

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



Dr. Lynn Rogers  
Wildlife Research Institute  
1482 Trygg Rd  
Ely, MN 55731

June 28, 2013

Dear Dr. Rogers:

This letter serves as notice that we will not be issuing you a new bear research permit. We have extended your current permit (enclosed) until July 31 because we understand that it will take you some time to remove radio collars currently on study bears.

The reasons for this action have been articulated to you in previous letters. To summarize:

1. You have produced no peer-reviewed literature based on the permitted activities, in spite of our insistence for many years that this is a critical element of legitimate research.
2. Your habituation of bears to humans – including hand feeding and close interactions between bears and people – creates a very real public safety issue. You have stated that there are more than 50 bears in the Ely area that have been subjects of your work; this creates a large and long-term habituation issue.
3. We are aware of incidents that have been documented in various social media of extremely unprofessional behavior with research bears.

Because of these ongoing concerns, it is clear the potential benefit of published research results is greatly outweighed by our continuing concerns for public safety. You may continue to conduct bear education in the Ely area with the captive bears you maintain under your DNR game farm permit, but after July 31, 2013 your activities may no longer involve radio-collaring wild bears or disturbing, handling, or videotaping wild bears in dens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Anderson', written over a blue horizontal line.

Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
500 LAFAYETTE ROAD – BOX 20  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-4020

Special Permit No. 16868 (amended)  
Minnesota Statutes 97A.401, Subdivision 3

June 28, 2013

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Permission is granted to:

Dr. Lynn Rogers  
145 West Conan Street  
Ely, Minnesota 55731  
218-365-4480  
[lrogers@bearstudy.org](mailto:lrogers@bearstudy.org)

This permit allows the permittee to finalize a pilot research study of black bears and black bear public education on the Mud Creek study area (10 mile radius from the Northwood Research Center, SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 22, T62N, R14W), subject to the following conditions:


For the purposes of this permit, a *study bear* means any marked or unmarked bears that have been habituated under a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. *Handle* means to temporarily possess or perform a task or function that involves physical contact with a study bear.

1. The study bears shall not be possessed longer than necessary for removal of collars and shall not be kept in captivity.
2. Bears must be handled in a safe and humane manner.
3. Bears may be injected with ketamine hydrochloride, xylazine hydrochloride, or Telazol. If bears are injected with xylazine hydrochloride, yohimbine may be used as an antagonist. Antibiotics and other medical treatments may be administered under the direction of a licensed Veterinarian after consultation with the DNR Veterinarian.
4. Only the Permittee, Sue Mansfield, and the 6 associates named in condition number 7 may capture and handle bears provided they have in their possession a written authorization from the Permittee and a copy of the permit.
5. Permittee shall immediately report the death of any study bears to the local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Officer. Deceased study bears shall be immediately surrendered to the DNR or otherwise disposed of as instructed by the Conservation Officer.
6. Permittee shall be solely responsible for any and all damage or injury to persons, domestic or wild animals, and real or personal property of any kind resulting from any activities undertaken pursuant to this permit. Any direct contact with a person by a study bear other than those allowed in condition number 7, any injuries to persons resulting from the permitted activities, or personal injuries from any study bear must be reported to the local Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer immediately.



7. Under no circumstances shall anyone other than the Permittee, Sue Mansfield, and 6 associates whose names were provided by January 31, 2013 (and amended June 25, 2013) hand feed study bears. Substitution of up to 2 associates may be allowed only once, provided those names are submitted prior to participating in activities authorized by this permit. This hand-feeding prohibition includes individuals participating in bear field study courses and any individuals participating in any public or private events being conducted under this permit. Bears can be hand fed only to remove radio-collars.
8. Permittee shall hold the Department of Natural Resources, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any and all liability and damages resulting from any activities undertaken pursuant to this permit.
9. All study bears radio-collared under this permit remain under the jurisdiction of the State and are subject to all provisions of the Game and Fish Laws (e.g., Minnesota Statutes [MS] 97A.037, MS 97B.411, MS 97B.415), including removal to protect property and removal by Department of Natural Resources or other public safety officials if it is determined that a bear constitutes a public safety or property hazard.
10. By July 31, 2013, all radio-collars must be removed from all study bears. No further bears shall be marked under this permit.
11. This permit is valid from date of issuance through July 31, 2013. Failure to follow the conditions of this permit may result in revocation at any time.

**Edward K. Boggess, Director**  
**Division of Fish and Wildlife**



6/28/13

- c Mr. Paul Telander, Chief, Section of Wildlife, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Jeff Lightfoot, Regional Wildlife Manager, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Northeast Region, Grand Rapids  
Mr. Tom Rusch, Area Wildlife Manager, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Tower  
Dr. Lou Cornicelli, Wildlife Research and Policy Manager, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Dr. Mike Larson, Group Leader, Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Grand Rapids  
Colonel Ken Soring, Chief, Division of Enforcement  
Lieutenant Colonel Rodmen Smith, Assistant Director, Division of Enforcement  
Captain Tom Provost, Acting Northeast Regional Manager, Division of Enforcement, Grand Rapids