



Our Vision

- To advance **locally relevant** scientific knowledge of grizzly, black, and Spirit Bear populations, and the ecosystem that supports these populations, in Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation Territory.
- To support and assist with the development of **local scientific monitoring capacity** within the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation.
- To incorporate **perspectives, knowledge, and priorities** from the Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation into the development and implementation of our scientific programs.

Meet Our Research Team



Kitasoo/Xai'xais & Heiltsuk bear monitoring field crews training together in May 2013.

Lead Researcher - Christina Service

Field Technicians - Krista Robinson & Laura Grant

Research Skipper - Brandon Robinson

Field Research Update

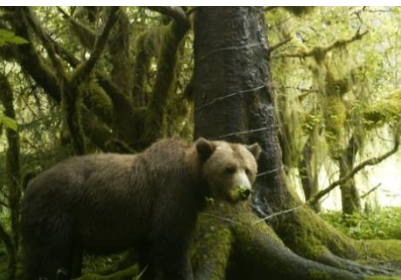
We would like to welcome the Wuikinuxv First Nation, who have joined us and the Heiltsuk First Nation in Bella Bella in a collaborative effort to monitor coastal bear populations. Together, we now monitor over 20% of the Great Bear Rainforest!

This year we set up 35 non invasive hair snags and 11 rub trees to monitor the bears in our Territory. When bears smell the non reward scent (no calories to avoid habituation) of the snag stations, they come to investigate and leave behind a small tuft of hair on the barb wire.



We collect this hair, which gives us valuable information about the individual identity (DNA), sex, species, stress levels, presence of white genes (in black bears), and even the diet of each individual bear detected. During our 2013 field season we collected 456 hair samples throughout the Territory.

36 remote cameras provide us with thousands of images and videos, which help us to identify the species, number, behavior and sex of bears and other animals that visit our sites.



In the Community

Our commitment to community engagement and science communication is central to our research.

Kitasoo/Xai'xais Integrated Resource Authority

In May our Lead Researcher, Christina Service, presented at both a Kitasoo/Xai'xais Integrated Resource Authority (KXIRA) meeting and a community feast co-hosted with KXIRA.

Klemtu Community School

Field Researchers also connected with the Kitasoo Community School (KCS) to present to students about ongoing research in the Territory and careers in Biology.

Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards

In July, SBRF teamed up with Klemtu SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards) Interns. The Interns learned about the work we do and helped us to complete a summer revisit of our hair snags; checking the sites, collecting any hair, monitoring the remote cameras, and re-baiting the sites upon completion.



Outreach

We value outreach initiatives that give voice to our research and help to ensure the policy and management implications of our work are realized.

Bear Tracks on Global TV

In October, our bear monitoring research team collaborated with a film crew from Global TV in the field to film an episode of 16X9 called *Bear Tracks* featuring our bear research program. This piece aired on TV twice and has been seen by over 2000 people on YouTube.

Bearing Witness

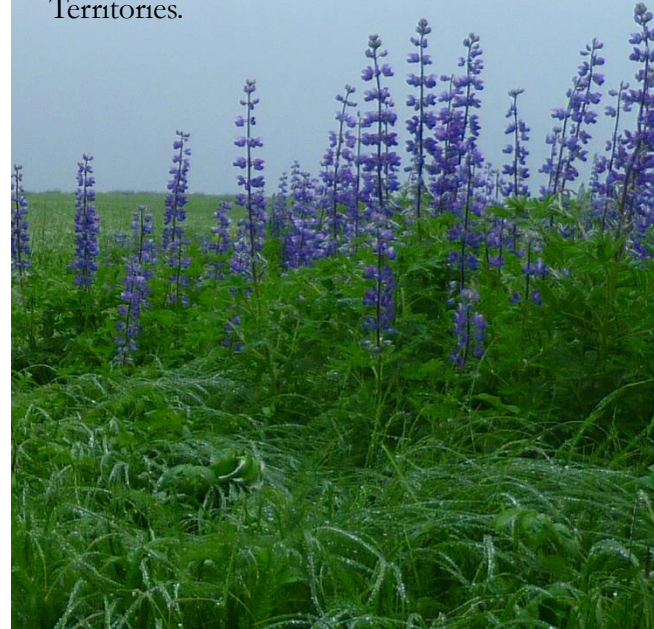
Our bear monitoring research was also featured in *Bear Witness*, a film by BC's Coastal First Nations on the Tribal Ban of trophy hunting and sustainable alternatives including research and ecotourism. Be one of over 60,000 people to see this film for free on YouTube or as part of the larger campaign: www.bearsforever.ca

Risky Bear Management in BC

SBRF advisory board members and our colleagues at University of Victoria published an important paper showing that despite claims of sound scientific management, overkills are occurring in half of BC's grizzly bear populations.

Unfortunately, the suggestion to consider a more conservative approach to management given this information was not carried out by the provincial government; instead, they opened up new areas with at-risk populations to hunting.

Four coastal First Nations (Kitasoo/Xai'xais in Klemtu, Wuikinuxv in Rivers Inlet, Heiltsuk in Bella Bella, and Nuxalk in Bella Coola), have taken a clear stance on this issue and have declared a full ban on trophy hunting of bears under tribal law in their Territories.



With Gratitude

We are grateful for all the support we receive! Our partnerships with the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and the University of Victoria Hakai-Raincoast Applied Conservation Science lab are foundational to our organization.

We would also like to thank Tides Canada and David Vernon for their support. Thanks also to Douglas Neasloss, Philip Charles, and Rosie Child for Newsletter photographs.