

FAQ:

- How does my contribution help?
 - Biologists at Katmai National Park currently monitor bears from late June through July and again from late August through early October. These defined observation periods coincided with historical peak bear activity and abundance at the river. Even those are generally limited to six hours per day. No one has ever attempted to record the presence/absence of bears on the river through an entire summer. This community science project will supplement the Brooks River bear monitoring program by recording observations of bears during and outside official monitoring sessions, essentially extending one aspect of the bear monitoring program through an entire summer and beyond as long as the webcams are functioning.
- Why is it important to monitor bears at Brooks River?
 - Unlike many places where brown bears currently live, the brown bear population in Katmai National Park is healthy and naturally regulated, meaning most brown bears die natural deaths and non-human factors contribute to population fluctuations. Therefore, these bears provide an increasingly rare and important example of a population that is not heavily influenced by people (habitat modifications, hunting, poaching, etc.)
- I can't identify individual bears. Does that matter?
 - You do not need to identify individual bears. The current project goal is to record the presence/absence of bears to supplement the existing bear monitoring program. It is most important that you can identify an animal as a brown bear. Brown bears are also the only species of bear found in Katmai, so there is no risk of confusing them with black or polar bears.