



KATMAI CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER



KATMAI BEAR CAM 10th ANNIVERSARY



The Wait is Finally Over - Katmai Bear Cams go live on June 21st!

We're so excited to get the 2022 Katmai Bear Cam season started that we can hardly contain ourselves! Our partners at [explore.org](https://www.explore.org), the largest live nature camera network on Earth, provide the world an intimate look at the



coastal brown bears of Katmai National Park and Preserve. [Explore.org](https://www.explore.org) offers 6 different live nature cameras at various locations around Brooks Falls, including high and low views of the bears while they fish at the Falls, two views along the Brooks River, and even an underwater salmon cam.

[Click here to join the countdown!](#)

Celebrating 10 Years of the explore.org Katmai Bear Cams

Each summer, dozens of brown bears gather at Brooks River in Katmai National Park and Preserve to fish for salmon. Since 2012, the [bearcams at explore.org](#) have showcased the world-famous brown bears of Brooks Falls to anyone with an internet connection.

“We’ve witnessed many amazing events on bearcam. I’ll never forget Holly adopting a yearling cub into her family, or the exceptional runs of salmon - schools of sockeye so thick that the river sometimes seems to be more fish than water,” says Mike Fitz, a former ranger at Katmai National Park and currently the resident naturalist at [explore.org](https://www.explore.org) and Board member of Katmai Conservancy. “Bearcam provides a window like no other into the lives of brown bears. I can hardly wait to see what stories will unfold this year.”



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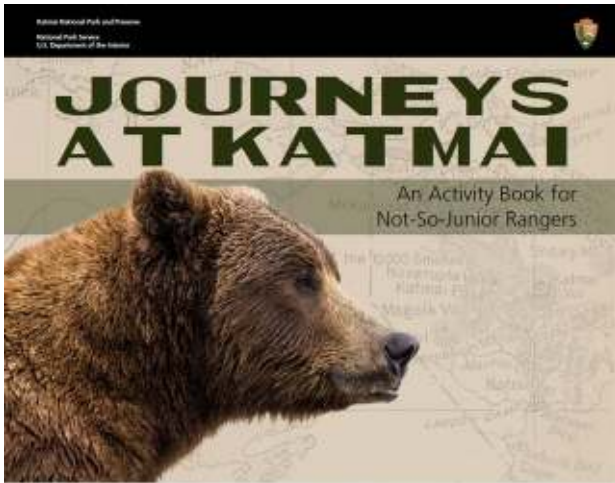
Bears return to the river hungry and eager to regain the weight they lost during a long winter of hibernation. This summer, celebrate the best of the bear cam with special live events and video retrospectives at [explore.org](https://www.explore.org). The 10-year anniversary celebration concludes in October with [Fat Bear Week](#), the annual tournament where your vote decides which bear best transcends beyond the ordinarily large and into the realm of extraordinarily fat.

Stay tuned to www.katmaiconservancy.org for Limited Edition Katmai Bear Cam 10th Anniversary t-shirts, zip-up sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, tumblers, mouse pads, and more, coming soon!



Katmai National Park Updates

Amber Kraft, Katmai National Park Interpretation and Education Program Manager



Visitor Services:

Visitor Services are in full swing at Katmai. The King Salmon Interagency Visitor Center and the Brooks Camp Visitor Center are both open 7 days a week. Staff in each location can answer visitor questions, help with trip planning, stamp visitors NPS passport books, assist in sales in our bookstore, and help visitors who would like to borrow bear resistant food canisters. Visitors in King Salmon can enjoy exhibits, films and more. Those at Brooks Camp will be provided with their mandatory bear safety orientation

and can assist visitors with campground reservations. Visitors are also invited to join a scheduled ranger led program, ask a ranger about their pocket program, and complete the Junior Ranger or Not-So-Junior Ranger programs. If you are planning a visit to Katmai this summer, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/katm/planyourvisit/index.htm> for all the info you need to know!

Culture Camp:

Culture camp is happening this week at Katmai National Park and Preserve! This Culture Camp stems from the Native Village of Perryville's desire to support Alaska Native youth connection to their cultural heritage through place-based exploration at Katmai Village. We strive to develop a sustainable long-term cooperation that unites local communities, government



agencies, scientists, and educators in the shared mission of learning from and preserving unique and threatened cultural heritage. Graduating seniors from the Native Village of Perryville's public school had the opportunity to visit and participate in an educational camp located at their ancestral homelands at the historic Katmai Village archaeological site in August 2021 but it was interrupted by the Shumagin Gap Earthquake. Students who were meant to participate in 2021 have another opportunity to participate in 2022 due to its postponement. This will be the first year that this event will be held at the site, but Katmai National Park anticipates hosting this event annually.

Pelagia Malgenak Unveiling:

On June 6th, 2022, a monument of Pelagia Malgenak was



unveiled at the King Salmon Visitor Center with her descendants followed by a public unveiling on Tuesday (6/7). The sculpture was created by local Alaska Native artist Darlene Lind and will eventually form the centerpiece of a collaboratively developed interpretive display of the region's Alaska native culture. The NPS first agreed in negotiations with Pelagia's heirs to produce a monument commemorating her life more than twenty years ago. Pelagia's Monument will be on display in the King Salmon visitor center temporarily over the next few years while we work with her heirs along with the expanded community of Katmai's affiliated tribes to develop an appropriate location for her to be prominently displayed in the Quirwik (Brooks Camp) region of the park,

where she will comprise the centerpiece of an exhibit that tells her story and that of the Aluqtiig-Sugpiat people here in Katmai country.

Brooks River Permits Pilot:

This summer Katmai National Park will pilot a permit system for the Brooks River Corridor (within the Brooks Camp Developed Area). This corridor includes the river itself and 50 yards from the water on either side along the banks of the river. This does not include trails, boardwalks, or wildlife viewing platforms. Permits will be needed to access the Brooks River Corridor from July 1 until October 31 when the salmon are spawning. Each permit will be valid for 7 days with a maximum group size of 6 individuals. Permits are free but there is a \$6 booking fee that will be charged. Commercial Users and Visitors will be able to obtain permits before arriving to the Brooks River on www.recreation.gov. Interested parties can reserve their permits online beginning June 28.



The Brooks River Corridor is used primarily for fishing, bear viewing and photography and the intent is that the introduction of this new permit system will ensure a safer and more compliant experience for visitors using the river. Currently, there is unregulated use and unlimited access to this area. The permit system will also serve as an integral planning and management tool to enhance visitor safety, compliance, and resource protection. The new permit system would build on other actions taken to manage the Brooks River Corridor within the park's 1987 General Management Plan (GMP).



Katmai Bear Cams Turn 10 Years Old:

Join Katmai National Park on July 25, 2022, to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the park's bear webcams. Throughout the summer, the park invites virtual visitors to celebrate through live chats, and play-by-plays of action at Brooks Falls with special online events during the week of July 25. Stay up to date on upcoming programs on the [park's calendar of events](#) and on the

[explore.org Brooks Live Chat channel](#). Last year, 2021, 10.9 million viewers tuned into the bearcams online; that is a huge impact! The partnership between Katmai National

Park, explore.org and the Katmai Conservancy has been amazing for nearly a decade, and all parties hope that will continue for several more decades to come.

So Much to See at our katmaiconservancy.org Online Shop!

We've added several new products to our online shop this year, including lots of hats! Legacy hats feature a really cool Otis patch and are available in two color variations. Bucket hats come in three color variations, two sporting a leather patch of Otis with a salmon and one with the Katmai Conservancy logo. We've also added two new Speckled Ceramic 14 ounce mugs and a beautiful mouse pad featuring two bears playing in the Brooks River. If you're looking for a great children's gift check out the "How Velcro Got His Name" book or some really neat coloring greeting cards.



Updated items include last year's King Otis Champion t-shirts that now come in Heather Orchid and Heather Autumn colors. The Brooks Falls Bears t-shirts are now available in Navy. In addition to our upcoming Limited Edition Bear Cam 10th Anniversary gear, we'll also soon have other available items, including 8oz candles and wax melts in four different scents, an incredible coloring book about Katmai National Park, and some really cool children's t-shirts. **Stay tuned to www.katmaiconservancy.org!**

Brooks Falls Bear Spotlight: 001 Diver



Before the explore.org bear cams--before Otis, Grazer, Chunk, and 747—Brooks River in Katmai National Park was home to a brown bear who was most famous for his longevity and skill.

Diver was an extremely long-lived bear. He fished at Brooks River from the mid-1970s through the late 1990s. He was estimated to be more than 30 years old when last seen in 2000.

Diver's success was fueled by his fishing strategy. He was a skilled angler at Brooks Falls, but unlike other bears he dove regularly for salmon. His penchant for diving inspired his nickname and allowed Diver to exploit fishing opportunities not available to other bears. Diver succeeded through his skill, size, and strength for decades. - Mike Fitz

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/yt9v6tbx> to learn more about 001 Diver and other famous bears of Brooks Falls!

**Happy Bear Cam Season from all of us
at Katmai Conservancy, thank you for your support!**

