



## Katmai Conservancy 2022 Annual Report

Our 2022 Annual Report demonstrates the impact of your donations to Katmai Conservancy as we work to conserve, protect, and support Katmai National Park and Preserve and the wildlife who call it home.

From staff salaries and tech supplies to research and community outreach, Katmai Conservancy continues to work toward providing the Park with the funding necessary to meet our growing needs.

We sincerely appreciate the incredible love shown to Katmai National Park and Preserve and Katmai Conservancy by our extraordinary supporters, let's continue working together to make 2023 Katmai's best year yet!



2022 Annual Report available online at [katmaiconservancy.org](https://katmaiconservancy.org)

### 2022 Funding Highlights

Every year Katmai Conservancy and Katmai National Park and Preserve agree to an Annual Philanthropic Work Plan, a collaborative agreement that aligns the identified needs of Katmai National Park with Katmai Conservancy's assessment of interest of their donor community in supporting those needs. The 2022 work plan, totaling over \$415,000.00, mainly focused on contributing to Katmai's bear and wolf research, Park staff support, educational programs, community outreach, and other projects and initiatives centered around Brooks Camp and the Brooks River area of Katmai National Park and Preserve.



### Brooks Camp Staff

Thanks once again to a generous grant from our friends at explore.org and the Annenberg Foundation, in 2022 we were able to fully fund nine Interpretation staff positions at Katmai National Park and Preserve. These included one GS-7 Park Ranger, seven GS-5 Park Rangers, and one GS-5 Park Guide. Over the course of the summer seasonal Interpretation staff made thousands of visitor contacts, in

which they provided information and/or education outside the Brooks Camp Visitor Center. Interpretation staff delivered bear safety orientations to incoming visitors, managed visitor safety around brown bears, and assisted visitors at the very popular Brooks Falls Platform by running a wait list and cycling visitors through their turn at the platform. Interpreters also created and delivered unique program content over the course of the summer season. In addition, Brooks Camp interpretation staff reached virtual audiences through their media contributions, including live web chats on explore.org, blogs, website content, social media posts, and NPS App content.

## Katmai Culture Camp

Katmai National Park & Preserve encompasses a substantial portion of the traditional lands of the Sugpiat-Alutiiq, Yup'ik and Dena'ina, peoples. In recent years, tribal partners to Katmai have increasingly requested educational programming and activities designed to connect students to their historical and cultural roots in the park. In response, the Katmai Cultural Resources Division partnered with Gerald Kosbruk (President of the Native Village of Perryville), Edna Smith (Secretary of the Katmai Council of Descendants) and the education development group, Science and Social Studies Adventures (SASSA), to develop both a classroom-based curriculum that teaches students about the cultural history and natural resources at Katmai as well as a place-based learning experience (Culture Camp) allowing students and culture-bearers from descendant communities to visit their ancestral home and connect with their history and heritage. Katmai Conservancy is proud to be able to offer local youth a chance to connect to their ancestral homelands through our support of the Katmai Culture Camp.



## Katmai Coastal Wolf and Bear Research

Katmai's coastal ecosystems are experiencing increasing visitation, changing ocean conditions, and expanding commercial and industrial development that may impact species that rely on the nearshore environment. Wolves are top predators that shape their ecological community; however, we have insufficient information on how wolves utilize marine

resources and how visitation may be affecting them. The Katmai Coastal Wolf Project began with three core objectives: (1) Test the implementation and success of noninvasive methods in obtaining DNA from carnivores and their prey, with a focus on foraging ecology (2) locate active wolf dens and rendezvous sites throughout the park, and (3) obtain a minimum population count of wolves living on the Katmai coast. In particular, we aim to elucidate the predator-prey relationship of coastal wolves and sea otters.

While collecting scats for the coastal wolf project across six sites this summer, bear scat was opportunistically sampled as well. Metabarcoding prey DNA in the 235 collected bear scat samples will reveal the precise species of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates that comprise bear diets on the Katmai coast. To our knowledge, this is the first instance in which a coastal brown bear population has been DNA metabarcoded. Study outcomes include: (1) Relative seasonal importance of forage items for brown bears from June through September, and 2) Comparison of DNA amplification success between preservation methods for sample storage under remote field conditions where cold chain storage is not possible.

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**New 2022 Fat Bear Week and Fat Bear Champ T-shirts Now Available**

Stay comfortable and stylish with our limited edition Fat Bear® t-shirts featuring vibrant designs by Alaskan artist Valisa Higman. These black t-shirts are available in two different text colors, giving you the option to choose the one that best suits your personal style. They are a must-have for any fan of Fat Bear Week and the magnificent bears of Brooks Falls. These limited edition t-shirts are a unique and exclusive item that will serve as a statement piece for your love and admiration for the majestic Fat Bears.

Don't miss the chance to purchase yours before they run out!



**Visit the [katmaiconservancy.org](https://katmaiconservancy.org) shop**

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## Fat Bear Week 2022 Limited Edition Prints by Valisa Higman



### Available in March!

Adorn your walls with the magnificence of Katmai through Valisa Higman's awe-inspiring Fat Bear Week prints. These artworks feature all the beloved fat bears fishing at Brooks Falls, accurately capturing the essence of the Fat Bear Week competition. Produced on premium glossy photo paper, these vivid color prints bring the Falls to life! Measuring 11x14in, they make an ideal addition to any space in your home or office, providing an ongoing reminder of the splendor of Katmai. Limited run of 50 signed prints.

**Prints available in March at [katmaiconservancy.org](https://katmaiconservancy.org)**

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## Check Out Our Retro Bear Collection!

Get ready for your next outdoor adventure with our picnic blankets, hooded long-sleeve shirts, cotton t-shirts, and Nalgene bottles featuring groovy retro bear designs by Anastasia Ward. Show your love for Otis, Holly, 747, and Grazer with these unique and eye-catching designs. Whether it's chilly or hot outside, there is a comfortable shirt for you; the picnic blankets are perfect for any outdoor gathering, and the Nalgene bottles are perfect for staying hydrated on the go.



**Visit our website to shop our collection**

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**As always, we thank you for your support!**