dorm was occupied by two people and a dog that were able to scare the bear away. Less than an hour later, bear #3879, identified by its roto tag, was captured in a culvert trap outside the homes it entered the night before.

The decision was made to euthanize the animal based on the clear threat to human safety. On July 7th 2008, bear #3879 was euthanized by lethal injection.

**2009**

**Humane Euthanasia:**

Bear #3024 was humanely euthanized after being struck and wounded by a vehicle near the Big Oak Flat entrance station on August 4, 2009.

**Management Euthanasia:**

Four bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2009. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear # 2259, 4 year old female:**

Bear #2259 had been captured and translocated five times. The bear was first captured June 5, 2006 as a yearling and translocated to Aspen Valley. The bear is the offspring of either bear #3821 (euthanized in 2007) or bear #3558 (euthanized in 2009). Bear 2259 returned within two weeks and was observed in developed areas on a nightly basis. Although the bear was easy to scare away, she was extremely persistent and would often return within an hour. During the summer of 2006, this bear was successful in obtaining overflowing trash and improperly stored food. In 2007, the bear was captured on May 23rd, radio collared and translocated to Badger Pass. The bear returned to the Valley within a week and was again very active in campgrounds and Curry Village throughout 2007. The bear was involved in 24 known incidents in 2007, most involving improperly stored food. The Wildlife Staff performed negative conditioning on this bear numerous times through the year; however park visitors often had a difficult time scaring the bear from their campsites as she became increasingly bold throughout the year.

In 2008, bear #2259 was observed in the Valley towards the end of May with two cubs of the year. The bear immediately became active in developed areas, bringing her cubs into campgrounds and obtaining human food. On several occasions in May and June, the bear was able to gain access to food inside lockers which were presumably latched properly. It was believed the bear had learned to open the new lockers at Curry Village. The Wildlife Management Staff performed a 7-day aversive conditioning treatment on the bear and was aggressive in using bean bag rounds, rubber slugs, and rubber buckshot. On several occasions the bear did not move from the area despite being hit with projectiles. The bear’s behavior showed no improvement after the treatment. On June 7, 2008 the sow and her two cubs were captured (a 14-hour capture process) and translocated to White Wolf. On June 22nd, the family group was detected by radio telemetry in the west end of Yosemite Valley. On June 23rd, the sow and cubs returned to Curry Village and were able to break into a locker that was latched properly along with a padlock. While chasing the bear out of Curry Village later that night, the bear stopped, turned, and bluff charged the Wildlife Management Staff to within several feet. The bear also began bluff charging campers. On June 23rd, a camper in Upper Pines was bluff charged when he attempted to scare the bear from his campsite. As a result of the bluff charge, the camper injured himself on the awning of his motor home. Later in the summer, the bear was observed with only one cub and it was believed the second cub died of unknown causes. The bear and her single cub were captured two times in October and translocated but returned to the Valley within the same week.

In 2009 bear #2259 was again active in Valley Campgrounds and Curry Village. The bear was observed breaking into unoccupied tent cabins in Curry Village and bluff charged a person inside a tent cabin while attempting to break into the food locker.

The decision was made to euthanize the animal based on the clear threat to human safety. On April 28th 2009, bear #2259 was captured and euthanized by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3558, 13 year old female:**

This bear was first captured in 2001 and was tagged and fitted with a radio collar as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society research project, and again in 2002 in relation to research. The bear was captured in 2004 when a bear matching her description was frequenting Housekeeping Camp. The bear was moved to Trumbull Peak Road near Merced Grove and was not observed in the Valley again until April 13, 2005, when she returned with 2 cubs of the year.

In 2005, the bear was part of an Aversive Conditioning treatment from August 4th to August 10th. During that week she responded well to conditioning and did not obtain human food, however, she returned to developed areas 9 days after the treatment. She was detected by monitoring boxes in developed areas approximately 7,200 times and 95 days for an average of 76 detections per day. There were reports of this bear and her two cubs in developed areas until January, 2006. It was believed the family group did not hibernate that winter. Outside of her aversive conditioning treatment week, this bear was conditioned on 27 occasions with 17 of those being high level hazing (paintballs, pyrotechnics and shotgun rounds).

In 2006, Bear #3558 was captured on June 8th after frequenting developed areas on a nightly basis. The bear was radio collared and translocated to Hetch Hetchy. The bear left the area immediately and the telemetry signal was not detected inside the park for the remainder of the summer. In September, the California Department of Fish and Game reported the bear frequenting Forest Service campgrounds outside the park. As a result of the bear’s bold behavior, the CA Dept of F&G were setting traps to capture and euthanize the bear. On October 16th, much to the surprise of the Wildlife Management staff, bear #3558 was captured in a culvert trap set for a different bear in Yosemite Valley. The bear had gained 84 lbs. since her last capture and the radio collar was no longer working properly.

In 2007, the bear resumed its same bold behavior in Yosemite Valley, accompanied by two cubs of the year. On September 26th, the bear and her two cubs were captured in the Curry Orchard Lot and were translocated to Yosemite Creek Campground which had already closed for the season. The family group returned to Yosemite Valley in less than 2 weeks. In the fall months, the bears began entering DNC employee kitchen facilities through open, unlatched, or inoperable doors and windows. The bears were able to access food from kitchens on numerous occasions and bluff charged unsuspecting employees as they entered the kitchens not knowing the bears were inside. On one occasion, the cubs became trapped inside a building while the sow frantically paced outside. Wildlife Management Staff were eventually able to free the cubs, but had to place themselves in a potentially unsafe situation to do so.

Over the last four years, this bear had been observed on a nightly basis by Wildlife Management personnel in Yosemite Valley campgrounds and Curry Village. This bear was very persistent in entering developed areas and returned to developed areas even after being negatively conditioned. Bear #3558 was very protective when she had cubs and had bluff charged visitors and park employees on numerous occasions when she felt threatened by human presence. She bluff charged Wildlife Management staff on at least seven occasions while being negatively conditioned and on one occasion while the bear was on human food.

On June 4, 2008, the Yosemite Bear Council discussed the history and present behavior of this bear. Based on the aggressive behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #3558 be euthanized by lethal injection as soon as it can be captured. Unfortunately, the bear evaded capture that year. In 2009, the bear resumed its behavior, but with three new cubs of the year. The bear was finally captured on June 7, 2009 in Upper Pines Campground. The bear was euthanized and her three cubs were placed in the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Center for the summer months. The cubs will be brought back to Yosemite and placed inside a den in the winter of 2010.

**Bear # 3046, 2 year old female:**

Bear #3046 had been captured and translocated four times. The bear was first captured in Yosemite Valley on July 16, 2008 as a yearling and translocated to the Crane Flat area. The bear returned within a few days and was observed in developed areas on a daily basis. The bear was captured again on August 2, 2008, fitted with a radio collar and translocated to Aspen Valley. Again the bear returned within a few days, but spent the remainder of the summer along the Half Dome corridor where the bear learned to associate day packs with food. The bear was persistent in grabbing packs from day hikers despite hazing efforts from rangers in the area. In the fall months, the bear returned to the Valley and continued taking packs from day users around Camp 4, Churchbowl, and other popular climbing areas. The bear was captured a third time on November 7th and was translocated to Merced Grove.

In April 2009, bear #3046 returned to the Valley and resumed its behavior of stealing packs from day users in the Valley. This usually occurred during daylight hours in picnic areas, along hiking trails, or near popular climbing routes. The bear was captured on May 7, 2009 and translocated to Badger Pass. Again the bear returned and was captured on June 26 and refitted with a new radio collar. This time, the bear was released on-site and the Wildlife Management staff focused on aggressively hazing the bear any time it was located in or near a developed area.

Although this bear responded well to hazing efforts by the Wildlife Management staff, the bear had become progressively bolder in its attempts to obtain human food. The bear was highly habituated to humans and approached people to within a few feet to obtain food. This bear was very difficult for people to scare away and the bear sometimes huffed and bluff charged to scare people away from food. On one occasion, a man used a lawn chair to try and scare the bear away from food at Curry Village, only to get into a “tug-of-war” with the bear and the lawn chair. On another occasion, the bear was hit on the head with a fry pan while the person held the pan in their hands when the bear approached a group of people in Curry Village during the day and got to within a few feet of their food.

In September 2009, bear #3046 was observed on two different occasions eating food from a vehicle that had been broken into by a bear. It is believed bear #3046 was responsible for breaking into the vehicles since no other bears were found in the area. Both incidents occurred during daylight hours.

Over the last two years, bear #3046 was positively identified in over 40 incidents.

The decision was made to euthanize the animal based on the clear threat to human safety. On October 30th 2009, bear #3046 was captured and euthanized by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3055, 4 year old male:**

Bear #3055 was captured and translocated five times. The bear was first captured in Yosemite Valley on June 5, 2007 as a sub-adult, fitted with a radio collar and translocated to the Badger Pass area. The bear returned within a few days and was observed in developed areas on a daily basis, approaching people at picnic tables and obtaining human food. On one occasion, the bear bluff charged a park ranger to within a few feet and the ranger was able to kick the bear in the head. An aversive conditioning treatment was conducted on the bear (the bear was followed with radio telemetry for 7 consecutive days and hazed each time it approached a developed area) but the bear’s behavior did not change following the treatment. The bear was captured again on August 6, 2007 and translocated to Aspen Valley. The bear was not observed in developed areas for the remainder of 2007.

In 2008, bear #3055 was observed in campgrounds along the Tioga Corridor. The bear resumed its behavior of approaching people in campsites, often approaching to within a few feet and was unfazed by people’s attempts to scare it. During this time, Protection Rangers in the Mather District hazed the bear with a shotgun on multiple occasions. The bear eventually returned to Yosemite Valley where it continued approaching occupied campsites and obtaining food as people unsuccessfully tried to scare it away. On November 20, 2008, the bear was captured in Curry Village, fitted with a new radio collar and translocated to Rockefeller Grove. The bear returned to the Valley, was captured again in Curry Village on November 23, 2008 and translocated to Merced Grove, but returned within a few days.

During the winter months there were several incidents involving bears entering residential garage units. Some units were left unsecured, allowing bears to easily obtain food and others were forcibly entered by ripping plywood off hinges. While bear #3055 was only observed during one of these incidents, the bear was suspected in several of the other incidents. On January 21, 2009 the bear was captured outside a resident’s garage unit that had been broken into the day before. The bear was translocated to Hetch Hetchy but returned a week later.

In July, 2009 a bear entered a residence through an open window of an occupied house and obtained food. Traps were set in the area and bear #3055 was captured July 6, 2009. This time the bear was fitted with a new radio collar and released in Yosemite Valley so the Wildlife Management staff could focus on aggressively hazing the bear any time it was located in or near a developed area. Although this bear responded well to hazing efforts by the Wildlife Management staff, the bear did not change its behavior in attempting to obtain human food. The bear was highly habituated to humans and approached people to within a few feet to obtain food. This bear was very difficult for other people to scare away and the bear sometimes huffed and bluff charged to scare people away from food. Bear #3055 also became more aggressive in its attempts to obtain human food from residential units, posing an additional safety risk to humans. It also ripped into an unoccupied tent cabin on at least one occasion and had also been observed trying to break into vehicles.

Over the last two years, bear #3055 was positively identified in over 65 incidents.

The decision was made to euthanize the animal based on the clear threat to human safety. On November 20th 2009, bear #3055 was captured and euthanized by lethal injection.

**2010**

**Humane Euthanasia:**

**Bear #3562, 3 year old female:**

Bear #3562 was struck and wounded by a vehicle on Northside Drive near Camp 4 Campground on June 11, 2010. The bear slowly limped off into the forest and was monitored using radio telemetry over the next couple days to see if it could recover from its injuries. When the radio telemetry signal indicated no significant movement for two days, the bear was located and immobilized, and its conditioned evaluated. It was determined the bear had sustained disabling injuries from the collision, and the bear was humanely euthanized on June 13, 2010.

**Bear #1278, 24 year old male:**

Bear #1278 was first captured in 1992 and was aged at eight years old at that time. The bear was caught many more times over the succeeding years in YV, however, the bear learned to avoid traps in more recent years and was last captured in a culvert trap in 2002. The bear frequented the campgrounds and often obtained food from open or unlatched food lockers. It was suspected that he had also learned to open properly latched lockers, although this was never proven. The bear also developed an arthritic type condition later in life which reduced his mobility and speed. Even negative conditioning rounds from a shotgun did not persuade him to move faster than a slow trot. The bear’s unwillingness to quickly leave an area appeared to be caused from a physical limitation rather than stubbornness. The bear was last captured in 2009 by free-range darting and fitted with a new ear tag and radio collar. Due to the bear’s enormous size, he was processed in the field and not weighed. The bear was estimated to weigh more than 400 pounds. In 2010, the bear resumed its behavior in campgrounds, obtaining food from lockers. As the months passed, the bear seemed to have more and more trouble walking. On one occasion the bear tripped over a curb leaving the campground and fell on his face. On another occasion, the bear seemed to be dragging one of its back legs. In September, this bear along with other resident YV bears, suspended their activity in developed areas as the acorn crop became available.

On October 11, 2010, park dispatched notified the Wildlife Office about a bear near Mirror Lake that appeared to be dragging its back legs. Visitors had reported seeing the bear near the Mirror Lake road at 3 p.m. The Wildlife staff responded immediately and found bear #1278 just off the road in a wooded area lying down. The bear eventually stood up and dragged itself further into the woods, its back legs completely immobile. Wildlife staff continued to monitor the bear over the next hour and determined it had completely lost use of its hind legs. The bear dragged itself using only its front legs through the woods and over logs. The bear was only able to move short distances before lying down to rest.

Due to the bear’s close proximity to humans and its inability to retreat from approaching people, the recommendation was made for euthanasia. After approval through the Superintendent, the Wildlife staff darted the bear and evaluated its condition. Based on the wounds it had on the top of its feet, legs, and underside from dragging itself, the bear’s condition had been deteriorating over time. The bear had lost most of its muscle mass in its hind legs, and its skin was hanging off its body indicating rapid weight loss. After this evaluation the bear was humanely euthanized.

**Management Euthanasia:**

Three bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2010. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following discussions and recommendations from the Yosemite Bear Council, the approval of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear # 3606, 7 year old male:**

Bear #3606 was first captured in YV on June 10, 2008 as a five year-old adult and was released on-site after marking the bear with an ear tag (Green 82, Left Ear). The bear was observed in developed areas throughout the summer and captured a second time on October 29, 2008. The bear was fitted with a radio collar and translocated to Badger Pass. However, the bear returned to YV within a week.

On March 7, 2009 this bear was observed inside the fire cache basement where it obtained human food. It appeared the door may have been left open, because minimal damage was found to the building. Several days later, a bear ripped off boards trying to enter the basement however, all food had been removed. During this same time period, several incidents occurred involving bears damaging window screens of occupied residences and entering concession kitchen areas through unsecured doors. In July, a bear with a green tag in the left ear, matching the description of bear #3606, entered an occupied residence through an open window and obtained food from a refrigerator. Unfortunately, bear #3606 had dropped its radio collar a month before this incident, and Wildlife Management staff was unable to track the bear using telemetry. Throughout the months of July and August, there were many more house break-ins, including several where the bear pulled out the back door windows to gain entry into the residence and obtain food. These homes were otherwise secure having their windows and doors closed and latched. No bears were identified in these incidents and traps were set each time without success.

On April 6, 2010 a bear entered the Ranger Club through an unlatched door and obtained a substantial amount of food from a refrigerator. The Wildlife Management staff immediately set traps and began working all-night patrols to identify the bear. Over the next 3 days, additional incidents occurred, including a bear that entered a concession employee dorm area and walked down the hallway to the kitchen and a bear that badly damaged a secured back door of an occupied residence. On April 9th, Wildlife staff responded to a call of a bear that had ripped off the back door window of a secured house and was inside the laundry room. Upon arrival, a bear with a green tag in its left ear was observed ripping screens off a window at a second home across the street. The following night, Wildlife staff chased a bear matching the same description out of the Medical Clinic where it pried open the back doors and walk down a hallway to obtain food from a refrigerator. On April 11, a bear positively identified as #3606, was found attempting to break into the Ranger Club (the third break-in that week).

In just one week, over 20 incidents occurred involving a bear either attempting to or successfully entering buildings throughout the Valley. Most of these buildings were properly secured and received considerable damage when the bear attempted to gain entry. On two occasions, the residents had a difficult time scaring the bear away and in one case, the bear turned and approached the resident after they opened the door to scare away the bear. While bear #3606 was not identified positively in all of these incidents, the behavior and physical descriptions matched this bear’s appearance.

Bear #3606 was negatively conditioned with bean bags, rubber slugs, and noisemakers during three of these incidents and the bear resumed its persistent and destructive behavior later that night or the following day. The Wildlife staff recognized three aversive conditioning events may not have been enough to change a bear’s behavior. However, there was an immediate threat to human safety with the persistence of this bear breaking into occupied homes. On April 14, bear #3606 was captured and euthanized. Bear break-ins ceased.

**Bear # 3566, 10 year old male:**

On August 28, 2006 bear #3566 was free-ranged darted in the White Wolf Campground after numerous reports of a bear obtaining food there all summer. The bear was tagged (Yellow 61), radio collared, and released on-site. The following day, the bear dropped its radio collar outside the campground. In 2007, the bear resumed its behavior in White Wolf campground, but was also observed in Porcupine Flat and Yosemite Creek Campgrounds. On August 28, 2007 the bear was captured in a culvert trap in White Wolf Campground, radio collared, and translocated to a location along Tuolumne Grove Road. The bear was not associated with any further incidents that year after being translocated.

In 2008, the bear was captured in White Wolf, re-tagged (White 55), radio-collared and moved to Merced Grove. The bear returned within a week and was associated with two incidents where it bluff charged people off food. In 2009, the bear was again captured in White Wolf, radio-collared and released on site. Protection Rangers and Wildlife Staff monitored the bear throughout the season and negatively conditioned it over thirty times. In the fall, the bear travelled to YV where it was active on a nightly basis in the campgrounds. The bear was captured in Upper Pines Campground in November and translocated back to White Wolf.

The bear lost its tag and radio collar in 2010, however, a bear matching its description and behavior began approaching people in campsites in late July. On August 7, a bear matching the description of bear #3566 entered an occupied campsite and bluff charged the campers. The camper fired a pistol into the ground to scare the bear, which ran to a neighboring campsite. The occupants of that campsite then chased the bear away by wielding a large machete. When the bear ran back through the original campsite, the camper fired a second round from his pistol into the air. The bear was captured that night and identified as #3566 from its electronic tag implant, tagged (Blue 55), radio-collared, and translocated to Aspen Valley. The bear returned within two days and was identified in multiple incidents in both Yosemite Creek and Porcupine Flat Campgrounds. On August 12, this bear approached an occupied site during daylight hours and the campers responded by yelling and throwing rocks. The bear then bluff charged the campers. There were also multiple reports of this bear approaching picnic tables during the day and grabbing food despite the presence of people. The Wildlife Staff negatively conditioned this bear on numerous occasions with no effect on the bear’s behavior. On August 18, bear #3566 was captured in White Wolf campground and euthanized.

**Bear # 3524, 1 year old male:**

Bear #3524 was first captured in YV on June 29, 2010 after being observed repeatedly in Camp 4 Campground. The bear was also found inside a Yosemite Lodge dumpster two nights in a row prior to capture. The bear was fitted with both an allflex ear tag (Yellow 92) and a roto ear tag (3524) and released on-site. The bear was captured a second time on August 25, and fitted with an ear tag transmitter to better monitor its behavior. This bear is believed to be the offspring of Bear #2394, who until 2010, was frequently found in Camp 4 Campground and observed breaking into cars in the area.

Between the months of June and September, bear #3524 was observed on 66 different occasions in Camp 4 Campground, Swinging Bridge Picnic Area, Yosemite Lodge, and Yellow Pines Campground. During each of those observations, the bear was negatively conditioned using either low level (yelling and chasing) or high level techniques (paintball gun, bangers, etc). Due to the bears continued persistence in the campground and difficulty to chase away, the Wildlife Biologist gave approval in September to condition the bear using shotgun rounds despite its small size.

Bear #3524 was identified in only a handful of incidents. However, the bear routinely entered occupied campsites in search of food and would walk to within a few feet of visitors to grab food from picnic tables. When being negatively conditioned by Wildlife Staff (including the Camp 4 hosts) the bear would leave the area, although sometimes reluctantly. However, visitors often reported difficulty chasing the bear from their campsites. On one occasion, the Camp 4 host who had been volunteering since May, chased the bear in the camp while off-duty and out of uniform and was unable to get the bear to leave the area.

Sometime between September 11th and 12th, two SAR tent cabins at Camp 4 were ripped into by a bear. The bear did not obtain food in either case and the occupants were not inside the cabin during the incidents. No bears were observed, but bear #3524 was in the area based on telemetry and had been found resting in day beds directly behind the cabins throughout the summer.

On September 17, a visitor in Camp 4 Campground reported he was swatted by a bear on the head while asleep on the ground. He did admit to having a backpack with food hanging nearby which likely attracted the bear to his site. The visitor was unable to provide a description of the bear or time of incident. On September 22, a visitor who was also asleep on the ground in Camp 4 reported being swatted by an animal. He did not see the animal and did not know what time the incident occurred. The visitor had 3 distinct claw marks down his face but refused medical attention. He claimed all food was stored properly inside the food locker. On September 25, a camper was lying outside his tent in Camp 4 Campground and opened his eyes when he felt something near him only to discover a bear sniffing his face. The bear then swatted the man on the face. The incident occurred at 11:15 p.m. and the man was driven to the Yosemite Medical Clinic by a friend for treatment of excessive bleeding. The bear was only described as “smallish”. Wildlife staff responded to the incident, and using radio telemetry, found two bears, bear #3524 and bear #3523 (tagged Blue 68) in the Yosemite Lodge Annex area. Bear #3524 was reported to have been in the campground earlier in the night. Bear #3523 had been occasionally found in picnic areas or East Valley campgrounds. It was a very timid bear that did not approach people and was easily chased away.

Due to the extreme likelihood that bear #3524 was the bear swatting campers and a threat to human safety, it was captured on October 1 and euthanized. Once the euthanasia took place, there were no further injuries in Camp 4 Campground in 2010.

**2011**

**BEAR VS. VEHICLE DEATHS**

A total of ten bears were killed by vehicles in 2011. Six bears were dead on scene when park staff arrived. Two bears were humanely euthanized by gunshot by law enforcement rangers in 2011. These bears received life threatening injuries due to vehicle collisions and were in areas to which wildlife staff were unable to respond in a timely manner, to administer euthanasia by lethal injection.

**Bear #3078, 1 year old male:**

On August 3, 2011 an untagged male yearling was struck by a vehicle a half mile east of Tamarack Flat on Tioga Rd. The yearling was still alive when a Mather district law enforcement ranger arrived on scene. It was determined that the yearling would not be able to survive its injuries and the bear was euthanized and moved off the road.

**Bear #3083, female cub of the year:**

On August 8, 2011 an untagged female cub was struck by a vehicle a quarter mile east of the White Wolf turnoff along the Tioga Rd. The cub was reported by an NPS employee who moved the it off the road. Wildlife staff responded and found that the cub was still alive. The sow and second cub were still in the area so to prevent another collision the cub was moved further from the road, and due to severe injuries, was euthanized by a Mather protection ranger.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

Two bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2011. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occur following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear # 3001, 5 year old male:**

Bear # 3001, a male, was first captured as a sub-adult in Yosemite Valley and was translocated to Badger Pass on June 11, 2008. The bear returned to the Valley within a few days and was observed in picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots in Yosemite Valley for the remainder of 2008.

Beginning in early summer 2009, this bear obtained food on a regular basis in Valley picnic areas, and was suspected of breaking into vehicles at El Cap Crossover. He was captured again on July 11, 2009, fitted with a radio collar and translocated to the Merced Grove area. The bear returned to the Valley and resumed this behavior. Bear #3001 was captured at Valley View on August 13, 2009 and translocated to the Merced grove after being retagged with a green tag 75.

On September 1, 2009 during the Big Meadow Fire, two unidentified bears broke into an evacuated home in Foresta. These bears were only identified as an adult bear with a white tag 75 and a radio collar, and a smaller bear. Bear #3001 was the only bear that had a tag with number 75 on it at this time. On September 2, 2009, a bear broke into a second evacuated home in Foresta. On September 3, 2009 bear #3001 was captured in Foresta near the two homes that had been broken into. He was translocated to Badger Pass and aggressively negatively conditioned upon release. He returned to the Valley three days later and was immediately found at the Yosemite Lodge where he was attempting to enter a kitchen by ripping boards off the side of the building. Over the next week, bear #3001 was chased throughout all Valley Campgrounds, Glacier Point housing areas, and on September 9, 2009 was observed tearing into three unoccupied tents during the day in Little Yosemite Valley. Wildlife management focused their efforts on tracking and negatively conditioning this bear aggressively throughout the remainder of the year, but his food conditioned and habituated behavior persisted.

Bear # 3001 was again captured and re-collared on June 24, 2010 at El Cap Crossover It was released in Yosemite Valley so the Wildlife Management staff could focus on aggressively hazing this bear any time it was near a developed area. Although this bear responded well to hazing efforts by the Wildlife Management staff, it did not change its behavior in attempting to obtain human food. In 2010, Wildlife management chased this bear from one developed area to the next as it constantly attempted, and succeeded in obtaining human food. Bear #3001 was highly habituated to humans and was seen approaching visitors to within a few feet to obtain food in campgrounds. It also broke into multiple vehicles in front of large crowds of visitors in the daytime.

In early 2011, bear #3001 lost its collar, but was positively identified in multiple incidents in Upper Pines Campground in April 2011. Visitors described this bear entering their camp site and approaching within a few feet of them to obtain food from their locker. It was positively identified when ripping into properly latched lockers in Yosemite Valley and damaging them to the point of losing their bear resistance.

Bear #3001 met 6 out of 9 behavioral factors that are considered in a proposal to kill a bear listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management plan. These behaviors included:

1. Persistently breaking into structures that are adequately bear-resistant and where food has been properly stored, or where no food exists.
2. Persistently breaking into vehicles where no food or other attractants exist.
3. Causing escalating or chronically high levels of property damage.
4. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
5. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
6. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 5/27/2011, bear #3001 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3098, 5 year old female:**

This bear was first captured in Tuolumne Meadows Campground as a sub-adult on August 19, 2008 and fitted with green tag 60 in the right ear. By that time, the bear was already so habituated to human presence that Wildlife Staff walked up to within ten feet to dart it in broad daylight. The bear was then fitted with a radio collar and translocated to Merced Grove. Bear #3098 returned to the Tuolumne Campground within two weeks.

Prior to the initial capture, this bear obtained food from visitors on a regular basis in Tuolumne Campground by walking boldly from campsite to campsite during the day. Bear #3098 became extremely habituated to human presence and continued to ignore most attempts made by visitors to scare it away. This bear was suspected of ripping into a tent cabin in Bug Camp and entering a tent cabin at DNC housing near Tuolumne Lodge to obtain food. The bear was also suspected of breaking into cars throughout the Tuolumne area. Wildlife Management staff in Tuolumne altered their schedule to focus their efforts on keeping the bear out of developed areas around the clock through hazing actions. Bear #3098 was aggressively hazed with rubber slugs and bean bag rounds whenever it was located in developed areas, but it continued to become bolder and increasingly persistent in its attempts to obtain human food. This behavior continued to escalate for the remainder of the 2008 season.

Bear #3098 returned to Tuolumne Campground in June of 2009 with a cub of the year and resumed its food conditioned and habituated behavior. The bear was seen walking through the campground and approaching visitors to obtain human food daily. Her cub was found dead a short time later near the road in Tuolumne Meadows, a likely road-kill. Tuolumne Wildlife personnel again focused almost solely on this bear and aggressively hazed it from all developed areas throughout the 2009 season. The bear would hesitantly leave the area for a short time after these high level hazing events, but would return to the campground shortly thereafter. Although bear #3098 would respond to the presence of uniformed NPS employees, it continued to ignore attempts made by visitors to scare it away. Bear #3098 began actively approaching within a few feet of campers even when food was properly stored to grab food from picnic tables and bear lockers. This continued until the end of the season. The bear lost its collar over the winter.

Bear #3098 returned to Tuolumne Meadows in June 2010 with another cub of the year. The behavior described above continued throughout the season, often with the cub in tow. Search and Rescue personnel reported seeing this bear walking through their camp on a nightly basis. Despite this extreme habituation, wildlife staff was unable to capture the bear in a culvert trap in over a dozen attempts, in addition to four nights of attempts to free range dart it. Bear #3098 was finally captured in a culvert trap for the second time in the Tuolumne SAR site on August 16, 2011. The bear was fitted with an ear tag transmitter and reunited with its treed cub after recovering from sedation. Unfortunately, the ear tag transmitter was ripped out of #3098’s ear within a week and wildlife staff was again unable to track its movements. This bear’s behavior persisted throughout the season.

Bear #3098 returned to Tuolumne Meadows without her yearling in early June 2011 and was implicated in several incidents before the Tioga road opened to the public.

Over the past three years bear #3098 had been captured twice and translocated once.

This bear met 5 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria to kill a bear. These behaviors included:

1. Causing escalating or chronically high levels of property damage.
2. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
3. “Panhandling” for food, resulting in close contact with humans.
4. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
5. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 7/8/2011, bear #3098 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**2012**

**BEAR DEATHS**

Twelve bears were hit by vehicles in 2012. Of these, three bears were dead upon arrival of park staff, and two more had to be euthanized because of the injuries from the collisions.

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

An untagged bear was shot by a law enforcement ranger in 2012 after sustaining severe injuries due to a vehicle collision. Wildlife staff was unable to respond quickly enough to euthanize by lethal injection.

**Bear #2053, 1 year old female:**

On June 30, 2012, an untagged female yearling was struck by a vehicle a half mile west of the Merced Grove parking lot on the Big Oak Flat Road/Highway 120. The yearling was still alive when a Mather district law enforcement ranger responded to the report. It was determined that the yearling would not be able to survive its injuries and the bear was shot by a law enforcement ranger and moved off the road because wildlife staff was unable to quickly respond to euthanize by lethal injection. Wildlife personnel later responded to help move the bear further off the road and to collect samples from the carcass.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

Four bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2012. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear # 2394, 20 year-old female:**

This bear was first captured in Yosemite Valley as a yearling on October 21, 1995 and fitted with yellow tag #21 in the left ear. It was captured again on June 27, 1997 after a string of vehicle break-ins. The bear was captured again on September 8, 1999 when the tag was replaced with the number 31 and a collar was placed on it. The bear had one cub at the time. Bear #2394 was subsequently captured 14 more times in Yosemite Valley over the next 13 years, for a total of 17 recorded captures and has retained the Yellow 31 tag since 1999. It was relocated from the Valley on three of these occasions, and returned to the Valley quickly each time. Throughout this duration, the bear had raised at least eight cubs in developed areas.

The bear has worn a collar almost continuously since 1999 and has been picked up by radio telemetry in Yosemite Valley on 4,372 occasions since 2004. #2394 has also been detected by monitoring boxes in developed areas over 9000 times in the same time period. In 2012, #2394 has been detected by all five of the new Valley monitoring box systems within 30 minutes of their initial setup.

Since 2004, this bear was observed on 354 occasions and was negatively conditioned from developed areas during 282 of those sightings.

Bear #was positively identified in 38 incidents and implicated in scores of late night vehicle break-ins. On 5/17/08 the bear jumped onto an occupied picnic table to obtain a large quantity of food, and refused to leave until Wildlife units fired several hazing rounds at it. On 6/8/08, #2394 ripped into an occupied tent cabin and refused to leave the area while the bear’s two cubs consumed an entire locker of food.

In 2012, #2394 displayed increasingly bold behavior and approached within feet of people on seven of 12 incidents to obtain properly stored food. On 8/13/12 the bear took a bag of food from a visitor’s hand. On 8/17/12 the bear approached a campsite and was undeterred by the banging of pots, pans and yelling. The visitors then deployed bear spray at a distance of less than 15 feet, but #2394 refused to leave their site until a campground ranger was finally able to chase the bear off.

In addition to #2394’s increasingly bold behavior, the amount of time and resources devoted to chasing this bear from one developed area to the next accounted for the majority of the Bear Team’s shifts on a nightly basis over the course of many years.

13 years of well documented efforts to curtail this bear’s continuous attempts to locate and obtain human food throughout Yosemite Valley have proven unsuccessful.

This bear met 5 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. Persistently breaking into vehicles where no food or attractants exist.
2. Causing escalating or chronically high levels of property damage.
3. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
4. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
5. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 8/23/2012, bear #2394 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3899, 13 year-old female:**

This bear was first captured in Yosemite Valley as a yearling on July 26, 2001 and fitted with white tag #46 in the right ear. It was captured again on August 16, 2007 after a string of vehicle break-ins at El Cap Crossover, and fitted with a radio collar. Bear #3899 was captured for a third time on June 7, 2012. The tag was replaced with the number 64 and it was fitted with a new collar. The bear was captured in 2012 in response to several vehicle break-ins along El Cap Crossover and Devil’s Elbow, in addition to numerous incidents at popular West Valley climbing and picnic areas.

Bear #3899 was been positively identified in 11 incidents, including five incidents involving houses.

On the afternoon of 7/5/2002, #3899 entered two houses in Upper NPS Housing. The bear first ripped a screen and entered an unsecured and unoccupied residence in Upper NPS housing to obtain a moderate quantity of food. When the residents returned, they chased the bear out of the house through another open window. An hour later, the bear ripped through another screen and gained access to the Doctor’s Residence at the Valley Clinic while the occupants were cooking dinner in the kitchen. The residents were able to scare the bear out through the same window before it obtained any food.

Since 2002, bear #3899 spent the majority of its time in the West Valley, periodically obtaining improperly stored food from the base of popular climbs and breaking into vehicles. This bear produced at least six cubs. Several of the cubs have been struck and killed by vehicles. Two of bear #3899’s cubs learned to approach visitors for food in the West Valley as yearlings. They have since been captured, tagged, fitted with transmitters, and actively managed on a regular basis.

On 8/20/2012, an unidentified bear unsuccessfully attempted to gain access to an unoccupied house in Foresta by ripping through the screen of the front door. On 8/22/2012, a bear entered an unoccupied, unsecured Nature Bridge house sometime before 0930 hours and obtained a large quantity of food from the refrigerator and freezer. The occupants returned and closed the windows, but failed to adequately secure the house or report the incident. Between 1700 and 1900 hours, the bear re-entered the house through a second window, obtained more food from the freezer and exited through the same window. At 2230, the residents returned to find a third window broken into. This time the bear obtained a large quantity of food from the pantry. They followed the trail of food into the yard and found bear #3899 eating the contents of the pantry. They chased the bear a short distance, before it treed. The Bear Management team was finally notified of the incidents and responded to Foresta. The bear was negatively conditioned with two rubber shotgun slugs as it exited the tree.

At 1600 hours on 8/24/2012, a bear forced entry into a third unoccupied and secured house by breaking through four panes of glass. The bear obtained large quantities of food from the refrigerator and destroyed several pantries. The residents returned and positively identified bear #3899 in the area. The Bear Management Team responded and located the bear just outside of the house.

In 2012 alone, bear #3899 was been picked up on telemetry on 185 occasions, sighted on 15 occasions, and negatively conditioned from developed areas five times.

This bear met 5 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. Persistently breaking into structures that are adequately bear-resistant and where food has been properly stored, or where no food exists.
2. Causing escalating or chronically high levels of property damage.
3. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
4. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
5. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 8/25/2012, bear #3899 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3591, 2 year-old female:**

This bear was first captured in the Tuolumne Meadows campground as a yearling on August 14, 2011 and fitted with blue tag #51 in the right ear and a transmitter tag. It was captured again in the Tuolumne Meadows campground on September 14, 2011, in order to replace the transmitter tag that fell off shortly after the first capture. The bear was captured a third time on August 6, 2012 in the Tuolumne Meadows campground in order to attach a new ear tag and a radio collar.

As a yearling in 2011, this bear was positively identified in 12 incidents. In eight of these incidents the bear came into campsites while the visitors were awake in their sites, approaching within 10-15 feet of people in order to get food. In September 2011, two additional bear management volunteers (for a total of 4 bear management staff) were placed in Tuolumne Meadows in order to have seven day/week coverage to keep this bear from causing more incidents, and to try to dissuade the bear from spending time in the campground. These efforts worked temporarily in discouraging the bear from spending as much time in the campground until the campground closed at the end of September.

In August 2012, bear 3591 returned to the Tuolumne Meadows area. The bear continued to display increasingly bold behavior throughout August and into September, and was positively identified in 16 incidents, and implicated in many others. Eight these incidents involved the bear approaching to within 5-10 feet of people to get food. In an additional three incidents the bear approached within 15-20 feet of people. In many of these incidents visitors were unable to scare the bear away.

In 2012, between August and September, this bear was observed on over 60 occasions, and was negatively conditioned from developed areas during 54 of these sightings. In 2012, bear 3591 was negatively conditioned with bean bag, and rubber slugs from a shotgun on 13 occasions, and with clear paintballs on 10 additional occasions.

Two years of well documented efforts to curtail this bear’s continuous attempts to locate and obtain human food throughout Tuolumne Meadows proved unsuccessful. In addition to bear # 3591’s increasingly bold behavior, the amount of time and resources devoted to chasing this bear all over the Tuolumne Meadows campground accounted for the majority of the Tuolumne Bear Team’s shifts on a nightly basis over the course of two summers. This reduced the time they could spend on less heavily conditioned bears that have a better chance of returning to more natural behavior.

This bear met 3 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
3. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 9/13/2012, bear #3591 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**Bear # 3565, 10 year-old male:**

This bear has been captured ten times in Yosemite Valley over the span of five years. Bear #3565 was first captured in Curry Village as a five year old on November 23, 2008. The bear was fitted with white tag #14 in the left ear and released back in Yosemite Valley. Bear #3565 was captured three times in 2009 and was retagged with an orange tag #66 and fitted with a radio collar. In 2009 this bear was positively identified in two bear incidents, one where it obtained food left out at Curry Village, and another where it obtained food from inside of the camper shell of a truck at the Medical Clinic.

On April 12, 2010 bear #3565 was captured at the Tecoya housing area and was fitted with a new radio collar, but dropped the collar within a day. In June, 2010 this bear obtained a backpack that had been set down by a visitor on the Mirror Lake Road. The bear bluff charged a group of people who were yelling at it trying to scare it away from the food. On July 9, 2010 the bear was captured in the former Lower River Campground area in Yosemite Valley, and fitted with a new radio collar. This time bear #3565 was translocated to upper Eagle Creek. The bear was back in Yosemite Valley within a week and was captured at North Pines and released at the Valley Wood Lot on July 16, 2010. In July and August 2010, this bear was positively identified in six incidents including damage to three vehicles along with other incidents which included damage to the Happy Isles A Frame and the bear popping a screen off of a door in an occupied home. In November, 2011 bear #3565 was identified obtaining food from an unsecured garage in Yosemite Valley. In August 2011 bear #3565 was observed pulling trash out of the bed of a pickup truck in Yosemite Valley, and was captured twice that month. During one of these captures it was fitted with a new radio collar and ear tag orange 36.

Again, on August 12, 2012 bear #3565 was captured in Yosemite Valley and fitted with a new radio collar. Bear #3565 was in and out of Yosemite Valley since 2008, both by translocation and on its own, but had always returned and been involved in bear incidents. In 2012, this bear spent most of the summer outside of developed areas and left the Valley altogether between mid-September and late-November. Beginning the last week in November, 2012 bear incidents involving vehicle break-ins and building damage resumed in Yosemite Valley, but no bears were positively identified on scene.

On December 6, 2012 bear # 3565 was found inside of the shed in the Valley Indian Village. The bear had done substantial damage to the roof of the building tearing off shingles on about 25% of the roof, and ripping large pieces of wood and insulation off to gain access to the interior of the building where it ate flour and other food. The bear was scared out of the building by wildlife management staff, and food was removed from the building. The bear reentered the building later that night, and facilities staff patched the roof the following day. The bear continued to rip off the boards to get into the shed on at least two more occasions. Between November 29, 2012 and December 9, 2012 bear #3565 continuously entered developed areas and was negatively conditioned on more than ten occasions, including with four banger rounds, once with a paintball gun, and with seven rubber slugs and bean bags. Since bear #3565 was first tagged in 2008, it has been negatively conditioned over a hundred times. This bear has been hit with more than 20 bean bags and rubber slugs, and hit with paintball rounds on over 30 different occasions.

Four years of well-documented efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food, and escalating property damage throughout Yosemite Valley were unsuccessful. Bear # 3565’s increasing persistence at getting into hard sided structures, was of particular concern. Although the bear had not yet injured a person, it is likely that its behavior of breaking into structures would have continued, regardless of negative conditioning attempts by the wildlife management, and law enforcement staff. Additionally, this bear has multiple injuries from unknown causes, with a severe limp since 2009. The bear currently does not put its rear right foot on the ground when walking. This injury could be affecting its foraging behavior, and making it more persistently in developed areas where it has easily gotten food in the past.

This bear met 5 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. Persistently breaking into structures that are adequately bear-resistant and where food has been properly stored, or where no food exists.
2. Causing escalating levels or chronically high levels of property damage.
3. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
4. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
5. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

On 12/15/2012, bear #3565 was captured and killed by lethal injection.

**2013**

**BEAR DEATHS**

Sixteen bears were hit by vehicles in 2013 (two were also hit just outside of the park at the Yosemite View Lodge). Of these, two bears were dead upon arrival of park staff representing 13% of bears hit in 2013.

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

An untagged bear was euthanized outside of YNP at Camp Mather after sustaining third degree burns over most of its body during the Rim Fire.

**Bear #3543, 3 year old male:**

On September 7, 2013, CAFW requested assistance with a bear burned in the Rim Fire at Camp Mather, outside of the park. Permission was granted by CAFW to euthanize the bear. A CAFW Game Warden was present to assist the darting and lethal injection. The Warden disposed of the carcass outside of the Park.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2013. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3037, 16 year old female:**

The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3037 (a 16 year old female) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear was displaying at Glacier Point, along the Panorama trail, and in Yosemite Valley, and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

This bear was captured four times in Yosemite Valley in a span of fifteen years. Bear #3037 was first captured in Yellow Pine Campground as a five year old on September 27, 1999. The bear was fitted with yellow tag #47 in the left ear and released back in Yosemite Valley. The bear was not recaptured until May 19, 2011 in the Curry Village Orchard by which point the bear’s tag had fallen off. Bear # 3037 was retagged with yellow tag 48 in her left ear and released again in the Valley. Bear # 3037 was captured twice more during the summer of 2011 in Yosemite Valley, but released on site without being processed both times.

Between 1999 and 2002, bear # 3037 was mostly seen foraging naturally in the Glacier Point area, including the Panorama Trail and Sentinel Dome. During the summer months in 2002 the bear’s behavior became increasingly bold. In 2002, bear # 3037 began obtaining food from numerous people picnicking by walking nearby until the picnickers were scared away from their food. The bear repeatedly obtained food from overflowing trashcans in the Glacier Point area in close proximity to people. Bear # 3037 could be chased off with aggressive hazing, but would return soon after. The bear also was identified entering the restrooms at Glacier Point. Bear # 3037 entered ranger cabins at Glacier Point on two occasions in 2002. The first was on July 8, when the bear got into an empty cabin through a window, obtaining substantial amounts of food. The bear was scared off by the residents (who were not inside at the time). The following night Bear # 3037 entered a cabin by ripping a window screen with two rangers sleeping inside. The bear was chased out before obtaining any food.

This bold behavior continued in subsequent years both at the Glacier Point area, and in Yosemite Valley mostly between Yellow Pine Campground and the Chapel. In 2007 bear # 3037 was observed obtaining food left out by campers at Yellow Pine and continued to spend time in very close proximity to visitors at Glacier Point, obtaining trash from overflowing trashcans. Beginning in 2011, bear # 3037 began approaching visitors on the evening star gazing programs at Glacier Point. The bear would walk up to people and snatch bags that were sitting right next to them, sometimes huffing as a show of aggression.

In 2011 bear #3037 was positively identified in an incident where the bear approached a picnic table at Swinging Bridge and took a loaf of bread from a picnic table occupied by visitors. Beginning in 2012, bear # 3037 was positively identified breaking into vehicles and obtaining food at Glacier Point with her two cubs of the year. On May 5, 2013, bear # 3037 again attempted to enter an occupied ranger cabin at Glacier point. The bear was hesitant to leave and was within feet of the resident at the cabin door before it left. In June and July 2013, the bear was seen on numerous other occasions at Glacier Point breaking into vehicles and approaching hikers and picnickers along the Panorama trail and at Glacier Point, scaring visitors away from their food. This bear has been repeatedly hazed by park staff at varying levels (yelling and chasing, along with the use of paintball guns, and a shotgun with less than lethal rounds), but its persistent food conditioned and habituated behavior continued.

Eleven years of well-documented efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food in close proximity to visitors and residents were unsuccessful. Bear # 3037’s behaviors of approaching visitors to obtain food, and continued attempts at getting into hard sided structures, were of particular concern. Additionally, bear # 3037 regularly displayed this behavior while rearing cubs, potentially passing this behavior on to future generations. Although the bear had not yet injured a person, its behavior of breaking into structures and approaching people for food continued, regardless of negative conditioning attempts by the wildlife management, and law enforcement staff.

This bear met 4 out of 9 behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. A high level of aggression that is reflected by chasing people in attempts to obtain food and advancing toward people unprovoked while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing.
2. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
3. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
4. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was recommended by the Wildlife Management staff that bear #3037 be captured and humanely euthanized by lethal injection.

On July 16, 2013 bear #3037 was captured in a culvert trap at the Glacier Point parking lot. The bear was then transported to Yosemite Valley, sedated, and euthanized by lethal injection.

**2014**

**BEAR DEATHS**

Thirteen of the 37 bears (35%) captured in 2014 either died or were found dead. The majority of the known bear fatalities in YNP during 2014 were the result of vehicle accidents (54%).

Two bears (# 3434 and #3510) with YNP ear tags were killed outside the park in 2014 (see Table 6). Both bears were hunted in Sierra National Forest, just outside of the park boundary near Fresno Dome. Bear #3510, a 5 year-old male first captured in Yosemite Valley in 2011 was legally taken and the death was reported to YNP Bear Management by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CAFW). The bear’s tags have not yet been returned by the hunter.

Bear #3434 was outfitted with a GPS collar in July of 2014. In September, the GPS collar transmitted a mortality signal with coordinates in the Sierra National Forest. Ryan Leahy and Cameron Gray (wildlife management staff) and Heidi Schlichting (Wawona law enforcement) went to investigate and located the bear. The bear had been lethally shot and abandoned. The collar and tags remained on the bear and were removed by wildlife management staff. Information on the death was collected in an attempt to make a wanton waste case and was forwarded to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Fish and Wildlife (CAFW). The carcass was left in place.

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

No YNP bears were humanely euthanized in 2014.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

Two bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2014. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3131, 3 year old female:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3131 (a 3 year old female) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear was displaying in Yosemite Valley and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

Bear #3131 had been captured seven times in Yosemite Valley in a span of three years. Bear #3131 was first captured at the Yosemite Valley School field as a one year old on October 9, 2012. The bear was fitted with purple tag # 2 in the right ear along with a transmitter tag, and released back in Yosemite Valley. The bear was recaptured less than a month later on October 20, 2012 and was relocated to Bridalveil Campground (then closed for the season). The bear returned to the Valley by November of 2012 and seemed to be more afraid of people. The bear was recaptured on November 30, 2013 at the Huff House parking lot, given a new transmitter tag, and was again released in the Valley. On April 4, 2014, the bear was captured at Sentinel Beach picnic area and was fitted with a GPS collar and released in the Valley. The bear was captured at least four more times in May of 2014 but released on site with no action other than negative condition taken.

In the fall of 2012, bear #3131 was mostly seen foraging naturally on acorns in Yosemite Valley but was often in close proximity to people. During the Spring and Summer of 2013 she again spent time foraging naturally in Yosemite Valley but was also seen near developed areas or near people, specifically the Pines Campgrounds and the John Muir Trail below Little Yosemite Valley and along the Mist trail. Beginning in the spring of 2014, the bear’s behavior became increasingly bold. Between May and June 2014 the bear was involved in more than 18 incidents in Yosemite Valley.

On May 2, 2014, bear #3131 grabbed a pack left out in Housekeeping Camp containing food. On May 26, the bear obtained food from people at Swinging Bridge by approaching a picnic table and scaring the people away from their food. On June 1, Bear #3131 walked into a site and was able to get a pack before running away even while a group of people tried to scare the bear off. Bear management arrived and the bear bluff charged them and continued to circle the campsite even after the bear was hazed with paintballs. On June 6, the wildlife office received a report from the Ahwahnee hotel that a guest had reported being bluff charged and positively identified bear #3131. When Wildlife staff responded, hotel staff also reported being bluff charged by the same bear that day.

On June 5 and 6 there were two more incidents of the bear taking backpacks from campsites in Backpacker’s camp and running away with them while being yelled at. The bear bluff charged Wildlife Management staff again on June 7 when they were chasing it from Swinging Bridge Picnic area. On June 12, the bear got food from an open food storage locker in Lower Pine Campground and bluff charged three visitors several times when they tried to scare the bear away from their food. On June 13, Bear #3131 approached an occupied tent in Upper Pine Campground and dragged two backpacks from the open vestibule of the tent. The visitors woke up and yelled at the bear but the bear did not leave until the wildlife staff showed up and chased the bear away.

On June 14, 2014 the bear management staff began doing 24 hours/day patrols to attempt to stop this bear’s behavior from continuing to escalate and to prevent any more serious incidents from occurring. Bear #3131’s bold behavior continued even with increased efforts to ensure all food was properly stored and an increase in hazing from wildlife staff. The bear continued to cause incidents by getting food from open bear lockers, tearing into backpacks left out, and investigating tents. On June 17, the bear went up the Mist trail, approaching to within 4 feet of visitors on the trail, even with wildlife staff chasing her off. On June 18 the bear displayed the same behaviors at Glacier Point while wildlife staff continued to chase the bear before it went back down to the Valley.

In 2014 alone, Bear #3131 was hazed using less than lethal rounds (bean bags and rubber slugs) with the shotgun on over 30 occasions, hazed with other high level hazing methods (paintball gun, noisemakers) on 24 occasions, and low level hazed by staff (yelling and chasing) on 43 occasions. Despite these efforts, Bear # 3131 continued to display bold behavior and did not appear to be afraid of people.

Three years of efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food in close proximity to visitors were unsuccessful. Bear #3131’s behaviors of approaching and bluff charging visitors to obtain food, and continued persistence even with wildlife staff’s 24 hour/day efforts were of particular concern. GPS data from May and June show bear #3131’s consistent presence in and around development in Yosemite Valley. Additionally, bear #3131 was likely to have in 2015, and could have potentially passed this behavior on to future generations. Although the bear did not injure a person, it was likely that the bear would have continued to display the behaviors of approaching and bluff charging people for food, regardless of negative conditioning attempts by the wildlife management, and law enforcement staff.

This bear met four out of nine behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors included:

1. A high level of aggression that is reflected by chasing people in attempts to obtain food and advancing toward people unprovoked while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing.
2. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
3. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
4. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #3131 be captured and humanely euthanized by lethal injection. Bear #3131 was captured on June 26, 2014 in a culvert trap in Yosemite Valley, heavily sedated, and humanely euthanized.

**Bear #2255, 24 year old male:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #2255 (a twenty-four year old male) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear displayed in El Portal, and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

Bear #2255 was first captured at Sentinel Beach in Yosemite Valley on July 5, 1993 as a three year old male. The bear was only tagged with a small roto tag #2255 at that time. Between 1995 and 2014, bear #2255 was recaptured 30 times in various Yosemite Valley locations and El Portal, and went through numerous tag colors and numbers, with the most recent being tag blue #1. The bear was almost always released back into the Valley but in 1995 was relocated to Canyon Ranch from Yosemite Valley. In 2012 bear #2255 was captured at the El Portal Community Hall and was relocated to the Valley, but almost immediately returned to El Portal.

Throughout the years bear #2255 was almost always around development, frequently getting into trash cans and dumpsters, but mostly avoiding areas with many people including campgrounds. The bear had often been found stuck inside dumpsters left unclipped. Bear #2255 usually spends the fall, winter, and spring in Yosemite Valley and returns to El Portal for the summer months.

In 2008, Bear #2255 was captured in Upper Housing in Yosemite Valley after a house was broken into by a bear reported as having a green tag. It was unknown if bear #2255 was involved so the bear was released back in the Valley. Between 2009 and 2010 bear #2255 mostly spent summers in El Portal eating from fruit trees in residential areas, and occasionally getting food from unsecured garages. The bear also was known to open vehicles using the handles. On one occasion, bear #2255 got trapped inside a car when the door closed behind it. In 2012 the bear was implicated in two house entries, and was prevalent in the trailer court in El Portal in the summer. His presence in El Portal during the summer continued into 2013 and 2014 with a frequent presence in the Trailer Court.

In the spring of 2014 bear #2255 was captured and fitted with a GPS collar. His movements could be tracked hourly. The bear spent the spring going between Yosemite Valley and the rim of the Valley, but in early July walked to Foresta then down to El Portal where the bear stayed throughout the month. Almost 100% of the bear’s time was spent in Old El Portal and the Trailer Village in El Portal. Beginning on July 23, the bear began entering unoccupied, unsecured homes in Old El Portal. Returning to the same two houses at least four times each over the span of a week. The bear returned to one house once it was occupied, entered the laundry room and was banging on the kitchen door as the occupants yelled at it and tried to get it to leave. The bear did eventually leave, but was persistently trying to return to the house between 11pm and 1am. The bear returned another night and pulled shingles off the side of the house.

On July 30, 2014, two bear management employees were tracking bear #2255 and had already used a bean bag round on the bear that night. The bear entered one of the homes that it had already been in on multiple other nights. The bear pushed open an unsecured door to get in, and went to the kitchen. When bear management employees tried to scare the bear out of the home, the bear was defensive and bluff charged. Although there were no occupants in the downstairs apartment where the bear was, there was somebody home in the upstairs apartment. The bear would not leave the structure for an hour while wildlife staff attempted to get the bear out.

On the night of July 30, 2014, wildlife management staff successfully kept the bear out of homes by chasing the bear from the housing area using three hazing rounds with the shotgun. Early in the morning of August 1, 2014 the bear again entered the same building while being followed and chased by wildlife management staff. The bear pulled open an unsecure door to a crawl space. When wildlife management staff tried to scare the bear out, the bear aggressively bluff charged and swatted at furniture in the building. This time all of the residents were home, but were not occupying the same space as the bear. The bear remained in the structure for over an hour before wildlife management staff darted the bear to remove it from the building.

Twenty one years of efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food had been somewhat successful, but bear #2255’s behaviors in 2014 alone were enough to be a serious public safety concern. Bear #2255’s behavior of entering homes and bluff charging wildlife management staff from inside structures, along with continued persistence in housing areas throughout the years was of particular concern. GPS data from July 2014 showed bear #2255’s consistent presence in housing areas in El Portal. Although the bear did not injure a person, it was likely that the bear would have continued to display the behaviors of entering homes for food.

This bear met four out of nine behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors included:

1. A high level of aggression that is reflected by chasing people in attempts to obtain food and advancing toward people unprovoked while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing.
2. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
3. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
4. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #2255 be captured and humanely euthanized by lethal injection. On August 1, 2014, bear #2255 was darted inside a residence in Old El Portal (as described above) that it would not leave. The bear was transferred to a culvert trap, transported to Yosemite Valley, administered drug, and humanely euthanized through lethal injection.

**2015**

**BEAR DEATHS**

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

One bear (#3631) was humanely euthanized by NPS staff after it was hit by a vehicle on Tioga Road. Tango 1 (Sally Sprouse) initially responded to the bear after it was reported lying in the middle of the road. Sally picked up the bear and moved it to the side of the road where it stood up and walked a short distance before collapsing again. Tango 1 watched the bear for over an hour. It did not move again. Wildlife staff responded from Yosemite Valley, arrived on scene, and was unable to get the bear to rise again. The bear was disoriented with labored breathing. The bear was humanely euthanized with an inter-cardial injection of KCl after a heavy dose of Telazol was administered.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

Two bears were administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2015. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3132, 4 year old female:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3132 (four year old female) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear was displaying in Yosemite Valley and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

Bear #3132 was first captured in Upper Pines Campground in Yosemite Valley on 11/4/2012 as a yearling. The bear was tagged White #5. Between 2012 and 2015, bear #3132 was recaptured five more times in various Yosemite Valley locations. The bear was released back into the Valley on five occasions. The bear was fitted with a GPS collar in April 2014 and Bear Management has been able to visually track her movements on an almost hourly basis since. The bear was captured most recently in April 16, 2015 and was relocated to Badger Pass earlier this year. The bear returned to the Valley within 48 hours.

Bear #3132 was almost exclusively around development in Yosemite Valley. The bear frequently got into trash cans, regularly spent time in picnic areas, and visited campgrounds nightly. Bear #3132 denned right off of the Four Mile Trail in winter 2014, and gave birth to one cub that died earlier in the spring of 2015.

Bear #3132 was positively identified in 32 incidents since 2013. On 5/26/15 the bear repeatedly entered the very crowded Swinging Bridge Picnic area and aggressively pushed at least 30 visitors off of their food while they attempted to scare her off. The bear swatted at a visitor while the visitor attempted to scare her and then remained in the area going from table to table to eat their food. The bear was located in Yellow Pine Campground less than 30 minutes later and aggressively hazed with rubber slugs. On 5/27/15, the bear approached a large group of visitors at Superintendent’s Beach and grabbed a backpack off of a wheelchair with visitors yelling at her from less than 10 feet away.

Four years of efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food had been somewhat successful, but bear #3132’s behaviors in 2015 alone, were enough to be a serious public safety concern. Bear #3132’s behaviors of entering heavily populated picnic areas during daylight hours and scaring people off of their food were of particular concern.

The bear was free range darted near Residence One at 1530 hours on 5/27/15, and was held in a trap at the Wildlife Office until lethal injection could be administered.

This bear met four out of nine behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. A high level of aggression that is reflected by chasing people in attempts to obtain food and advancing toward people unprovoked while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing.
2. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
3. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
4. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, the Wildlife Management staff recommended that bear #3132 be humanely euthanized by lethal injection. Bear #3132 was darted on May 27, in Yosemite Valley, heavily sedated, and humanely euthanized.

**Bear #3520, 9 year old male:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3520 (nine year old male) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear was displaying in Yosemite Valley and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

Bear #3520 was first captured in Yosemite Valley on 5/5/2010 as a sub-adult. The bear was tagged Blue #53. Between 2010 and 2015, bear #3520 was recaptured ten more times in various Yosemite Valley locations. The bear was re-tagged Blue #54, and fitted with a GPS collar in April 2014, and Bear Management was able to visually track his movements on an almost hourly basis after that. The bear was captured most recently on May 26, 2015 and was fitted with a new GPS collar. The bear was translocated to Tuolumne Meadows in early May, and again moved to White Wolf in late May. Bear #3520 returned from both translocation attempts within days. The bear had a history of supplementing natural foods with human foods, and would periodically leave Yosemite Valley for long stretches.

Bear #3520 was positively identified in 38 incidents since 2010. On most occasions the bear obtained improperly stored human food, but in 2014 and 2015 the bear began breaking into vehicles in occupied campsites and successfully gained entry to properly secured trailers being used by large groups for food storage in the Pines Campgrounds. On 5/20/15 our crew responded to the bear inside of a vehicle in Lower Pines Campground. The bear refused to leave the vehicle for 20 minutes while Wildlife Staff attempted to scare it away from the area. On 7/8/15, a bear matching the description ripped the door off of a properly secured trailer to obtain a large food reward. The visitors and camp hosts on scene had a very difficult time scaring the bear out of the area. When it finally left, the bear ran within feet of two people and grabbed food out of an adjacent food storage locker. The bear also bluffed charged a volunteer in early July 2015, and was the only bear in the Park that was breaking into vehicles.

Starting on 7/8/15, Wildlife Management tracked the bear 24 hours per day in an attempt to use aversive conditioning to change this behavior. During that time, Wildlife staff negatively conditioned the bear 28 times. The bear continued to obtain several food rewards in spite of this intensive aversive conditioning effort.

Five years of efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food were somewhat successful, but bear #3520’s behaviors in 2015 alone were enough to be a serious threat to at least a dozen non-food conditioned bears that use Yosemite Valley. Bear #3520’s behaviors of persistently entering crowded campgrounds to break into vehicles and secured trailers to obtain food were of particular concern.

This bear met five out of nine behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors include:

1. Persistently breaking into structures that are adequately bear-resistant and where food has been properly stored, or where no food exists.
2. Causing escalating or chronically high levels of property damage.
3. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
4. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
5. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #3520 be humanely euthanized by lethal injection. Bear #3520 was darted on July 16,2015, heavily sedated, and euthanized by lethal injection.

**2016**

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

No bears were euthanized for humane reasons in 2016.

**MANAGEMENT EUTHANASIA:**

One bear was administered euthanasia by lethal injection for management reasons in 2016. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, discussions with the Yosemite Bear Council, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #2311, 15 year old female:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #2311 (15 year old female) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the persistently destructive and bold behavior this bear was displaying in the Little Yosemite Valley (LYV) area and a history of conflicts with humans of increasing severity.

Bear #2311 was first captured in the wilderness at the JMT/Cloud’s Rest Trail junction camp on 7/11/2014 as an adult. The bear was tagged Purple #6 and fitted with a GPS collar. Bear Management was able to visually track this bear’s movements on an almost hourly basis from the time of first capture until the collar dropped as planned in April, 2016. The bear was recently recaptured on 7/20/2016, and was fitted with a new GPS collar.

Since 2014, Wilderness, Wildlife, and LE work units performed countless wilderness patrols to target and mitigate this bear’s attempts to gain access to human food and educated the public in the area about proper food storage. Wildlife staff alone spent over 75 nights and 100 days patrolling the Little Yosemite Valley (LYV) area focused negative conditioning on bear #2311 and educated visitors about food storage. Despite these efforts, bear #2311 continued to become bolder and bolder to get human food.

Since first captured, Bear #2311 was positively identified in nine incidents involving damage to human property and was implicated in several other incidents.

On July 17th 2014, bear #2311 obtained food and displayed aggression in two incidents on the same day at the Sunrise Creek and Cloud’s Rest Junction area along the John Muir Trail. In the first incident, bear #2311 had obtained food illegally hung from a tree and was guarding it when Wildlife staff showed up. The bear continued to guard the food huffing at and bluff charging staff even with intense yelling and chasing. Later that night, the bear broke the lid off a bear canister that had not been latched completely, and again guarded the food with huffing, moaning, and bluff charging.

The next year, on August 8, 2015, bear #2311 obtained another illegal food hang. When the visitors attempted to scare the bear off by yelling at it from 15 feet away, the bear bluff charged to within three to four feet of the visitors. Several more reported incidents in 2015 described bear #2311 approaching to within feet of visitors at campsites to obtain food.

In 2016, bear #2311 was positively identified in three incidents. The first occurred on May 27th, 2016 when the bear ripped the top off a backpack empty of food. The second incident occurred on July 19th, when visitors were sitting on a log eating dinner with their bear canister within arm’s reach behind them. Bear #2311 grabbed the canister and ran away with it only minutes after wildlife staff had talked to the backpackers about bear activity in the area. The third incident occurred on July 23rd, when a group of boy scouts saw bear #2311 get into a canister they had left the lid off of.

In addition to the above incidents regarding human property, bear #2311 showed escalating patterns of habituation to human presence. Throughout the summer of 2016, visitors and staff reported bear #2311 approaching to within feet of backpackers to obtain food, sitting just outside of campsites watching campers prepare food, and walking through crowded campsites even though visitors were yelling. This bear was also seen destroying packs and taking packs devoid of food.

Bear #2311 has been negatively conditioned dozens of times, and has not responded in a way that would suggest positive behavioral change. GPS data shows that this bear is persistently within 100 yards of wilderness campsites, both at the trail junction at Sunrise Creek and Cloud’s Rest and in LYV. Over two years of focused efforts to curtail this bear’s attempts to locate and obtain human food have not proven successful, and bear #2311’s behaviors have continued to progress. Bear #2311’s behaviors of persistently entering crowded wilderness camps to obtain food within a few feet of people are of particular concern.

This bear met four out of nine behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan that are criteria for destruction of a bear. These behaviors included:

1.) Persistently breaking into structures that are adequately bear-resistant and where food has been properly stored, or where no food exists.

2.) Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.

3.) Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

4.) Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on the bold and persistent behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #2311 be humanely euthanized by lethal injection.

Bear #2311 was darted free on August 2, 2016 in Little Yosemite Valley. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**2017  
  
HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

One bear was humanely killed after being hit by a vehicle in 2017. Bear #3248 was an tagged/uncollared five year old female who was hit by a vehicle in Merced Grove parking. The bear was dispatched using a firearm by Mather LE with two gunshots.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:**No bears were killed for management removal in Yosemite National Park in 2017.

**2018  
  
HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

No bears were humanely euthanized in Yosemite National Park in 2018.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:**

One bear was killed by lethal injection for management reasons in 2018. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. This action occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bear’s behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3223, two year old female:** The Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3223 (2 year old female) be humanely killed. At around 1600 hours on 7/12/2018, this bear was positively identified as it approached and bit a hiker on the Mist Trail switchbacks below Nevada Falls near Liberty Cap. This management recommendation is based on the clear threat to human safety this incident reflects, as well as the increasingly habituated behavior of this bear observed by NPS staff since 2017.

Bear #3223 was first captured at the Valley water tank on 6/16/2017 as a yearling. The bear was tagged White #23, fitted with a transmitter tag, and released at Bridalveil Campground in an attempt to persuade it to establish a home range away from heavy human development.

This bear spent almost all of 2017 using the Mist Trail/JMT- often extremely close to, or on busy trails. It was reportedly hand fed by visitors in early June of 2017 at the Vernal Falls footbridge, and was regularly surrounded by large crowds along the trail. During the initial capture, the bear approached the capture team and was darted from just a few feet away.

After release, the bear came right back to the Mist/JMT trail area and was negatively conditioned aggressively by wildlife staff for the remainder of the 2017 season. These efforts resulted in decreased proximity to visitors on busy trails, and positive avoidance response to negative conditioning, but the bear remained extremely habituated to human presence.

The bear returned to the JMT trail area in spring of 2018, and was again very close to trails and large groups of visitors. The bear was recaptured on 4/24/2018 near Mirror Lake, fitted with a new GPS collar and released at the Ostrander trailhead. It returned after a few weeks, and was captured once more on 5/18/2018 in the Valley and released on site.

Wildlife staff continued to focus on negatively conditioning the bear dozens of times since April 2018.

Bear #3223 was negatively conditioned scores of times, and did not respond in a way that would suggest long-term positive behavioral change. GPS data showed that this bear was persistently within 10 yards of busy wilderness trails, and has been observed using the steep and narrow Mist Trail during peak visitation at all times of day.

On 7/12/18, the bear was observed by NPS staff at the flat area just below the Nevada Falls switchback. A large crowd had gathered around it, but the bear moved away from the trail and the crowd dispersed. Approximately an hour later the bear chose to ascend the narrow switchbacks (very bold during daylight hours), and was startled from above by a group of visitors who were surprised by its close proximity to them. Another pair of hikers had just rounded a blind switchback, and was within 20 feet of the bear when it bluff charged the first group of visitors. The bear immediately turned to the second group and walked straight toward them. The female hiker was in front, and had just enough time to cover herself in a defensive position before the bear made contact with her, sniffed her head, and bit her shoulder leaving minor puncture wounds and some abrasions. The male hiker observed the White #23 tag clearly in the bear’s left ear and noted the presence of a GPS collar. He stated that the bear appeared to bite down and start to lift the woman up by the shoulder, but ran off when the woman screamed. The bear then ran downhill and off the trail toward the Liberty Cap/Mt. Broderick gully. The woman stated that she remained very calm throughout the incident and was familiar with bears and what to do in event of attack. The visitors were shaken, but continued on to Nevada Falls and back to the Valley via the JMT to avoid crossing paths with the bear again. Bear Management received a call from dispatch regarding the incident around 1830 hours, and responded to the clinic to take the report. The visitor refused medical treatment and gave the wildlife biologist their summary of the incident.

As a result of this incident, this bear met the following behavioral factor listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear.

1.) Aggression that results in human injury, when the attack is unprovoked, or is clearly aberrant behavior, or is the result of a high degree of habituation to humans.

Based on this incident and the escalating behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Wildlife Management staff that bear #3223 be humanely euthanized by lethal injection.

Bear #3223 was darted free on July 12, 2018 at on the Valley Loop Trail by the ridge between the Concession Stables Horse Trail and Mirror Lake Bus Stop. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**2019**

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

Two bears were humanely euthanized by NPS staff after being hit by vehicles in 2019. Bear #3639 was a yearling male found unable to move, run, or walk after being hit by vehicle on Big Oak Flat Road between Long Tunnel and Cascade Creek. The bear was sedated with a jabstick and held overnight to see if it would recover but remained abnormally responsive to stimulus. While the bear was able to briefly stand it never regained the ability to ambulate and ultimately was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl. A male cub of the year (Bear #3203) was found severely injured and immobile after being hit by vehicle one mile north of Mariposa Grove on Wawona Road. Wawona LE dispatched the bear with a gunshot to the head.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:**

No bears were killed for management removal in Yosemite National Park in 2019.

**2020**

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

Three bears were humanely euthanized by NPS staff after being hit by vehicles in 2020. One bear (#3419) was a male yearling that was hit approximately one half mile east of Porcupine “Quarter Mile to Pullout” sign on Tioga Road on July 30, 2020. The bear was unable to move from road and was euthanized by firearm to head. The second bear (#3070) humanely euthanized in 2020 was a cub of the year that was hit five miles south of Chinqapin on Wawona Road and sustained substantial head trauma on August 1. The sow would not abandon its cub and needed to be hazed away from the cub so that the cub could be humanely dispatched with firearm. The final bear (#3626) humanely euthanized was a male cub of the year hit on the Mariposa Grove access road on August 30, 2020. The bear was unable to move its hind legs and had an open leg fracture and was euthanized by gunshot to head by Wawona LE.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:**

No bears were euthanized for management removal in Yosemite National Park in 2020. One bear (Bear #3717, “Green 11”) was killed outside of the park at Cedar Lodge with a legal depredation permit from California Department of Fish and Wildlife following a series of car break-ins at the hotel.

**2021**

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

No bears were euthanized for humane reasons in 2021.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:**

Seven bears including a sow and two cubs of the year were killed by lethal injection for management reasons in 2021. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #3797, six year old male**:The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3797 be humanely killed in 2021. This management recommendation was based on the increasing threat to human safety, as well as the increasingly habituated and food conditioned behaviors displayed by this bear observed by NPS staff since 2018. Since this bear was first captured in 2018, this bear came and went naturally from Yosemite Valley. Though translocation was not tried, it was not expected that the bear would remain away from Yosemite Valley long term, and the behavior that has persisted for four years would be unchanged by those efforts.

Bear #3797 was first captured at Happy Isles A-Frame on 05/22/2018 as a 3-year old bear. The bear was tagged Yellow 97, fitted with a radio collar, and released on site. The bear was seen very frequently near developed areas in Yosemite Valley and hazed over 30 times by bear management staff, but did not cause any incidents. The radio collar dropped off the bear and was retrieved in late November of 2018.

The bear was captured again on 5/31/2019 at Lower River Amphitheater in the Valley, fitted with another radio collar, and released on site. The bear successfully removed this radio collar within one month. Bear #3797 was seen frequently near development, mostly foraging wildly but becoming increasingly habituated to people. During 2019, bear #3797 was hazed on 28 occasions. These efforts resulted in decreased proximity to visitors in Yosemite Valley, and positive avoidance response to negative conditioning, but the bear remained extremely habituated to human presence.

Due to his continuing proximity to people and development, the bear was again darted and captured on 11/6/2019 and fitted with a GPS collar and given a new AllFlex tag, Yellow 32. The bear was active during the first snowstorm but went into a den in December. In early 2020 the bear returned to the Valley after a short hibernation, and was again seen in areas in close proximity to people and development. In 2020, bear #3797 was hazed over 120 times and caused eight bear incidents. Food conditioned behavior escalated and in July 2020, bear #3797 scared picnickers off multiple coolers at Swinging Bridge, obtaining food as a reward. The same month, the bear bluff charged an employee in Hutchings Orchard, and ripped an un-occupied tent in Yellow Pine Campground. In August 2020, Bear 3797 got food from backpacks on the Panorama trail, and successfully scared visitors off their food on the Yosemite Falls trail. Incidents with this bear picked up again in October, when the bear scared a large group of people off their picnic at Cathedral Beach, and later obtained unattended food from climbers at Swan Slab.

In 2021, three additional concerning incidents occurred. On 6/27/21 Yellow 32 walked up and scared people off their picnic at Mirror Lake. The bear spent 20 minutes on the food while many visitors watched, until staff arrived with hazing rounds. The next day, the bear again scared four concession employees off their food at a beach near the Ahwahnee Hotel, despite their attempts to scare the bear away. Ultimately the employees retreated and the bear got a food reward.

On June 8, 2021, bear 3797 approached the backpack of an off-duty special agent who was at the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. The off-duty agent yelled at the bear, and bear 3797 bluff charged him twice to within five feet causing the agent to retreat to the water to avoid contact with the bear. Bear 3797 again bluff charged him a minute later. The backpack did not have food inside but this was clearly food conditioned behavior.

As a result of this bears history and escalating behavior, with over 178 hazing events by wildlife staff on bear 3797, this bear met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1) A high level of aggression that is reflected by:

a) Chasing people in attempts to obtain food.

b) Advancing toward people unprovoked (e.g., not defending cubs) while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing, laying back ears, or baring teeth.

2) Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.

3) Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

Based on the persistent and escalating behavior exhibited by this animal and the resulting threat to human safety, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that bear #3797 be humanely killed by lethal injection.

Bear #3797 was darted free on July 11, 2021 at Residence 1. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**Bear #3636, 5 year old female**: The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that bear #3636 (5-year-old female) be humanely killed in 2021. This management recommendation is based on the potential threat to human safety due to the increasingly habituated and aggressive behaviors displayed by this bear observed by NPS staff since 2017, and the potential to pass these behaviors on to future offspring.

Bear #3636 was first captured at Mirror Lake bus stop on 8/4/2017 as a yearling. The bear was tagged Purple #26, fitted with a transmitter tag, and released on site. The bear was captured five more times, fitted with GPS collars, and was been relocated twice; once to Bridalveil Creek Campground (from which it returned within 48 hours), and once to White Wolf (from which it returned after two months).

In 2017 the bear was seen frequently on the JMT/Mist Trail, Mirror Lake, and Happy Isles. The bear was mostly foraging naturally but would tolerate people in close proximity and showed signs of habituation. The bear was hazed several times in August and September of that year, but was not observed after that. The bear returned in May of 2018 and was hazed four times before being captured and translocated to Bridalveil Creek Campground (closed at the time). Though the bear quickly returned, it remained mostly out of the Valley throughout the year.

The bear again returned to the JMT/Mist Trail in April of 2019 and immediately became persistent foraging on the previous year’s abundant acorns that were in close proximity to the trail. The bear became increasingly comfortable along this trail, walking within feet of people and becoming comfortable surrounded by large groups of visitors. In an effort to keep this bear away from people, park staff patrolled this trail consistently throughout the summer. The frequency of hazing events on this bear skyrocketed, with 53 hazing events on bear #3636 in 2019. Though the bear did show some positive avoidance to the rangers hazing it, these efforts only slightly altered the bears behavior in decreasing its proximity to visitors on this busy trail system and trailhead. A visitor report of bear #3636 accurately summarizes the animal’s behavior in August 2019, “This bear appears to be completely desensitized to human beings. It was entirely docile yesterday but given its willingness to walk so close to people on a busy hiking trail, I worry about the possibility of physical contact should a person do something to startle or aggravate the bear”. Bear Management spent a significant portion of staff time and effort on this bear in 2019.

On 5/16/2020, while the park was closed to visitation due to COVID-19, bear #3636 bluff charged an off-duty NPS employee on the JMT below Clark Point. this was the first documented bear incident by this bear. The bear was translocated to White Wolf in early June as an attempt to move this bear from the trail where it was impossible to escape the ever presence of people, but it returned by late July. Once back in the Valley the bear quickly resumed its previous behavior and was hazed a total of 55 times throughout that year.

Since April 2021, bear #3636 has been commonly observed and hazed by wildlife staff in and around development and people throughout the Valley and along the JMT/Mist trail. Bear #3636 was hazed 31 times in 2021, and again took a significant portion of bear management staff time and effort with little to no positive behavior change. Observation records (which only include instances that were reported to a ranger) show an additional 25 cases where this bear was in close proximity to the observer (described as less than 20 feet). Starting in 2019 and as recently as last month, videos posted to social media platforms by visitors depict the bear walking within feet of people on the busy Mist trail below Vernal Falls as people scatter or approach for a better picture.

Since the first incident in 2020, Bear #3636 was involved in only two food-related incidents, but has bluff charged on four documented occasions with three of these incidents occurring in one week. The bear’s behavior appeared to be increasingly agitated and aggressive (not wanting to leave, bluff charging people during hazing events, and returning to development soon after being hazed multiple times in a row). Even after 145 hazing events, bear #3636 continued to forage in and around development, often tolerating people when they are within 5-10 feet.

As a result of this bear’s deep habituation to people, lack of adequate response to hazing, an ever increasing presence in human development and in extremely close proximity to people, potential to injure a person, and the likelihood of offspring next year (passing this behavior to another generation), this bear met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. A high level of aggression that is reflected by: Advancing toward people unprovoked (e.g., not defending cubs) while displaying threatening behavior such as huffing, laying back ears, or baring teeth.
2. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based everything described above, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that bear #3636 be humanely killed.

Bear #3636 was darted free on July 15, 2021 in Ahwahnee Meadow. Bear #3636 obtained a food reward from food stored in some climber’s bouldering pad by Sugar Pines Bridge during the course of the darting leading up to her lethal removal. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**Untagged bear (later bear #3068), 5 year old male:** The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that the large, dark, brown untagged bear with distinctive blond molt be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the potential threat to human safety due to the bear entering an occupied residence in the early hours of this morning. This bear was also a major threat to other bears in the area as it was observed pulling food outside for another smaller bear to consume this morning. The smaller bear did not enter the building, but Bear Management intended to capture, tag, and affix a tracking device however was not successful in locating the smaller bear.

The larger bear was observed regularly obtaining trash from unsecured dumpsters and open-top dumpsters in Wawona since at least fall of 2020. All trapping efforts between 2020 fall and early winter of 2021 failed to tag and transmitter this animal. The lack of capture success was attributed to readily available unsecured trash, and sporadic observations indicating it was not residing there full-time. The bear took advantage of the years-long issue in Wawona of inadequate trash storage (open tops), broken dumpsters, and poor emptying schedules. The bear was positively identified by every member of the Wawona LE staff in recent months and has been hazed with high-level shotgun rounds on at least five occasions; including the morning this memo was written.

While previous incidents were minor and mostly involving trash, the last incidents where this bear was observed, recorded, and photographed are of rapidly escalating severity. The first incident occurred mid-day at the contracting trailers at the Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant on 8/2/21. The bear pulled a flat handled door of a trailer open and proceeded to consume all food inside with the entire group of construction workers within 20 yards. The bear calmly dragged food from the trailer and consumed it while ignoring low level hazing attempts by contractors on scene. There were multiple traps opened throughout Wawona for the following five days/nights without success.

At least three additional incidents (no bears observed) were reported and documented on private property in Wawona since 8/2/21. These included a cabin being shredded from the outside with access almost gained to the kitchen. Two additional reports of bears breaking into the Seventh Day Adventist Camp kitchen and obtaining large quantities of human food were received in the prior week.

The most recent and concerning incident occurred at 0500 on 8/6/21 when the same bear from the 8/2/21 incident ripped a porch-level window screen to gain access to an ***occupied*** kitchen. One of the renters observed the bear coming through the window only feet from where he, his wife, and newborn were sleeping in the living room while another individual was present in the adjacent room. He attempted to chase the bear out while his family sheltered in the back room, but the bear ignored all attempts to dissuade it. The bear went in and out of the window several times to get more food and bring food out to the smaller bear, all while four people were sheltering in a back room. They called 911and I responded from the Valley while three Wawona LE units responded directly to find the bear still in the area. The bears ate well over 10,000 calories over the time it took for anyone to arrive on scene. While the first LE on scene checked on the visitors, the bear left but a photo was taken prior for identification purposes. Wildlife Management and Wawona Law enforcement officers were certain this was the same bear from the 8/2/21 incident.

Although we did not have a complete history of this bear’s activity, the entering of occupied structures was extremely concerning behavior. This bear met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.
3. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on everything described above, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that the large dark bear with a distinctive molt in Wawona be humanely killed.

This untagged bear posthumously labelled bear #3068 was culvert trapped on August 6, 2022 in Cedar Circle in Wawona. Wawona LE positively identified the bear in a tree prior to capture as well as in the trap. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**Bear #3077 family group, 7 year old female and two cubs of the year:** The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that Bear #3077 and this bear’s two cubs of the year be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the potential threat to human safety due to the bears displaying advanced habituation and food-conditioned behavior that escalated substantially within one week. In one week the family group entered at least two occupied buildings in Yosemite Valley, eaten large quantities of food from a Yosemite Hospitality freezer, and was not responding to near constant attention and hazing from the Bear Management staff working almost 24/7 to keep this group of bears out of human development. Unfortunately, the cubs were also acting independently of the sow in attempts to get food from buildings.

Bear #3077 was first captured in August of 2015 and already showed signs of habituation as a yearling. The bear was tagged with a green number 7 tag and fitted with an ear transmitter. The bear was captured twice between 2016 and 2017 to replace dying transmitters and was consistently in and around people and development in these years. The bear’s first documented incidents occurred in 2018 as a 4-year-old bear, when it opportunistically found improperly stored food at a campground and a beach area.

In 2019, Bear #3077 gave birth to its first two cubs, but only one survived - a female (bear #3066, destruction listed below) who learned from bear #3077 to tolerate people in close proximity. In August of 2019, bear #3077 and her cub obtained unattended food from Yellow Pines. The two were captured in November of 2019 in a culvert trap to replace a failed GPS collar. This first surviving cub of bear #3077 was still consistently living in Yosemite Valley at the time of #3077’s removal and was destroyed later that year.

In 2020, bear #3077 ramped up human-food seeking behavior. In August the bear was implicated in damaging siding on a residence in Yosemite Valley in attempt to access a wasp nest. In October of 2020 we documented four additional incidents. First, bear #3077 approached picnic table in Lower Pines, scaring visitors and obtaining a food reward. Next, this bear approached a sleeping man in a hammock and took food from underneath him, coming to within a couple feet. Then, bear #3077 pushed through a residential screen in pursuit of the scent of brownies being baked while the house was occupied. Finally, bear #3077 obtained an unattended bucket of honey at the Aramark warehouse. The bear was captured in November 2020 and re-tagged with a green number 2 tag.

In 2021 Bear #3077 gave birth to two cubs, one brown and one black. They emerged from their den at base of Half Dome late in spring and immediately came into the Yosemite Valley where they have been all summer. From the cubs first foray into the Valley until now, bear #3077 has taught the cubs that it is safe to be close to people and how to obtain human food. In June, bear #3077 and cubs stole an unguarded backpack and obtained food at Swan Slab, damaged an unattended tent in North Pines (no food present), and scared picnickers off their food at Sugar Pine bridge beach – obtaining a food reward for the behavior.

Throughout July and into August, bear # 3077 and cubs continued to consistently come within close proximity to people and show poor results from hazing attempts by Bear Management staff. The family group began to appear more focused on obtaining food from human sources and thus were captured on August 8 and moved to White Wolf campground, in hopes they would find a better natural food source outside of human development. The bears returned within a few days to the Valley and almost immediately escalated their behavior further.

Early in the morning on August 11 bear #3077 and cubs opened an unlocked freezer at the Curry Village back dock and consumed a large amount of calories in the form of ice cream and chicken. Bear Management was not notified of this incident until 24 hours later when the bears had returned and forced entry into the then locked freezer, again obtaining food. On the evening of August 11 Bear Management staff hazed bear #3077 and cubs through the Curry back dock/Pizza Deck area. Shortly after a bear (based on description, timing, and GPS data we believe to be bear #3077) was found inside the Pizza Deck kitchen just after midnight. Yosemite Hospitality employees were closing the Curry Pavilion and discovered a bear inside the pizza kitchen. The bear ran when it saw the Yosemite Hospitality staff, who opened the front door of the Pizza Deck and the bear ran out. No food loss or property damage was found besides a tipped trash can.

Starting on the morning of August 12 when dispatch called out staff at 5:30am, Bear Management staff changed schedules so that there was near 24-hour coverage to monitor and haze these three bears. On August 13 in the early morning after Bear Management staff spent hours hazing these bears away from the Curry back dock, the brown cub was found investigating the Curry Village back dock solo while bear #3077 was more than four hundred yards away in the talus behind the Curry amphitheater. Later that evening bear #3077 and cubs moved to the Ahwahnee portico area at dusk and returned multiple times to the area.

On the night of August 14 bear #3077 and cubs went to the Ahwahnee back dock, and while the sow investigated dumpsters both cubs independently entered a door that led to the front desk office and wandered inside the hotel until they were scared out by Ahwahnee staff. Later, on the morning of August 15 we believe bear #3077 entered the Curry Village kitchen around 03:00 while her cubs were independently hanging out on the Pizza Deck, investigating trash and scents. The bear defecated in the kitchen and knocked over a trash can but was not properly identified.

At this point bear #3077 and two cubs were nearly unresponsive to hazing methods including pyrotechnics, yelling and chasing, paintball guns, and hazing rounds from the shotgun (on the sow). The cubs continued to approach Bear Management staff while they made continued hazing attempts. The entire family group was extremely habituated and food conditioned.

Bear #3077 bear met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.

2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

3. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Bear #3077’s two cubs of the year met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.

2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

Based on everything described above, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that the bear #3077 and two cubs of the year be humanely killed.

Bear #3077 was free-darted on August 16, 2022 in Ahwahnee Meadow. The two cubs of year (posthumously labelled bear #2202 brown male and #2218 black female) were subsequently trapped in cub traps using apples as bait. Each member of this family group was individually heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**Bear #3666, two year old female:** The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that Bear #3666 (2-year-old female) be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the potential threat to human safety due to the bear displaying advanced habituation and food-conditioned behavior escalating since it was fist observed as a cub in 2019. This bear was the offspring of bear #3077 that was previously euthanized with cubs of the year in August 2021. This behavior was part of a larger pattern of significant habituation of all known members of this family group and has been directly transmitted from bear #3077.

Bear #3666 was first captured as a cub on November 6, 2019 with her mother (bear #3077) and tagged with a small yellow roto tag. Throughout 2019, this family group displayed significant habituation to human presence and was constantly in developed areas within Yosemite Valley and were hazed a total of 54 times by park staff. The pair were positively identified obtaining unattended food only once that year when they entered Yellow Pine Campground in mid-August 2019.

On June 13, 2020 bear #3666 was captured alone as a yearling, fitted with a transmitter tag and tag White 8. She was translocated to White Wolf Campground (closed) but returned to the Valley within 24 hours. She was extremely persistent in developed areas within Yosemite Valley throughout 2020 where large crowds would often surround her in apple trees. Bear #3666 was identified obtaining improperly stored human food once last year on August 8, when she ate a large bag of food left out while visitors were too far away to protect it at the river near the Ahwahnee Hotel. During the 2020 season bear # 3666 was hazed 62 times by park staff.

To better manage this bear, bear #3666 was recaptured on May 18, 2021 near the Ahwahnee Dorms and fitted with a GPS collar. The bear was again moved to White Wolf (closed) but again returned to the Valley within 24 hours. Bear #3666 was habituated to people since she was a cub and became increasingly persistent in seeking human food where people are present throughout 2021. This began the first day she was observed in 2021 when she was seen investigating cabins in Housekeeping Camp and obtained scraps of food on the ground. Between May and early August 2021, bear #3666 was observed daily foraging mostly on natural foods, but in very close proximity to humans and development. Hazing appeared to be somewhat effective in keeping her out of human food until early August when incidents began to increase in frequency and severity. Following August 7, 2021 bear #3666 was involved in at least six incidents where food was obtained and people were present. The number of incidents was not overwhelming, but the nature of them was highly concerning. The bear learned that she could either sneak up to people to find food near them or scare people from their food. Bear #3666 regularly was seen (and documented on social media) approaching to within feet of people, and eating food while large crowds film her from within 10-20 feet. These incidents occurred almost exclusively in crowded picnic areas in the middle of the day.

Below is a summary of those incidents:

• 5/18/21 – White 8 in Housekeeping for nearly an hour, investigating cabins and getting small caloric rewards.

• 8/7/21 – White 8 got food from an unattended picnic table at Swinging Bridge

• 8/7/21 – Unconfirmed, small bear got food from a bike trailer at Lower Falls. GPS data puts White 8 in the area at the time.

• 8/16/21 – White 8 obtained food from visitors on Cathedral beach who were too far from their food. Took 10 minutes and lots of visitors to finally scare away.

• 8/17/21 – White 8 approached visitors at Cathedral beach until they were scared and backed off. She obtained their picnic. A full can of pepper spray was deployed at the bear, to no avail.

• 8/30/21 – White 8 scared visitors off their bike trailer and she obtained a small amount of food at Swinging Bridge.

• 8/31/21 – White 8 took a backpack from visitors at Superintendent’s beach. Visitors threw beef jerky to distract the bear off their backpack.

• 9/1/21 – White 8 obtained food from a bag of trash that was left out overnight in Upper Pines.

In late August after the Human-Bear Management staff focused the majority of their efforts on keeping this bear away from people during the day, bear #3666 changed its behavior to avoid rangers and began cycling through all developed areas of Yosemite Valley in the middle of the night attempting to access human food. The Human-Bear Management staff moved to 24-hour coverage in a last-ditch effort to dissuade this new behavior. Despite significant efforts to keep it away, the bear was observed on consecutive nights going from one development to the next persistently as the Wildlife Management team followed close behind or getting in front of her to haze aggressively. Though bear #3666 remained consistently skittish of NPS personnel and responded to hazing, she grew increasingly bold when only visitors were present and began to obtain food from visitors even with Human-Bear Management staff following her 24/7. In 2021 she was hazed at least 27 times by park staff.

On September 2, 2021 bear #3666 was captured and translocated to Lake Eleanor. Within a week, this bear made her way back to the outskirts of Yosemite Valley (as shown by GPS) and was expected to return to previous behavior patterns. In addition, this bear was extremely likely to produce cubs of her own in the next couple of years, which would result in direct transmission of this learned behavior to a third generation of extremely habituated bears. This bear met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which are criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.

2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

3. “Panhandling” for food, resulting in close contact with humans.

4. Exhibiting any of the above behaviors in a context that threatens to “corrupt” other bears through learned behavior, exposure to human food, or adoption of aggressive behavior.

Based on everything described above, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that bear #3666 be humanely killed once she returned to Yosemite Valley.

Bear #3666 was free-darted in the woods north of Stoneman Meadow on September 14, 2021. The bear was heavily sedated and administered a lethal injection of KCl.

**2022**

**BEAR DEATHS:** In 2022, there were four known bear deaths in Yosemite National Park. Eight bears were reported hit by vehicles and two cubs of the year were confirmed deceased following vehicle strikes.

**HUMANE EUTHANASIA:**

One bear (#3631) was humanely euthanized on September 16, 2022 by gunfire by NPS LE staff after it was hit by a vehicle two miles east of Crane Flat gas station on Tioga Road suffering mortal injuries. The bear was reported laying on the side of the road bleeding heavily from its nose and mouth. Mike 42 (U.S. Park Ranger John Seymer) responded with wildlife staff R. Lester and H. Vince. The bear was a nine-year-old sow and was dispatched with a shotgun round to the head. No cubs were located in the area but the bear did have swollen teats.

**MANAGEMENT KILLING:** One bear was killed by lethal injection for management reasons in 2022. As required in the park’s Human-Bear Management Plan, euthanasia actions are carried out by the Wildlife Management Branch. These actions occurred following recommendations from Wildlife Management, approvals from of the Chief of Resources Management and Science, and the Park Superintendent. The following are brief synopses of the bears’ behavior proceeding the final capture and euthanasia:

**Bear #2037, four year old female:** The Human-Bear Management staff for Yosemite National Park recommended that Bear #2037, a four-year-old female bear, be humanely killed. This management recommendation was based on the potential threat to human safety due to the bear seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active and continuing to seek human food despite management efforts. This behavior was additionally making it challenging to focus time and efforts on other bears that are less habituated/food conditioned. This behavior was displayed for over a year and has escalated within the last week. Bear #2037 was implicated in eight reported incidents of property damage, had entered human structures at least four times, and had been hazed 65 times (34 times with projectiles) in the past two years.

On May 19, 2021 a sub-adult brown-colored bear approached a visitor sitting quietly on a rock in the Fen. The visitor remained silent and still as the bear approached until the bear touched its nose to the visitor’s leg, at which point the visitor screamed. The bear then swatted the visitor’s inner right thigh, leaving a bruise and two minor puncture wounds, and getting part of a sandwich from the woman. The bear was then chased away by nearby visitors into the Fen. This incident happened prior to bear #2037’s initial capture but bear #2037 matched the size, color, and age class of bear form a photograph of the incident. No other known bear of the same size, color, and age class exhibited this type of habituated behavior in Yosemite Valley during the 2021 field season.

Bear #2037 was first captured in June 2021 and was already showing signs of habituation as a three-year-old. The bear was originally free range captured and fitted with a GPS collar following weeks of consistent reports and photographs of a medium brown-colored subadult bear coming within feet of visitors on the Four Mile trail and in the Glacier Point area. A wilderness protection ranger reported this bear was “actively trying to get food from people” on the Four Mile trail in early June and provided a photograph. Bear #2037 directly approached the wildlife biologist during free-range capture operations. The bear was tagged with a blue tag number 70.

Bear #2037’s first attributable incident occurred in August of 2021, where a bear obtained a large quantity of unsecured food from an out-of-bounds climber’s encampment at Chapel Wall. Later that fall, bear #2037 was observed pulling an unsecured window A/C unit out, attempting to obtain access to a residence Upper NPS housing in the Valley before being scared off by a neighboring resident. The bear also damaged an NPS employee’s backpack left hanging unattended at the Vernal Fall footbridge but did not obtain any food in 2021.

In 2022, bear #2037 exhibited food conditioned and habituated behavior immediately after emerging from hibernation. In April, the bear approached a visitor and obtained food thrown at it out of fear on the Mist Trail. The following week the bear was seen exiting the Vernal Fall Footbridge restroom by an NPS employee after breaking into sanitary boxes and eating about a dozen urinal cakes and unused rolls of toilet paper. Bear #2037 was often reported in close proximity to visitors on the Mist Trail in late spring and early summer. The bear’s GPS collar fell off in April and it was re-captured in June to be fitted with a new collar. Unfortunately, this collar failed inat the end of August. Bear #2037 obtained her second known substantial food reward from an out-of-bounds camper in August behind the Curry boulders. Later in the month the bear entered both the men’s and women’s restrooms in the Lower Yosemite Fall picnic area and obtained garbage. In September, the bear approached within five feet of a visitor from behind and obtained a food reward from a backpack the visitor abandoned out of fear.

On October 2, bear #2037 was reported in Housekeeping Camp early in the morning. After being scared away by campers, bear #2037 returned to investigate the occupied tent cabin patio and pawed at the closed canvas door as the campers yelled at the bear from inside the tent. It took visitors from multiple tent cabins coming over to yell at the bear to finally scare it off. Following this incident, the bear spent the rest of the day running between developed areas in close proximity to humans despite high-level hazing efforts with shotgun rounds, including (times approximated):

* 1400 bear #2037 reported by sanitation unit to be within a few feet of 50 visitors
* 1430 bear #2037 hazed with rubber slug into the talus behind the Wilderness Lot
* 1520 bear #2037 ran through Curry Boystown and obtained food reward from housekeeper’s cart
* 1530 bear #2037 hazed with two projectiles from the shotgun in Stoneman Meadow
* 1545 bear #2037 ran through west end of Housekeeping Camp
* 1600 bear #2037 tried to enter the deck of the Village Grill within ten feet of a dozen visitors
* 1630 bear #2037 attempting to eat rodent bait outside of Upper Housing residence
* 1715 bear #2037 climbed on top of dumpster at Yosemite Warehouse
* 1745 bear #2037 was hazed with one additional projectile round behind the Valley Court

On the afternoon of October 3, 2022, bear #2037 investigated a tent cabin patio free of any scented or food items on in Housekeeping Camp. The bear then proceeded to enter the open door of an occupied tent cabin. The visitor yelled aggressively at Bear #2037 with little response as the bear continued to investigate the patio before eventually walking away.

At this point bear #2037 was only responsive to projectile hazing or yelling combined with chase from National Park Service staff. The bear was extremely habituated and food conditioned. While staff was capable of scaring Bear #2037 away, the bear continued to actively approach visitors and approach people and/or development in search of food. Bear #2037 had four documented incidents entering human structures (three bathrooms and an occupied tent cabin) in addition to an attempted break into a residence before being scared away.

Bear #2037 met the following behavioral factors listed in Yosemite’s Human-Bear Management Plan which is criteria for destruction of a bear:

1. Seeking human food in areas where humans are present and active.
2. Continuing to seek human food despite management efforts such as aversive conditioning or other behavior modification methods to curb such activity.

Based on everything described above as well as the likelihood that this bear will have cubs next year to whom she could pass on these behaviors, it was the recommendation of the Human-Wildlife Management staff that the Bear #2037 be humanely killed.

Bear #2037 was free-darted by the Camp 4 campground kiosk on October 10, 2022. The bear was heavily sedated and then administered a lethal intracardial injection of potassium chloride.