

JJ1 „Bruno“

in Austria and Germany 2006

Austrian Bear Emergency Team
September 2006



Chronology and Risk Assessment

Abbreviation:

T: Tyrol

V: Vorarlberg

B: Bavaria

StMUGV: Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Authors:

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1. Background

In May and June this year a male brown bear (JJ1), baptized “Bruno” by the press, roamed through the German-Austrian border region in the Alps. The path of this bear could be very well documented due to multiple damages, tracks and observations.

In our present day multiple use landscapes the coexistence of humans and bears is challenged by conflicts. To minimize conflicts and the potential risk a bear may pose to human safety, a sound wildlife management is required. Besides providing the necessary institutional structures and enforcing conservation measures, it also needs to outline the necessary steps and actions on how to deal with nuisance bears. An important prerequisite for this is the assessment of conflict situations between bears and humans by experienced bear experts.

Although a bear management plan can provide the frame for how to deal with a nuisance bear, each single situation needs a thorough and individual assessment by bear experts (Figure 1). What behavior did the bear show? At what distance to people, houses, or villages? In order to assess the risk potential a nuisance bear may pose to human safety the single situations need to be put in context with each other. How often did the bear show a certain behavior? Does the bear already have a case history of nuisance behavior? Has the bear already been aversively conditioned? The final decision on suitable management always needs to be based on this final overall assessment.

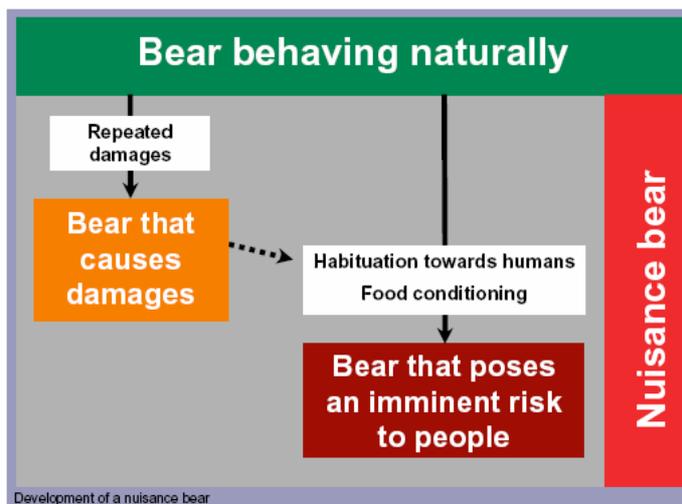


Figure 1: Typology of bears based on the Austrian management plan.

With the following protocol we aim to shed light on the events around JJ1 in May / June 2006. The protocol provided a chronology of the events, decisions and actions taken from the first occurrence in Austria on May 5th near Tösens (Tyrol) until the shooting of the bear on June 26 in the Rotwand area (Bavaria, Germany).

- (1) All events ranked by us as dangerous and most ranked critical were investigated by members of the Austrian Bear Emergency Team. No event was assessed based on press releases.
- (2) Each bear event/situation was individually assessed based on the Austrian Bear Management Plan (see Table 1&2).
- (3) For an overall assessment of the bear, or more precisely the risk potential it poses to human safety, we considered the string of events in context with each.

In order to make the assessment transparent and easily understandable we used a new, simple 4-stage color coded ranking scheme.

2. Overview of the path of JJ1 in the Austrian and German Alps

Figure 2: Color-coded risk assessment of each single event (dots) and the bear based on the string of events in context with each other (lines).

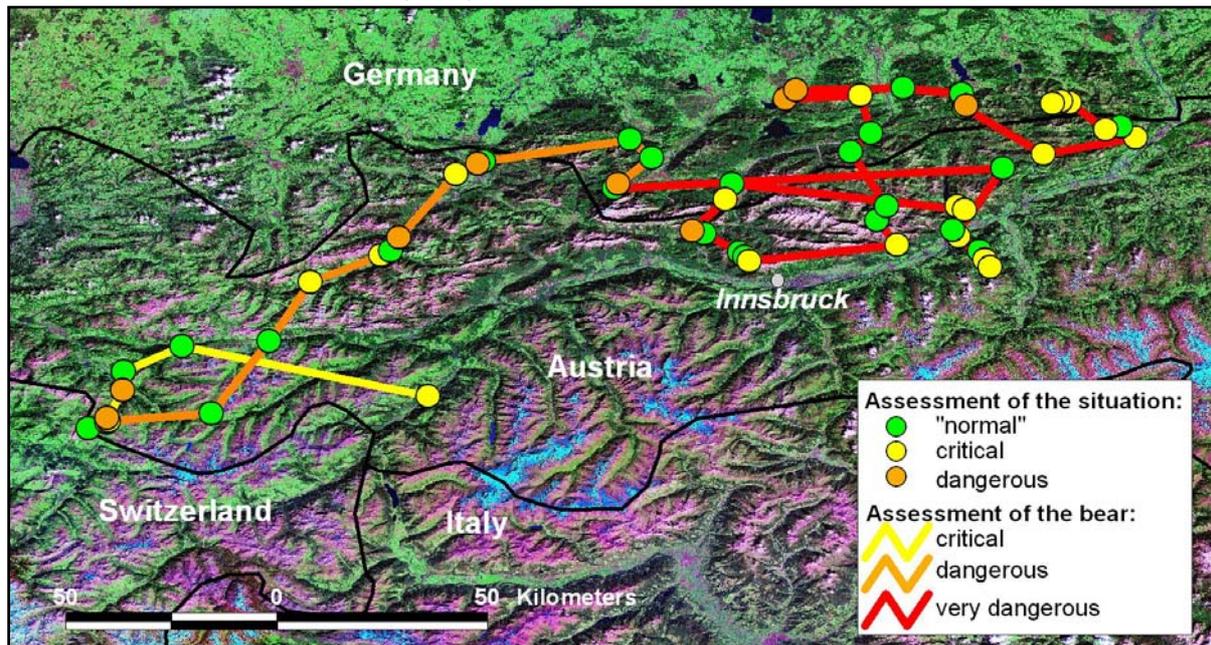


Table 1: Decision basis for the risk assessment. The black box marks the range of behavior observed in JJ1. *mark behavior not shown by JJ1.

Risk for people	Urgency of action	Bear behavior	Recommended action () ¹
Normal, not dangerous	no action	Upon an accidental close encounter bear is retreating immediately	no action
		Upon an accidental close encounter bear is rising on its hind legs	no action
		Bear is causing damages in uninhabited areas	damage prevention
Critical, needs attention	low	Bear is repeatedly coming close to inhabited houses	intensify monitoring (IM)
		*Surprised bear feels threatened and starts a false attack	IM, (deterrence)
		*Provoked bear starts a false attack	IM, (deterrence)
		Bear tolerates observation from a short distance without retreating	IM, deterrence
Dangerous	urgent	Bear is searching for food or is causing damages close to inhabited houses	IM, deterrence, damage prevention
		*Bear is defending its food by attacking	IM, (deterrence)
		Bear enters stables close to inhabited houses several times ²	IM, deterrence ²
Very dangerous	very urgent	bear is repeatedly intruding residential areas	IM, deterrence ²
		Dangerous bear cannot be deterred successfully ²	IM, removal
Very dangerous	very urgent	Bear tries to enter inhabited buildings	IM, deterrence, removal
		Bears is following humans within the range of vision	IM, (deterrence), removal
		Bear acts aggressively without being provoked	IM, removal

¹ () in brackets: this action might also be recommended based on the situation

² specification of the Austrian Bear Management Plan (http://www.wwf.at/downloads/BMP_05.pdf)

3. Chronology of advises given by the Austrian Bear Emergency Team on how to deal with JJ1

- 11.05.06 Due to the bear events in Galgenul, Gargellen and Vergalda the bear is ranked as dangerous. Our recommendations to the administration are to capture, radiocollar and aversive condition the bear. The main concern is that the bear will again enter villages and break into stables adjacent to houses and thus create situations with a high potential for accidents (close bear human encounters). The bear is classified as food conditioned, that means he connects food with human houses and settlements and therefore actively seeks out these locations. However, the bear is not habituated to people and avoids direct encounters.
- up to
21.05.06 The bear repeatedly enters human settlements. He is unpredictable in his movements and does not return to a place where he caused damage. Especially the latter behavior makes it almost impossible to capture this bear with traps.
- 22.05.06 The bear raids a chicken coop next to a house in the village of Grainau. Due to the fact that the bear keeps entering villages and because it is highly unlikely to capture it. We do not believe that aversive conditioning is possible. In addition, we suspect that this bear has already shown nuisance behavior before it came to Austria. The repeated success the bear had when seeking for food near or in human settlements suggests that this behavior is already strongly imprinted. We believe it is highly unlikely to successfully change the bear's behavior by aversive conditioning. We rank the bear as very dangerous because it keeps creating dangerous situations and we do not believe that it can be deterred successfully. We recommend the removal of the bear. Because we see no chance to trap the bear, we recommend issuing a shooting permit for local hunters.
- 29.05.06 A DNA test identifies the bear as JJ1, the young of Jurka and Joze, two bears from the re-introduction project in Trentino, Italy. At the same time his history becomes known: together with his mother Jurka JJ1 repeatedly entered villages and after family break-up he entered villages on his own. He had been aversively conditioned several times when returning to a location he had caused damage.
- around
31.05.06 Due to the public resistance against the shooting of JJ1, the StMUGV seeks for alternative methods to capture the bear alive. Norwegian colleagues advise us to contact the Finnish Bear Emergency Team who uses trained dogs to find and stop a bear. We suggest hiring the Finnish Bear Emergency Team in order to actively search for the bear, stop the bear and tranquilize the bear with a dart gun by an experienced veterinarian. Subsequently the bear can be transferred to a suitable enclosure. Due to the past history of the bear (including the events in Italy) we exclude radiocollaring and aversive conditioning as a suitable management option.
- 23.06.06 The Finnish Bear Emergency Team stops the capture attempts. The bear is still considered very dangerous. Because we do not see any chance to capture the bear in order to remove him from the wild, we again recommend removal by shooting.
- 24.06.06 JJ1 unexpectedly changes his behavior and in addition to being food conditioned he also becomes habituated - he suddenly tolerates humans at close range. Furthermore the bear for the first time does not rapidly change its position any more. At the instigation of the StMUGV the district office of Miesbach authorizes a special team to shoot the bear.

4. Summary statistics of all documented bear events

Situation	N
Normal, not dangerous	24
Critical, needs attention	22
Dangerous	
inside residential areas	9
inside stables close to houses	1

Damages	N
Sheep and goats	32
Bee damages	9
Chickens, domestic rabbits, etc.	5
Additional damages with silage bales, game feeding stations, fences, etc.	4

5. Chronology

1: Overall assessment of the bear based on the string of events within a overall context

2: Assessment of each individual bear event

1	2	
1	05.05.2006	<u>Tösens (T)</u> : A bear is observed at 22:00 close to the village (first bear observation passed on to the Austrian bear advocate).
	05.-09.05.2006	<u>Klösterle and Schruns (V)</u> : The bear visits two roe deer feeding stations (this was reported some days later)
	09./10.05.2006	<u>Galgenul/St.Gallenkirch (V)</u> : At night the bear enters a sheep pen at the fringe of the village, kills one sheep and injures ten others (two of them have to be put down the next day). 
	10./11.05.2006	<u>Gargellen (V)</u> : At night the bear breaks open the door of a sheep pen at the fringe of the village and kills one breeding ram. 
		<u>Vergalda (V)</u> : In the same night the bear breaks the door of an empty pigsty, about 15 m away from the farmstead and feeds on kitchen waste stored in a barrel.
		<i>Press conference with Landesrat Schwärzler in St. Gallenkirch. The possibility of capturing, radiocollarin and aversive conditioning of the bear are being discussed with Landesrat Schwärzler.</i>
	11./12.05.2006	<u>Vergalda (V)</u> : At night the bear destroys several silage bales stored close to a farm and damages a roe deer feeding station in the forest.
	13.05.2006	<u>Zeinisjoch/close to Kopp-Stausee (V) and Galtür (T)</u> : At 06:00 a group of black grouse hunters watch a bear walking by at a distance of ~240 m. Later bear tracks are found on the Tyrolean side of the Zeinisjoch close to the road.
	14.05.2006	<u>St. Anton am Arlberg (T)</u> : A dead sheep is found on a pasture. It was killed and eaten by some carnivore, the signs are not necessarily typical for a bear. However, the damage may well be attributed to the bear as it was on its route.
	15.05.2006	<i>On behalf of Landesrat Schwärzler a scat- and three hair samples are brought to the Molecular Systematics lab of the Natural History Museum Vienna.</i>

1	2

Holzgau/Lechtal (T): In the evening the bear is observed walking along a garden fence at the outskirts of the village. The bear crosses the road at the town sign, stays for some time in a nearby field and finally enters the forest below the Jöchelspitze at 22:30.

16.05.2006 Häselgehr/Lechtal (T): At 22:30 the bear is observed close to a stable as he triggers the automatic light in the farm yard. The bear approaches a bee house and is chased away by the farmer with the car. The bear returns shortly afterwards and is chased off a second time.

Klimm (T): At night the bear destroys a solitary beehive between Häselgehr and Klimm

17.05.2006 Martinau/Elmen (T): At 02:30 the bear is observed by a hunter leaving the house for the morning hunt. The bear breaks the window of a bee house right in the centre of the village, but moves on before causing more damage.



18.05.2006 Gehren-Alm (T): At 07:10 the bear passes an alpine hut at close range and is photographed by the owner and his wife from the porch. This is the first photograph of the bear.



Meeting with Landesrat Steixner: The emergency team gets the assignment to capture and radiocollar the bear and perform aversive conditioning in the district of Reutte.

The results of the DNA analysis show that the bear is a male, it is not JJ2 and it is not from the Austrian Ötscher population. For further clarification the samples are sent to the lab at the INFS in Italy. For an individual identification, samples have to be reanalyzed because the labs in Italy and Austria do not investigate the same loci. Because the responsible person for the analysis is absent, the reanalysis takes a few days. Meanwhile it is speculated that the bear may be JJ1, the brother of JJ2.

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18./19.05.2006

Unterletzen (T): At night the bear passes the village, climbs over a garden fence at the river side, topples a compost container, pushes down the fence of an empty chicken pen and leaves a track a few meters away from the bridge over the river Lech.



Pflach (T): The same night the bear visits a bee house at the Säulingswiesen. It pushes back four beehives and they crash to the floor inside the house. The bear also topples the water barrel and leaves scratches marks.

19./20.05.2006

Graswang (B): At night the bear kills 3 sheep on a pasture south of the village. The wounds are not typical for a bear attack and no bear signs can be found in the surrounding – a large dog is believed to have been the culprit.



20./21.05.2006

Reschberg, west of Farchant (B): This night the bear kills three sheep (two adults and one lamb). Another wounded lamb has to be put down the next day. The wounds are quite similar to the wounds in Graswang but this time bear tracks and hairs are found at the site. In the evening a culvert trap is set up at the pasture with chunks of the killed sheep as bait – first trapping attempt.



22.05.2006

Grainau (B): At 01:00 the bear raids a chicken coop in the village and kills six chicken and four doves in front of the house.



1	2

Between Grainau and Eibsee (B): Later the same night the bear kills three sheep and injures another so badly that it has to be put down the next day (a crowd of journalists and camera teams impedes the damage inspection).



Meeting at the Bavarian Ministry of Environment (StMUGV). According to the Austrian Management Plan the bear is classified as very dangerous (a bear that poses an imminent risk to people) and hunters are authorized to shoot the bear.

23.05.2006

No bear signs are reported. The Culvert trap is placed at the border of Tyrol and Bavaria in the vicinity of the Eibsee.

Meeting at the Reutte district office with Landesrat Steixner: The Bavarian shooting permit is expanded to the Austrian side, but remains restricted to the district of Reutte.

24.05.2006

Thiersee (T): The observation of a bear is reported by a hunter the next day. During the site investigation the hunter tells two different versions of his observation and no bear signs can be found.

The Culvert trap is set up near Graswang (D).

25.05.2006

Schneeberg/Thiersee (T): Two teenagers report bear signs (a track, hair, and daybeds). During the site investigation hairs can be identified as roe deer hair, the day beds as roe deer beds. No bear signs are detected anywhere around.

Steinberg am Rofan (T): At 16:50 a mountain biker (who is also a hunter) observes a plain brown bear at a distance of > 200 m. The observation period is ~5 sec. and the bear was seen to cross a small clearing on a steep slope. However, a site investigation the next day together with the observer renders no evidence of bear presence.

26.05.2006

Motorway near Schwaz, factory premises Darbo / Tyrolit and road construction site direction Kufstein (T): At 05:00 a truck driver observes a bear crossing the road in the two-way traffic section of the road construction site. The observation distance was 100 m. Upon site investigation no tracks could be found.

1	2

27.05.2006

Kaunzalm-Hochleger/Kellerjoch/Fügen (T):
Around midday hikers come across a fresh bear track on a snow field. The bear track is reported and confirmed the next day.



Gartalm-Niederleger/Fügen (T): In the evening damage to an old hayloft which is used as a bee house is noticed. The bear has pulled an old log out of the wall, crushed the door, and destroyed a beehive. During damage inspection bear hair was found. Additional bear hair was found at a nearby roe deer feeding place.



28.05.2006

Schlagalm, Fügen (T): At midday a farmer discovers a killed billy (50-60 kg) and a killed and partly eaten she-goat in front of his goat shed. The goat kid is missing and another goat is found agitated in the shed. The damage is reported and confirmed the next day.

Tuft, near Schwaz (T): At 06:00 a bear crosses the road in front of a car near an isolated farm and follows the farm track in direction of the river Inn. The bear is described as dark brown with lighter parts on the neck and shoulders. In the mud of the farm track plenty of bear tracks can be found and in the herb layer of the forest along the Inn river a track runs directly to the river bank. On the opposite riverside no tracks can be found.

Eastern edge of the village Stans (T): In the morning a hunter notices a remarkably broad track in the grass of a meadow running up the slope. Site investigation the following day does not reveal any bear signs.

Arrival of the „Vier Pfoten“ capture team.

Klais (B), Hirzeneck: The police in Mittenwald asked to check a pasture where a sheep is missing. The site investigation the next day does not provide any tracks or evidence of the whereabouts of the sheep. Most likely the sheep was stolen.

29.05.2006

Between Maurach and Pertisau (T): At 02:30 a taxi driver observes a bear on the road. The animal runs 200 m in front of the car and than disappears up the slope just before entering an avalanche gallery. No tracks can be found on the slope, but ground conditions are not favorable for tracking.

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03./04.06.2006

Klais (B): Three killed sheep are spotted on a pasture by people driving on the road. Four additional animals, three sheep and one goat, are found injured during the subsequent inspection. One sheep and the goat have to be put down. Bear tracks are found under some shrubs and in an open shed, and bear hair can be collected from a barbed wire. The killed sheep are located >400 m from each other and from the nearest inhabited house.



Federal road B177 between Seefeld and Scharnitz (T): On a parking lot garbage bags have been torn apart. An inconclusive track can be found at the forest edge. According to the local police, foxes regularly visit the place.

04.06.2006

Giessenbach (T): There are rumors about a bear observation in the morning. However, no observation is reported to the authorities. The following day no further information was available.

04./05.06.2006

Lautersee / Mittenwald (B) At night the bear kills three sheep on the pasture next to the lake. The bear kills one sheep 100 m away from a boarding house and chases two rams about 500 m leaving tracks a meter away from a kiosk at the lake shore.



05.06.2006

Ehrwald – auf den Thörle (T): A tourist couple observes a bear at 03:30 lying next to the forest road, raising its head. The couple runs away. The description of the observation by the couple is inconsistent and at the site no bear signs can be found.

05./06.06.2006

Leutasch (Ortsteil Weidach) (T): During the night the bear breaks into a rabbit cage located between apartment houses. One rabbit is partly eaten, the other is missing. The owner reports the damage to the local police at 09:00. The police investigate the damage at 11:00, but believe it is a nasty joke. However, our own site investigation confirms the bear presence and bear hairs can be secured from the rabbit cage.



1	2	06.06.2006	<u>Road between Leutasch and Scharnitz (T)</u> : At 03:00 two young guys drive around and hope to see the bear, they actual succeed. The police do not believe them. The emergency team is informed by journalists in the afternoon and finds bear tracks at the observation site.
		07.06.2006	<u>Eppzirler Alm – Gießenbach (T)</u> : At 20:00 a hunter observes the bear crossing a clearing. Subsequently the hunter and several colleagues watch the bear for more than half an hour crossing snowfields along the slope and finally mounting up to the saddle and disappearing on the other side. The emergency team is informed immediately after the first observation. The idea of the hunters is that the bear cannot continue its way because of the impassable steep mountains enclosing the basin, thus offering a good opportunity to capture the bear. On arrival of the emergency team the bear has already left the valley and the Culvert traps are not set. The next day the hunting organization blames the emergency team for not having used a helicopter to capture the bear.
			<u>Solsteinhütte (T)</u> : At 22:00 the cabin manager observes the bear at the fence when looking out of the window. Her husband leaves the cabin to check his wife’s observation and finds bear track in the snow. He immediately returns into the hut. The next morning one sheep is slightly wounded at the shoulder. (This event was not investigated by the ET, but pictures of the bear tracks next to the fence were published in the daily newspaper “Neue Zeitung”)
		08.06.2006	<i>Hunters want to take the bear capture into their own hands. Briefing at the district office of Innsbruck Land: hunters will be on guard in the area around the Eppzirler Scharte, as soon as the bear is spotted a veterinary of the provincial administration will be dropped by helicopter close to the bear. No bear signs are reported this evening.</i>
		09.06.2006	<i>Meeting at the Landhaus (provincial administration of Tyrol) to discuss the legal basis for the assignment of the Finnish Bear Emergency Team. The Finnish team shall locate and pinpoint the bear with their dogs. Than an experienced veterinary should anesthetize the bear with a dart gun. The emergency team will be in charge of transport and communication.</i>
			<u>Schlicker Alm (T)</u> : Several editorial offices get an e-mail with a photograph showing a bear at the edge of a forest claiming it was taken last night at the Schlickeralm. It turns out to be a faked picture.
			<u>Roppen (T)</u> : At 10:00, a jogger watches a bear killing a young hare on a trail between Roppen and Sautens. The bear disappears into the forest and the jogger collects the dead hare as proof for his observation. The examination of the site in the afternoon yields no bear signs (as it turns out later, the bear is in the Karwendel Mountains at this time).
			<u>Imsterberg (T)</u> : Sheep have escaped from a pasture, the grass of a meadow is trampled down in several places, and a big scat is reported. No bear signs can be found during the site inspection and the big scat is sheep shit.
			<u>Strad / Tarrenz (NE Imst) (T)</u> : In the evening a local journalist gets a call from an anonymous person claiming to have run into a bear on a forest road close to the village. No bear tracks can be found around the alleged observation site.



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Engalm and Ahornboden/Karwendel (T): Around 21:00 a German tourist walking his dog watches the bear running across a meadow several 100 m away from the houses. He takes some pictures. An hour later a herdsman observes the bear near an enclosure with calves and chases it away by car.



12./13.06.2006

Hinterriß (T): At 23:00 the emergency team starts from Innsbruck. From 02:00 onwards dogs and hunters patrol the valley bottom east of Hinterriß in order to block the bear the way out of the Rißtal. In the morning the side valleys are checked for tracks. At the Ahornboden the dogs find bear tracks. However, they are unable to follow the track over a longer distance because of the rugged terrain and the hot weather. The mission is stopped at 16:00.

Alpensöhnehütte: At 19:30 a sheep kill is reported close to the trail leading to the hut. The damage inspection is made the same evening. The carcass is already rather old and the cause of death unclear. There are no signs of a bear attack.

14.06.2006

Vomper Loch/Hall in Tirol (T): In the afternoon a bear observation is reported. Two persons walking on a trail close to the Ganalm see a bear crossing some rocks far away on the other side of the valley. Half of the team is relocated to the Ganalm in order to be closer to the site if this observation is confirmed by another observation.

Sylvensteinspeichersee (B): At 19:15 a hiker observes a bear in a valley south of Fall. The capture team arrives at the site. Footprints confirm the observation. Two dogs follow the tracks.

At 21:45 another observation is reported to the police. People in a car watched the bear crossing the street right after the bridge over the reservoir. The two halves of the team reunite at the observation site; one dog starts following a bear track into the forest.

At 22:45 a car accident is reported to the police. About 100 m from the observation point mentioned above, a bear had jumped on the road and was hit by the right-hand wing mirror (the inspection the next day shows the mirror has remained undamaged; presumably the bear was not hurt at all). One minute later a motorcyclist saw the bear, too. It jumped again on the road, turned around and disappeared down the slope to the water. The dogs follow the track to the reservoir.



1	2

15.06.2006

During the night and morning the terrain around the reservoir is searched with the dogs without finding a track.

11:00. press conference in Mittenwald.

Isar between Wallgau and Vorderriß (B): At 15:00 an observation of a bear swimming in the river is reported. The capture team meets the observer who gets more and more uncertain; finally the bear turns out to have been the dog of a tourist lying in the shadow of some bushes at the riverside.

Brauneck (B): At 21:00 a group of tourists, staying at the Adleralmhütte, watch the bear at a distance of about 100 m walking up the slope to the next two lodges. There it walks over the terrace of one of the lodges; the owner stands in the door and imitates a barking dog to chase the bear away. The bear moves on and passes the garage where the man is working. The owner of the adjacent Bayernhütte finally watches the bear taking a “sand bath” on the forest road 50 m away from the lodge. One hour later the capture team is on the ground and a dog is following the track of the bear off the leash. The dogs path is permanently monitored by a real-time GPS/GSM unit.

16.06.2006

At around 01:00 the dog is presumably at the bear; the GPS transmitter mounted on the back of the dog shows that the dog is staying at one place. The capture team is about 600 m away waiting for the first light. A thunderstorm comes up and forces the team to seek shelter in a woodshed. At 4:30 the team starts out again, but the dog has already lost the bear. Searching for new tracks, the team finds a sheep killed and partly eaten by the bear. At 08:00 the action is stopped.

11:00 press conference at Lenggries.



Kotalm, Jachenau (B): At 19:00 hikers watch a bear two times on their trail at a distance of 30 m. The bear approaches the observers although it apparently has noticed the hikers already. The hikers tell the story to the manager of the Jachau cabin but want to remain anonymous and depart without leaving a name or address.

Kochel am See (B): At 23:10 a man walking his two dogs in Lainbach (a livingquarter of Kochel), observes the bear on the road at a distance of 20 m. The man does not want to follow the road in the direction of the bear and walks around an apartment house. The bear does the same on the other side and both meet again at the other end of the apartment house. Cornered by a fence the bear jumps 2.5 m up to the rim of a rock wall and escapes into the forest. An hour later the capture team finds bear footprints on the forest ground but the dogs loose the track (it’s raining heavily).



1	2

17.06.2006

At 00:35 a man enters the balcony of a café in town and watches the bear sitting in front of the police station (not occupied during the night). 20 minutes later the capture team finds some tracks. Again the dogs are unable to stay on the bear track (too much distraction in town environment?). Efforts to find bear tracks outside of the town have no success.



During the day damage to a bee hive is reported. During the site examination bear hair is found on the broken trunk of a young fruit tree close to the bee hives.

Ort bei Kochel (B): At 07:30 the police are informed about a bear damage to a rabbit cage located at the wall of a farm in the village. The damage presumably happened at 2:30. One rabbit and a guinea pig were killed. Bear hair and scratches can be found on the rabbit cage. Again the dogs are unable to follow the bear track over a longer distance.



11:00 press conference in Lenggries.

Achenwald (T): At 11:30 a herd of cows break through the fence of their corral. The site examination at 05:00 the next morning yields no proof for the presumed bear attack. Sheep on a nearby meadow were untouched.

18.06.2006

11:00 press conference in Kochel.

A fifth bear hunter from Finland arrives with his dog to reinforce the capture team.

In the evening the capture team splits to have a higher chance to be close to the next bear event. One half of the team take up a position in Achenwald (T) and the other half in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (B).

18./19.06.2006

Scharling: a beehive is destroyed by the bear.

18./19.06.2006

Scharling: another beehive and the film of a silage bale are destroyed by the bear.

19.06.2006

Schildenstein/Südlich Wildbad Kreuth (B): At 07:10 a hiker observes the bear climbing up the ridge to the summit. The capture team is informed at 09:00 and arrives at the summit around 11:00. The capture team finds bear signs but on the rocks the dog soon loses the track. Further down the dog recovers the track, the hunters find a footprint of the bear, but the dog loses the track again.

11:00 press conference in Kochel.

1	2

Königsalm (NW Schildenstein) (B): Hikers inform a local hunter that they have seen a big, hairy, plain brown animal in a ditch on the alpine pasture. They are sure it was not a cow. The site investigation with the dogs does not confirm the observation.

In the evening members of the capture team and two professional hunters of the Austrian state forest (ÖBf) look for the bear at ten strategic points south of the Schildenstein. The bear does not show up.

Kreuth (B): During the day several bear damages from the previous night are reported: two killed sheep, three wounded sheep, two destroyed beehives, two destroyed silage bales, one broken gate.



20.06.2006

11:00 press conference in Kreuth.

Meeting at the Bavarian Ministry of Environment (StMUGV) to discuss the bear capture strategy.

21.06.2006

Maurach/Aachensee (T): At 01:15 the capture team is informed that a young man and his girlfriend just saw a bear passing by the terrace they were sitting on. Within an hour the team is at the site and a dog follows a (bear?) track to the lake. The lake shore and the surroundings of the village are searched for bear tracks without result.

Kaiserhaus / Brandenburg (T): At 08:00 a new damage is reported. Next to the lodge the bear killed seven chickens and one sheep and knocked over a garbage container. The bear also visited two bee hives nearby. Lots of tracks and hair can be found. During the day, a dog tracks down and corners the bear twice and signals this by barking. The bear always manages to escape before the vet and the hunters can approach.



11:00 press conference in Kreuth.

At 20:00 the action is cancelled. One dog is still missing (the GPS surveillance does not work in the steep valley) and three members of the team stay in the area to wait for the dog. The next morning the dog strays to forest workers who bring it to the Kaiserhaus.

22.06.2006

Pendling (W Kufstein) (T): In the morning the owner of the Kufsteiner cabin and two other persons watch the bear 30 m away from the lodge. At noon the dogs find the track but loose it very soon.

1	2

One Finnish bear hunter returns home, two others plan to leave the next day and two want to stay until Monday. Half of the team goes back to Vorderriß, half of the team stays in Thiersee.

Vorderthiersee (T): At 23:05 the bear crosses the road east of Vorderthiersee. At 23:17 the capture team is at the site. The track runs down into a gorge where the creek has grown into a torrent after a thunderstorm. The team manages to find a bridge to cross the water and to relocate the track but the slope gets too steep for the dogs to follow. The action is stopped at 3:30.

23.06.2006

Ascherdorf (T): At 05:15 people driving a car notice the bear chasing sheep on a pasture close to a house. They continue a little, stop, and go back. The bear has already killed a sheep and started to feed on it. The people honk the horn to alert the inhabitants of the house and to drive away the bear. The bear runs away. The conditions are perfect but the dogs are too exhausted to track the bear over an extended distance.



The Finnish bear hunters all decide to return home. The dogs need to recover and cannot work the next two days. The capture efforts end.



Kleintiefenthalalm/Taubenstein (Rotwandgebiet) (B): Two observations of the bear at 10:00 and 12:00.

24.06.2006

11:00 press conference of the Bavarian Ministry of Environment and Landesrat Steixner in Kufstein (T).

The Bavarian Ministry of Environment (StMUGV) nominates Ulrich Wotschikowsky to inspect bear damages during the next weeks. The members of the emergency team return home. Manfred Wölfl informs the district authorities about the new situation.

The bear unexpectedly changes its behavior. Whereas the bear was predominantly active at night and immediately ran upon seeing people, he now is observed during the day and at close range. The bear apparently became habituated. In addition, the bear does not immediately change its location any more and stays in the vicinity of a sheep it has killed.

1

2

Soinsee (Rotwand) (B): At 19:00 two people observe the bear through the window of a mountain cabin. They inform the police via mobile phone. The information is passed on to Ulrich Wotschikowsky by the district administration. One of the two observers (Gareis) follows the bear for about



two hours and takes pictures. One time the bear approaches Gareis up to 3 m (only a spruce tree is between him and the bear). Gareis also notifies two mountain bikers about the bear's presence. The three people then stay together in one group and the bear evades them by moving into the lake.

Großtiefenthalalm (Rotwand) (B):

The bear is spotted in a bog. He approaches the mountain cabin but is seen by young cattle that make front against the bear. The bear moves away and changes its direction towards a flock of sheep at the base of the Rotwand. He disperses the 26 sheep and kills one. Several observers approach the feeding bear up to 40 m. The bear seems



completely ignorant of their presence. Only once it stands up on its hind legs to get a better overview of the situation. Once it leaves the kill to drink from a nearby creek. The observers shoot about 20 slides (which are immediately sold to the newspaper BILD) and retreat to the Großtiefenthalalm (it is already dark). A hunter observes the bear which is still at the kill around 21:30. A late hiker that is heading for the kill is stopped by the hunter.

25.06.2006

Rotwandhaus (Rotwand) (B): At 20:30 JJ1 walks along the lodge in a distance of a few meters and is observed by the guests having supper. The manager steps out of the cabin and yells at the bear. The bear retreats.

1	2

Kümpflalm (Rotwand) (B): Late in the evening the bear is observed in the vicinity of the hut. The bear has killed another sheep. Young cattle repeatedly drive the bear away from the carcass. The bear is observed on the pasture until darkness. At night a special team authorized by the district office of Miesbach arrives at the cabin.



26.06.2006

Kümpflalm (Rotwand) (B): At 04:50 the bear is killed with two shots from the hut at a distance of 150 m. The dead bear is brought for an autopsy to the Institute of Animal Pathology at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich.

13:00 press conference with Staatssekretär Dr. Ottmar Bernhard and Landesrat Steixner in Schliersee (B).

Further Information:

Austrian Bear Management Plan: http://www.wwf.at/downloads/BMP_05.pdf

Report on Austria's Bears: http://www.wwf.at/downloads/Baer_in_Oesterreich_III.pdf

Information of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection: http://www.stmugv.bayern.de/de/natur/baer_bayern/index.htm

Swiss Bear Management Plan: http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/imperia/md/content/ama/ama_d/jagd_wildtiere/konzept_baer_0706_d.pdf