

case study



Honeywell Cameras Help Secure a Species' Future.

Located alongside a popular ski resort and busy year-round recreation area in British Columbia, the Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife is known for its remote and scenic beauty. Located at the top of a mountain in British Columbia, the Grouse Mountain Refuge is a research, education, and conservation center dedicated to becoming a world leader in preserving both flora and fauna at risk. Even though the province of British Columbia is

immense, some wildlife faces increasing pressure of being displaced by the expanding human population. Grouse Mountain provides a sanctuary where endangered animals can forage for food, play and hibernate while they remain protected.

Honeywell

The Situation:

The Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife provides an opportunity for endangered animals to lead a much more natural life and to be protected from the hazards of encroaching civilization. The Refuge offers leading-edge interpretive programs that make learning about nature fun and fascinating for children and adults alike, but it has also been working to establish itself as a prime spot for pioneering scientific efforts to preserve the grizzly bear population—identified as a threatened species in British Columbia.

In 2001, Grouse Mountain became home to two orphaned grizzly bear cubs. Grinder and Coola were only 8 months old when they arrived at Grouse Mountain. Coola was brought to the Refuge after his mother was killed by a passing vehicle. Grinder was discovered wandering alone and dehydrated; the fate of his mother remains a mystery. As managing director and veterinarian of Grouse Mountain Refuge, Ken Macquisten was committed to keeping the bears safe and learning how to optimize their care. One of his concerns was keeping an eye on the bears during the months of hibernation, when the animals disappear into their den for months at a time. He approached Panorama Technologies for ideas on how to monitor the activities of the bears on a year-round basis.

The Solution:

Panorama Technologies recommended an innovative use for security technology traditionally used to protect more civilized facilities: vandal-proof video surveillance cameras. Using armored cameras bolstered with infrared illumination, the Refuge closely monitors the daily activities and behaviors of the bears. HRSD DVRs offer greater data compression, which means that more data can be stored for longer periods of time.

For more information:

www.honeywellvideo.com

Honeywell Security & Data Collection

Honeywell

2700 Blankenbaker Pkwy, Suite 150

Louisville, KY 40299

1.800.796.CCTV (2288)

www.honeywell.com

Since hibernation can last anywhere from three to five months, it's important that the equipment in the den is rugged and dependable.

Because the site is at such a high elevation, the equipment is at risk from lightning strikes. In response, Panorama installed a Honeywell surge protector that has saved the DVR on a number of occasions. In addition to withstanding harsh weather conditions, the Honeywell cameras have proven to be "grizzly bear tough," surviving multiple attempts by the bears to tamper with the cameras. "We've captured some great shots looking down the gullet of a grizzly bear—and the Honeywell equipment has stood up really well," Macquisten said.

The Benefits:

Honeywell technology allows Macquisten and his staff to maintain the bears' natural habitat by monitoring areas otherwise unreachable by humans. With the data collected from the cameras, Grouse Mountain Refuge has distinguished itself as a forerunner in establishing techniques for protecting other orphaned bears, and helping them flourish in a natural environment until they're capable of returning to the wild on their own. "Even though we'll never be able to release Grinder and Coola back into the wild, we can apply the things we can learn from them to other bears that are in similar circumstances. Ultimately, the tragedy of losing a mother grizzly won't be compounded by losing her cubs to environmental threats," Macquisten said. "We've been able to use the technology of Honeywell to watch the bears remotely. We've got some fantastic footage, and we've learned a lot just by watching them hibernate. The cameras have given us a chance to participate in their daily lives, and we're really thankful for that opportunity."



Grinder and Coola at play.

As part of a larger initiative to reverse the global trend of dwindling bear populations, the ability to monitor Grinder and Coola on a year-round basis has provided vital information for a groundbreaking study about the health and activity level of bears during hibernation. According to Greg Puchniak of Panorama Technologies, "It's amazing to view footage that shows the bears walking around in the den when everybody thought they'd be sleeping through the winter."

The Products:

- Honeywell infrared cameras
- HRSD16 DVRs equipped with RASPlus software for live monitoring

