



Appalachian Bear Rescue

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Media Alert: ABR invites News Media to facility for Return of threatened Black Bear to Louisiana Wildlife Officials.

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Appalachian Bear Rescue invites the news media to attend the April 24, 2007, return of a Louisiana Black Bear to Louisiana officials.

Background – On November 21, 2006, ABR accepted Little Bear, a yearling Black Bear from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Upon capture, Little Bear weighed only 15 pounds. Normal weight would be 30-50 pounds. When Little Bear was found, he had no teeth, was near starvation, and was subsisting on harvested sugar cane stubble.

What to Expect – On April 24, 2007, the rescued bear will be released to Louisiana Wildlife officials for return to the wild. Officials from the Louisiana DWF will be present for the official return of “Little Bear.” ABR personnel, including curator Lisa Stewart, will be available for first hand interviews about Little Bear’s experience at ABR. For the last several months, Little Bear has been living in a 12 foot in diameter circular enclosure at ABR. The morning of the event, he will be sedated (to keep him calm), tagged, weighed, and safely placed into a transport vehicle in preparation for her return to Louisiana. Additionally, ABR personnel will be able to answer questions while the handover occurs. Visual media will be able to photograph the entire event.

Why this is Newsworthy – The Louisiana Black Bear (*Ursus Americanus Luteolus*) is officially classified as a “threatened species” under the Endangered Species Act. Today, there are only between 500 and 600. ABR is pleased to assist Louisiana officials in their efforts to return this species to sustainable levels. This is also a unique event for ABR in that law does not usually allow spectators to visit the rehabilitation facility.

When – August 24, 2007, 11:00 A.M. Estimated to last about an hour.

Where – ABR Facility in Townsend Tennessee: Tennessee law prohibits ABR from exhibiting bears in our care and therefore we are unable to send out directions to our facility at this time. Jack Burgin, President ABR, will contact those confirming attendance to make transportation arrangements.

Packages – Media attendees will receive prepared factual information about ABR and the threatened species of Louisiana Black Bear. High-resolution digital photographs of the yearling upon capture and upon arrival at ABR will be available for electronic distribution.

Other bears – ABR currently has 11 other bears on site. They will most likely not be visible during the event due to their normal sleeping schedules.

Questions and RSVPs regarding the event may be directed to Jack Burgin:

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