

Black bear census update

12 Oct. 2012

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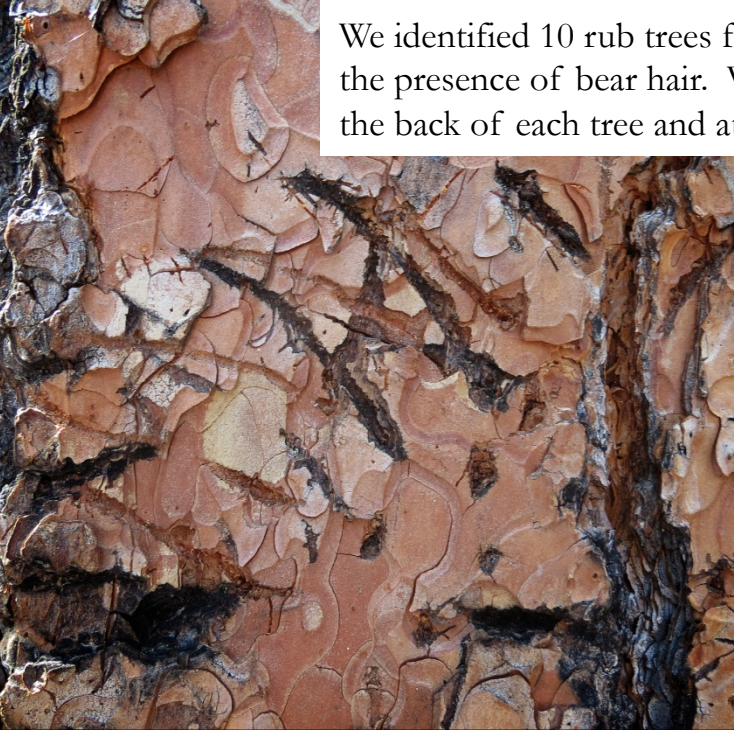
Alan Ramsey





A “cambium tree” (left) has had its outer bark removed by a bear. The bear fed on the inner cambium layer. Bears bite trees (right) to communicate with other bears or to displace aggression.

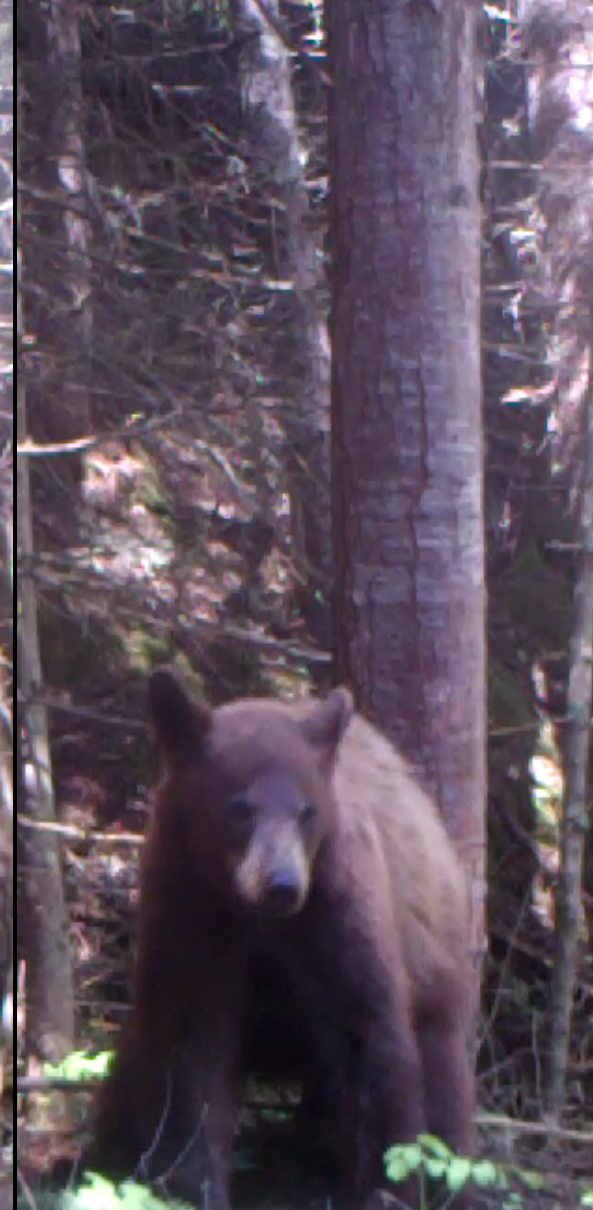
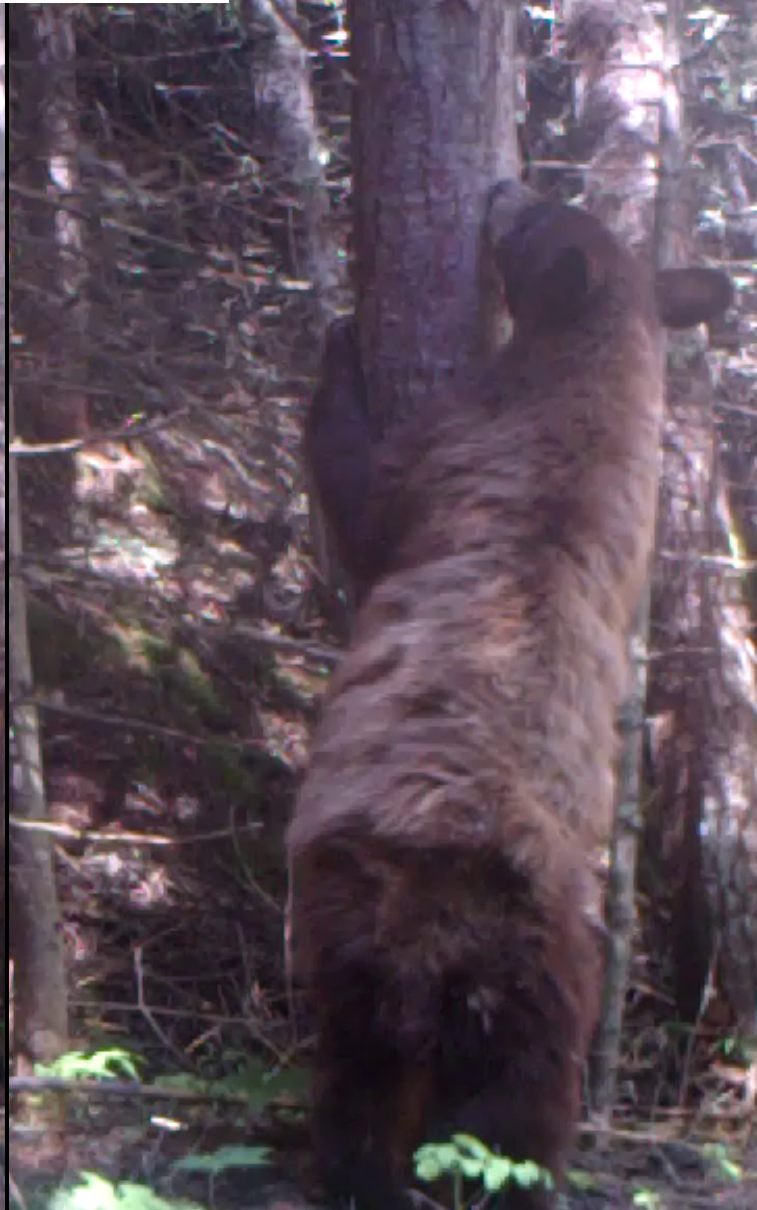
We identified 10 rub trees from claw marks, smoothed bark, and the presence of bear hair. We nailed unique identification letters to the back of each tree and attached small sections of barbed wire to snare hair.



To construct a hair trap, we wrapped a 100 ft strand of barbed wire around 3-4 trees to form an enclosure around a pile of logs (left), then poured 3 L of rotten cattle blood and fish oil onto the log pile to entice bears to enter the enclosure (right). We placed 12 hair traps on travel routes and in foraging areas.



We set remote video cameras at each of the 10 rub trees. We check for hair every 2 weeks. Collection began in early September and will continue through October.



We also video monitor the 12 bear hair traps and check sites for hair every 2 weeks. Hair collection from traps began in early September and will continue through the end of October.



MPG Ranch Black Bear Project

