



René Dahinden examining what he thought might have been a bigfoot bed. He carefully removed it, placing the material in three bags. I examined the bags in 2004, and found that they contained three different types of forest material. It appears the “nest” was in layers—fine bark, long twigs, and then leaves and bear grass (seen on the right). The site was later examined by wildlife people and they said the structure was a bear bed. Bear feces was found nearby.



Close-up of Klawock Lake nest with ax for scale.



Distant view of the nest.

Sasquatch Beds, Nests, Bowers, or Hollows

We can reasonably assume that sasquatch make some kind of bed or “nest” to protect themselves from dampness when they lie down to sleep or rest. Rough structures made of forest material have been found that are considered to be bigfoot beds. It has been observed that bear grass has been used to line some of the beds. This type of grass is very sharp and difficult to pull out. To remove it from the ground, a creature would need a “hand,” such as a squirrel or a raccoon has, as opposed to a paw. The beds are far too large for these two types of creatures, so the obvious conclusion is either a human or something like a human made the structures.

The following remarkable account of the discovery of a possible sasquatch nest is from J. Robert Alley’s book Raincoast Sasquatch (Hancock House, 2003), pp. 240–242. The account was provided to Alley by Eric Muench, a Ketchikan, Alaska, timber cruiser and logging engineer.

I had been on Prince of Wales Island working as an independent timber cruiser and logging engineer. On January 26, 1988, on a job for [a local Native corporation] on their land, I was on a hillside above Klawock Lake doing timber reconnaissance to plan some logging units for their coming season. It had been a fairly open winter, and there had been less than one foot of snow under the western hemlock and western red cedar forest at the five hundred foot elevation.

I noticed a patch of huckleberry bushes on the hillside below me that had been broken off uniformly at the four or five foot height. Looking closer, I found a large nest of crudely woven huckleberry branches and cedar bark strips and boughs, lined with mosses and more bark. The circular nest was about seven and one-half feet on the outside with a four and one-half foot diameter hollow part inside. It was uncovered, but well-placed on the lower side of a downhill leaning red cedar with lots of live feathery boughs hanging directly over the nest, like a natural shingle roof. It was on about a ten-foot wide gentle bench, beyond which a series of small cliffs dropped on down the hill. Nail or claw marks on the tree showed where material had been gathered, and the surrounding ground was stripped of grasses also. The site was less than one-quarter mile above the Klawock Hollis Highway.

In my experience, most bears hibernate in a convenient windfall den, hollow tree, or similar partial shelter, with little or no preparation or housekeeping. I have also seen where mother bears will pull in moss, grass or brush tips, probably to warm and

soften the place a bit for their cubs. However, this was quite different. Not only were the nest materials somewhat woven together in a way that no bear could do, but the huckleberry bushes had been broken off cleanly, as though two hands had bent the stems so sharply that they could not splinter.

I wandered around the area a while to look for tracks on deer trails and passages through the cliffs, but the snow was mostly fresh from that day and still falling, so I found nothing. I did pull some fairly stiff, long and slightly kinky black hair from the nest and saw what appeared to be a louse egg on one. It reminded me of horse-mane hair, not bear or wolf. The [tree] scratch marks, to about six or seven feet (1.8 or 2.1 m) up from the ground, clearly showed individual hand pulls. The scratch spread was about eight inches (20.3 cm), similar to my own fingers if I spread them way out, but at that spread I could not put scratch-making pressure on my thumb and little finger. I tried, and could not begin to match those marks.

While continuing logging road location work the next day, I visited the site again. It had not been disturbed. I designed the logging layout so that the immediate area of the nest was included in a timbered leave strip that protected a deep gorge nearby.

Because I had recently read a down-south ‘bigfoot searcher’ declare that he intended to prove their existence by offering a reward for a shot specimen, I was reluctant to spread word of my find and risk ‘outside’ [non-Alaskan] clowns crawling all over my client’s property. However, I decided that two people had a right to know. [Mr. Muench named a former land manager for the Native corporation and the logging superintendent for the privately contracted logging company.] I knew them both to be honest, intelligent and thoughtful men and had no hesitation in letting them decide how far to spread word of the nest. Both took the news calmly and without skepticism. In the following days I heard accounts of frequent past sasquatch encounters, including both the Tlingit and Haida names for them, mostly from Native people who had grown up in the Craig and Klawock area. Apparently, knowledge of and belief in bigfoot is common in the area, but not often spoken of to strangers from outside the area.

On February 9, during a Forest Practice Act inspection, the land manager and I took an Alaska Division of Forestry forester and an Alaska Fish and Game habitat biologist to the nest. The biologist gathered a sample from some unfamiliar (at least to me) small dropping piles.

Later that spring or summer, I returned with a camera to



Large cedar beside Klawock Lake nest showing bark stripped 12 feet (3.7m) up.



Parallel 8-inch (20.3-cm) span marks in cedar where bark had been stripped.

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photograph the nest and scratch marks, etc., using my ax and a six-inch ruler, for relative scale on the pictures. By that time the nearby brush had “leafed out” and the boughs in the nest, originally green, had turned brown.

My only other observation of anything unusual in the area was that, on several occasions during that time on that hillside, I heard a series of slow, measured raps, as though a heavy wood chunk was being swung against a tree. I work alone, and knew that there was no other person anywhere near the area. Following in the apparent direction of the sounds never revealed anything. Years later I was told that such rapping has often been associated with bigfoot sightings or evidence.

I am aware that other people in various capacities visited the nest afterward and before it became destroyed by “wind-throw” and fire. However, none of that was part of my experience.

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