



**Friends of McNeil River**  
P.O. Box 231091  
Anchorage AK 99523-1091

**First Edition** – Released June 1 for  
2009 summer viewing season!



Thirty bears spotlighted in this first edition with photos, special traits and a place for your notes when you observe each bear yourself! For easy field access, the 5.5" x 8.5" book fits in most backpack pockets.

Minimum **\$25** Donation per book, plus shipping. (USPS Priority = \$5 each, 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Air = \$17.50)

*Made for field use – printed on **write-in-the-rain** stock!*

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A definite Must Have for your trip to McNeil!

## Bears - 2009 Photo ID Fieldbook Introduction!

This Fieldbook was inspired by the desire on the part of Friends of McNeil River (FOMR) and staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation to enhance the McNeil River visitor's experience. It was a cooperative effort that called on the experience and knowledge of current and former Sanctuary staff, in addition to help from talented and enthusiastic photographers, supporters and two of the Board of Directors of FOMR.

A first time visitor will find helpful information about the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge, maps of the area (including vicinity, camp and trail maps), tips on bear safety, information on plants, mammals and birds in the Sanctuary, as well as descriptions and identifying photos of 30 brown bears. Never been there and want to go? We've information to help you with that, too. The bears shown in this book were photographed and identified in 2007 and 2008. A returning visitor or former visitor will recognize familiar places and animals depicted in this book and remember the very special place and experience that is the McNeil River Sanctuary.

We encourage visitors to use this "write-in-the-rain" fieldbook to actively record their visit in the sanctuary. The wildlife biologists will point out characteristics of individual bears and how they relate to the general bear population and their habitat. As you observe the bears, there are spaces for your notes in this book. Try your hand at taking photographs, sketches and notes in a careful and precise manner that may help to point out "identifying traits" of the bears. FOMR will appreciate receipt of high definition photos, along with your notes, of all your observations for possible consideration for future editions.

We welcome suggestions for future improvements. It is our intent to publish at least a second edition this coming winter with additional photography from 2009. We have been awarded a Rasmuson Foundation grant to help us with this fall's publication, which will help us make it even better for next season's visitors.

We hope you enjoy your McNeil River visit, whether in person or vicariously with this fieldbook! Sincerely,

Lennie Gorsuch, Member, FOMR Board of Directors  
Mike Adams, President, FOMR Board of Directors

(P.S. In case you've been there recently, the bears that are included in this first edition are separated by males (23) and females (7). Alphabetically, the males are 2-stripe, Boog, Brave Heart, Cornelius, Custer, Derek, Donnie, Droop, Dusty, Ears, Elvis, Ivan, Jordan, Luther, McDoogle, Otto, Plunger, Rocky, Scraper, Ted, Ted-Like, True Coat, and Wolfgang. The females included are Chrisco, Dakota, Diamond Eyes, Holderman, Simba, Vanilla, and Waterfall. We plan on having more in the next edition.)

Here is a sample Photo Id entry (pages 72 & 73 of Simba):



# #603 Simba

72

Seen in 2007 with two yearlings



**Cross-shaped scar on top of nose**

Sex/Age **11 year old Female**

Scars/marks **Cross-shaped scar on top of nose**

Characteristics **Offspring of Rollie in 1998**

Usual habits **Very tolerant of viewers**

Date	Observations



# #603 Simba

Last updated: Spring, 2009