

Page 12A Feather River Bulletin, Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Bears: Increase in population seen

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In 1988, the option of bear-proof Dumpsters was proposed to reduce the number of bears in the Bucks Lake area.

Although the only main damage caused by the Bucks Lake bears recently has been a series of over-used trash cans or broken Dumpsters, other more serious incidents have occurred elsewhere. Automobiles, shed doors and lawnmowers have been damaged. Although damage to personal property continues, no human attacks have been reported. If the bear has a whole forest of food to choose from, why make the trip into town?

As soon as the black bear awakes from hibernation, the animal proceeds to search for broad-leaved weeds, dandelions, acorns, insects, small animals and various fruits. When the more natural foods are not as abundant, the black bear's acute sense of smell picks up on the next best thing — trash containers. Dumpsters have been reported

damaged in Chester, Framingham, Meadow Valley and other neighboring locations.

High demand
Because of the significant increase in the black bear population five years ago, the demand for bear-proof trash containers has recently been high.

"If the bears cause any more physical damage, other than to the Dumpsters, then the Department of Fish and Game will send out a depredation permit, and put them to sleep," said Nelson. "But they won't do anything until the new garbage Dumpsters arrive."

The original set of bear-proof Dumpsters were installed at the Bucks Lake Lodge in 1988. "There hasn't been a problem for three years," explains Nelson. "But now, there is a problem."

Although black bears have commonly been viewed as "killing animals," they are often relatively shy, solitary creatures with a fear of humans.

Bill Peters, the game warden for Plumas County, receives about two to three bear complaints a week.

"The people have to make some attempt to discourage the bears from being there before we can issue a depredation permit," said Peters. "We used to trap them, but the statewide bear population has gone up so much, that if you put the bear somewhere else now, it'll just be a problem for someone else."

No relocations
The option of relocation is no longer considered by the Department of Fish and Game because of the bears' tendency to return.

According to Peters, because of the remaining snow in the surrounding mountains, not all the bears have made their formal age registrations yet.

Peters anticipates three to five complaints a week in July and August.

"We're over the bears," said Peters. "There's plenty of bear." When making their rounds throughout the general Bucks Lake area, the bears have frequented homes as well. For Donald DeCoe and wife Pat, who live in Bucks Lake, bear visits have become a nightly tradition.

11 p.m. visitor
The DeCoes are visited each night around 11 by a 200-pound cinnamon-colored baby black bear.

"Most bears are (lashed up a tree) by our dogs, but this one's not afraid of people or dogs. In fact, he's the one that can take the dog food out the porch," said Mr. DeCoe. Most depredation permits are being issued with the growing black bear population.

Prior to 1990, barely any depredation permits were issued. Within the last five years, however, between five to six permits are issued each year.

Round Table Pizza
Plumas Pines Shopping Center
283-2320

Dispute: Proposal challenged

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contractors rather than by the county engineers the district is seeking.

"It could save the district \$100,000," Worthington insists.

He also contended the district he could obtain county fuel tanks for free from fuel suppliers — another cost savings.

In the days that followed the meeting, Brunetti and Superintendent Paul Hewitt defended the district's project.

Free tanks?
Brunetti has vowed to investigate whether free fuel tanks are available but says the county could not locate any when it recently went ahead with a similar project.

"The county explored this option and got no where with it," he said. Hewitt and Brunetti say they will seek bids for all aspects of the first phase of the project, allowing contractors to bid for the tank installations.

"We're taking every step possible to save every dollar," Brunetti said.

Case: Appeal expected

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An investigation by the department led to the Mikesci's arrest. Krista Mikesci, 41, was arrested following a search of her residence by Sheriff's detectives armed with a search warrant signed by Setlemire.

Her husband, Craig H. Mikesci, 43, turned himself into the court.

Search conducted
Detectives Larry Rives and Steve Hinch, who conducted the search, discovered about 33 grams of methamphetamine, 1.5 grams of cocaine, about \$1,500 in cash and checks, plus drug selling paraphernalia, including scales, cutting agents, syringes and plastic baggies.

A police scanner programmed with law enforcement frequencies also was located on the premises, detectives allege.

According to DeCoe at the time of the arrest, the Mikescis had been under investigation on and off for several years and the case had finally moved forward due to new information.

drugs, and the money, found in a metal box under the bed, was her husband's pay check and her son's Social Security.

Mikesci said the findings on the paystubs were false, "but not about drugs."

Chemical tests
The items investigators allege to be illegal drugs were subjected to chemical tests by Sheriff Department officials.

The tests showed the substances were methamphetamine and cocaine, detectives said.

The search warrant issued by Setlemire says the Mikescis had been suspected of selling methamphetamine since December 1993, when an informant told authorities the couple were allegedly selling methamphetamine "big time."

The warrant states that on May 24, 1994, another unnamed informant told authorities he had witnessed "heavy vehicle activity" in and out of the residence at various hours of the day and night.

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Keddie was once a popular summer vacation resort, replete with a restaurant, general store and a Plumas County Museum.

Keddie: Resort has suffered

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newspaper, Mollath said. "Keddie Resort has suffered greatly over the past five years. Storm damage has been devastating and the vandalism

just as severe. We have been trying to resolve our water treatment problems and recover from storm damage. Not an easy task."

"It appears," he continued, "that Plumas County and its supervisors have been planning for four to six months with various state and federal agencies in a conspiracy to condemn Keddie Resort."

"Since I have to date not received anything in writing from any of the agencies involved in this conspiracy, except for the red tags and postings on our buildings, I can only guess at their motivation."

"It would appear their goal is to make the rehabilitation of Keddie Resort so costly or impossible, we would be forced to abandon the resort and Plumas County would end up owning Keddie Resort for (its) own use."

Furnished cabins
Keddie Resort was once a well-known summer resort, replete with furnished cabins and a small commercial strip that featured a restaurant, bar and other businesses.

A combination of events — including grisly murders more than a decade ago — undermined the tiny community's economy, leading to the closure of the businesses.

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