

**Habitat Use, Diet, Activity Patterns,  
and Communication Methods of  
Wild, Researcher-Habituated Black  
Bears**

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Free-ranging black bears (*Ursus americanus*) habituated to the presence of researchers were accompanied for a 48-hour period each week during April-October 1988-1989. The 3 study animals and their cubs showed movement and activity patterns similar to those of 103 non-habituated bears previously studied in the same area. A lap-top computer was used to record all activities and each bite of each food in each habitat. Computer programs developed for recording and analyzing the data are available at cost (approximately \$25 for diskettes and manual) to researchers interested in developing similar studies. The computer programs tabulate the data by habitat, weather, food, or activity and create time budgets. The use of habituated animals and computers facilitate wild studies of foraging strategy, digestibility, habitat use, activity patterns, communication methods, and effects of weather, insects, etc. The computer programs being offered are adaptable to other species. Highlights of results with black bears will be presented.