49TH MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONFERENCE December 5-9, 1987,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
REQUEST FOR PLACE ON PROGRAM
(Please Type)

<u>Title of Presentation:</u> Researcher-Conditioned Black Bears Provide Detailed Habitat Use Data

Authors (underline author making presentation):

Lynn L. Rogers and Greg Wilker

Affiliation and Address (include phone numbers): 612 - 642-5312 North Central

Forest Experiment Station. 1992 Folwell Ave. St. Paul. MN 55108

Abstract (Do not exceed space given below and Please Proofread!):

Four radio-collared, female black bears (2 subadults, 2 mothers with cubs) were fed by researchers until the bears accepted the constant company of the researchers. After the feeding was discontinued, the bears continued to accept the researchers during the 24-hour periods of continuous observation at distances typically <4 m. The bears exhibited daily activity and habitat use patterns similar to those of other radio-collared bears. The habituated bears provided important details of what the different habitats were used for (resting, feeding, refuge, cooling, drinking) and revealed food preferences relative to food abundance, amount eaten in each season, reactions to weather and insects, road use and avoidance, predator-prey relations, mother-young interactions, differences in interactions between kin and nonkin, vocalizations and body language, and defecation rates. The information enables development and validation of bear habitat models useful to land managers.