



DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR OF BROWN BEAR

S.V. Pazhetnov¹, V.S. Pazhetnov²

172862, Vil. Bubonitsy, Toropetsky District, Tver Region

¹Researcher, Central Forest State Biosphere Reserve

²Student, Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Agricultural Academy

The characteristics and manifestation of defensive behaviour in brown bear depends on external factors and the “instantaneous stress” level – the “defensive” excitability threshold.

It comprises active and passive defensive responses. When it is manifest, all other forms of behaviour (feeding, sexual, parenting) are suppressed.

Survival of brown bear depends on the habitat characteristics, including food availability, and the animals' capacity to avoid danger. A crucial aspect in this respect is the protectiveness of area. It is one of the principal factors influencing the excitability of defensive behaviour. Results of long-term research into the defensive behaviour of bears during feeding in oats fields are provided. Depending on the configuration, total area, location, frequency of human presence and distance from settlements (population density in the settlements also matters) all oats fields can be grouped as follows.

High protectiveness fields.

1. Area about 2 ha or less, located in the midst of the forest, over 2 km away from the settlement, outline may vary (rectangular, square, oblique wedge, etc.)

2. Area up to 6 ha, same locations, irregular outline, with treed gaps.

Moderate protectiveness fields.

1. Area about 6 ha, located in the midst of the forest, over 2 km away from the settlement, regular outline (square or rectangular).

2. Area up to 10 ha, same locations, irregular outline, with overgrowing edges.

Low protectiveness fields.



1. Area about 6 ha or more, separated from forest by a treeless strip up to 50 m wide, within 2 km from the settlement; forests adjoining the fields are wanted by people picking mushrooms, logging wood, etc.

In each specific case, the degree of protectiveness of a site in the bear habitat (feeding area in this example) depends also on a number of other factors, but more research and clarification of the animal habitats and behaviour is needed.



FROM WILDERNESS TO URBAN FRINGES: HUMAN-CARNIVORE COHABITATION AS A CHALLENGE TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

T. Peltola¹, J. Heikkilä²

¹ *Finnish Environment Institute, P.O Box 111, 80101 Joensuu, Finland*

² *Finnish Environment Institute, Lentiirantie 342 B, 88900 Kuhmo, Finland*

Dangerous but endangered, large carnivores are embodiments of two competing philosophies of nature, as has been pointed out by Henry Buller. One is based on biosecurity as a physical safety issue and the other on concerns of securing the conditions for life on earth (biodiversity). The contradiction between the two ideas has become a source of continuous debate on the legitimacy of carnivore policy in many countries. Drawing from an empirical case study from Finland this paper explores the intertwining of human and animal lives in ways that challenge the frames of governing animal lives. In Finland, the risks of bear attacks have been local, and incidents with animals have led to severe injuries or death only in few cases. However, as international experience shows, the risk pattern develops along the habituation of animals.

Unwanted human-animal encounters have increased along the growing bear population but importantly also due to changing patterns of human activities: expanding free-time residence and recreational use of wilderness