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Contact: Jimi Galvao, Program and Design Coordinator, 604-932-2019

MICHAEL ALLEN ON IMPACT

Presentation on impact of climate change on Whistler black bears taking place September 22nd

Whistler, BC, August 31, 2005 – Sadly, natural disasters and the ever-diminishing status of Earth’s natural resources are becoming more and more commonplace. Depleted fish stocks and the pine beetle are but two sobering reminders in British Columbia of how delicate and devastating Mother Nature can be. The impact of our changing environment can be felt by all life on the planet. On September 22nd, the impact on one particular form of life in Whistler will be explored.

Michael Allen is returning to share his knowledge and experiences in **The Impact of Climate Change on Whistler Black Bears, 1994-2004**. Organized by the Whistler Museum & Archives, the education program will feature field data on local berry abundance and their effect on Whistler’s black bears with respect to reproductive biology and overall population trends. “As with June’s presentation, black bear enthusiasts can expect to see more digital footage captured by Michael during some of his recent field excursions,” says Jimi Galvao, Program and Design Coordinator for the Whistler Museum & Archives. Physical artifacts from Michael’s personal collection will also be on display.

Michael Allen is a self-taught black bear researcher. His information on the life history of black bears is based on 19 years of comprehensive field observations. Allen’s research has been represented internationally through the BBC Natural World’s “In the Company of Bears”.

The Impact of Climate Change on Whistler Black Bears will take place Thursday September 22nd at Maurice Young Millennium Place at 7 pm. Tickets are \$9.99 for adults and \$5 for youth and can be purchased by calling Millennium Place Box Office at 604-935-8418. To learn more about Michael Allen, his work, and to view the Whistler Black Bear Project exhibit, visit the Museum at 4329 Main Street. For further information contact Jimi Galvao at 604-932-2019 or jgalvao@whistlermuseum.org.