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Steven M. Huffaker, Director

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Progress Report



BLACK BEAR

Study I, Job 9

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEWIDE.....	1
ABSTRACT.....	1
PANHANDLE REGION.....	4
ABSTRACT.....	4
DAU 1A (GMU 1).....	5
DAU 1B (GMUS 2, 3, 5).....	6
DAU 1C (GMUS 4, 4A).....	7
DAU 1L (GMU 6).....	8
DAU 2B (GMUS 7, 9).....	9
CLEARWATER REGION.....	23
ABSTRACT.....	23
DAU 1D (GMUS 8A, 10A).....	23
DAU 1E (GMUS 8, 11, 11A, 13).....	25
DAU 1F (GMUS 14, 15, 16, 18).....	27
DAU 2A (GMUS 10, 12).....	28
DAU 3A (GMUS 16A, 17, 19, 20).....	30
SOUTHWEST REGION.....	46
ABSTRACT.....	46
DAU 1G (GMUS 19A, 23, 24, 25).....	46
DAU 1H (GMUS 22, 31, 32, 32A).....	48
DAU 1K (GMUS 33, 39, 43).....	50
DAU 3B (GMUS 20A, 26, 27).....	52
MAGIC VALLEY REGION.....	66
ABSTRACT.....	66
DAU 4A (GMUS 44, 45, 48, 49).....	66
UPPER SNAKE REGION.....	73
ABSTRACT.....	73
DAU 4B (GMUS 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A).....	74
DAU 4C (GMUS 60, 61, 62, 62A).....	75
DAU 4D (GMUS 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76).....	77
GMUS 60A, 63, 63A.....	79

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SALMON REGION.....89
 ABSTRACT.....89
 DAU 1I (GMUS 34, 35, 36)89
 DAU 1J (GMUS 21, 21A, 28, 36B).....91
 DAU 4E (GMUS 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A).....93
 LITERATURE CITED.....94
APPENDIX A.....103

LIST OF TABLES

PANHANDLE REGION

Table 1. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Panhandle Region, 1994-present..... 11
Table 2. Method of black bear harvest, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.13
Table 3. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.....15
Table 4. Age distribution of black bear, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.17
Table 5. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Panhandle Region,
1994-present.....20
Table 6. Black bear depredation complaints, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.....22

CLEARWATER REGION

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Clearwater Region, 1993-present.....33
Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.....34
Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.36
Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Clearwater Region,
1994-present.....39
Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.....41
Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.....43
Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.....45

SOUTHWEST REGION

Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.54

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Table 2. Bait station (pork fat and anise oil) survey results from DAU 1G, 2003-present.54

Table 3. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Southwest Region, 1994-present.....55

Table 4. Age distribution of black bear, Southwest Region, 1994-present.57

Table 5. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values, criteria, and median ages, Southwest Region, 1994-present.59

Table 6. Method of black bear harvest, Southwest Region, 1994-present.61

Table 7. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Southwest Region, 1994-present.....63

Table 8. Black bear depredation complaints, Southwest Region, 1994-present.....65

Table 9. Bait station (sardines) survey results from Council routes (DAU 1H), 1994-present.65

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Magic Valley routes, 2003-present.69

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.....69

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.70

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.71

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.71

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.72

Table 7. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.72

UPPER SNAKE REGION

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Upper Snake and Southeast Regions, 1992-present.....81

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.....82

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.83

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.85

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.86

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.87

Table 7. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.88

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SALMON REGION

Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.95
Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Salmon Region, 1994-present.96
Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Salmon Region, 1994-present.....97
Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Salmon Region,
1994-present.....99
Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Salmon Region, 1994-present.....100
Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Salmon Region, 1994-present.101
Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Salmon Region, 1994-present.102

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Twenty-one Data Analysis Units for black bear management in Idaho.3

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>1-7</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

STATEWIDE

Abstract

There are 21 Data Analysis Units (DAUs) for black bear management in Idaho (Figure 1). The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has collected harvest information on black bears since 1983 using a mandatory check. The mandatory check program requires successful hunters to check the hide and skull of their black bear at a Department office or checkpoint within 10 days of kill. A tooth is pulled, data on kill are collected, and a pelt tag is attached.

During 2004, 29,369 resident and 3,684 non-resident bear tags were sold, accounting for 33,053 total tags sold which was a 3.3 % increase from 2003, and 836 hunters had 2 bear tags. A total of 3,117 hound-hunting permits (84 more than 2003), including 135 non-resident and 2,982 resident permits, were issued during 2004. Non-resident hound-hunting permits increased slightly (6) and residents increased by 78 in 2004. Non-resident permit numbers can only be increased in the remote wilderness units while the rest of the state is restricted to 75 permits. The Department issued 1,829 bear-baiting permits in 2004, a 4% increase from 2003.

Successful black bear hunters checked 2,443 bears at Department regional offices or checkpoints, about the same as 2003. The Panhandle Region accounted for 585 bears (24%), the Clearwater Region 852 (35%), the Southwest Region 497 (20%), the Magic Valley Region 82 (3%), the Southeast and Upper Snake regions combined for 183 (7%), and the Salmon Region accounted for 244 (10%) bears. Of the bears harvested, 1,421 (58%) were harvested in spring and 1,022 (42%) were harvested in fall. Males comprised 66% of the spring harvest and 62% of fall harvest. The most common harvest technique used was bait hunting, accounting for 793 (32%) of the bears harvested, followed by still hunting which accounted for 766 (31%), and hound hunting which accounted for 454 (19%) of the bears harvested. Rifle hunters checked 1,959 bears while archery hunters checked 334 bears. During 2004, hunters using guides increased harvest 6% to 518 with most being harvested over bait. Outfitters were engaged in an effort to reduce black bear numbers in north-central Idaho. The above data were collected at the statewide level and may be different than data presented at the regional level in the following document.

A survey of black bear hunters was conducted in December 2004, following spring (April-June) and fall (August-November) bear hunting seasons. This served as a comparison to the mandatory check of harvested black bears, which resulted in 2,443 bear carcasses checked in 2004. A sample of 3,000 out of 32,300 hunters purchasing bear tags was randomly selected to receive a questionnaire. To estimate bias from non-compliance, we attempted to contact those hunters not returning the questionnaire by telephone. The survey resulted in an estimate of 2,645 (± 311 , 90% CI) bears harvested. This is 8% higher than the number of carcasses checked in by hunters (92% of carcasses are reported), but within the 90% CI. Of the 33,053 bear tags sold, 13,252 actively hunted for bears in 2004. Those hunters spent 109,497 days to kill 2,645 bears for a success rate of 20%, amounting to 8 days per hunter and 41 days per bear.

North Idaho bear populations are closely tied to huckleberry productivity. In 1998, a huckleberry failure resulted in increased bear problems and fall harvest. Additionally, females entered the dens in poor condition in fall 1998, and cub survival and production was reduced in 1999. However, more females without cubs were available to be bred and, therefore, synchronous breeding occurred. In 2000, a large number of cubs were produced and in 2001, a pulse of 1-year-olds was seen in the harvest. By 2002, large pulses of 2-year-old dispersers were seen in the harvest from the Panhandle down to the Salmon River. These 2-year-olds reduced the age structure of the harvest in 2002. The lack of young bears in the harvest since 1999 also resulted in increased age structure of the harvest until 2002. In 2003, that pulse of cubs born in 2000 showed up as 3-year-olds in the harvest, and in 2004 the pulse continued as 4-year-olds. These synchronous pulses must be monitored and recognized to understand and interpret age structures in the harvest. This pulse of bears in north Idaho are now reaching breeding age and, therefore, an echo pulse of breeding may be expected in the next couple years.

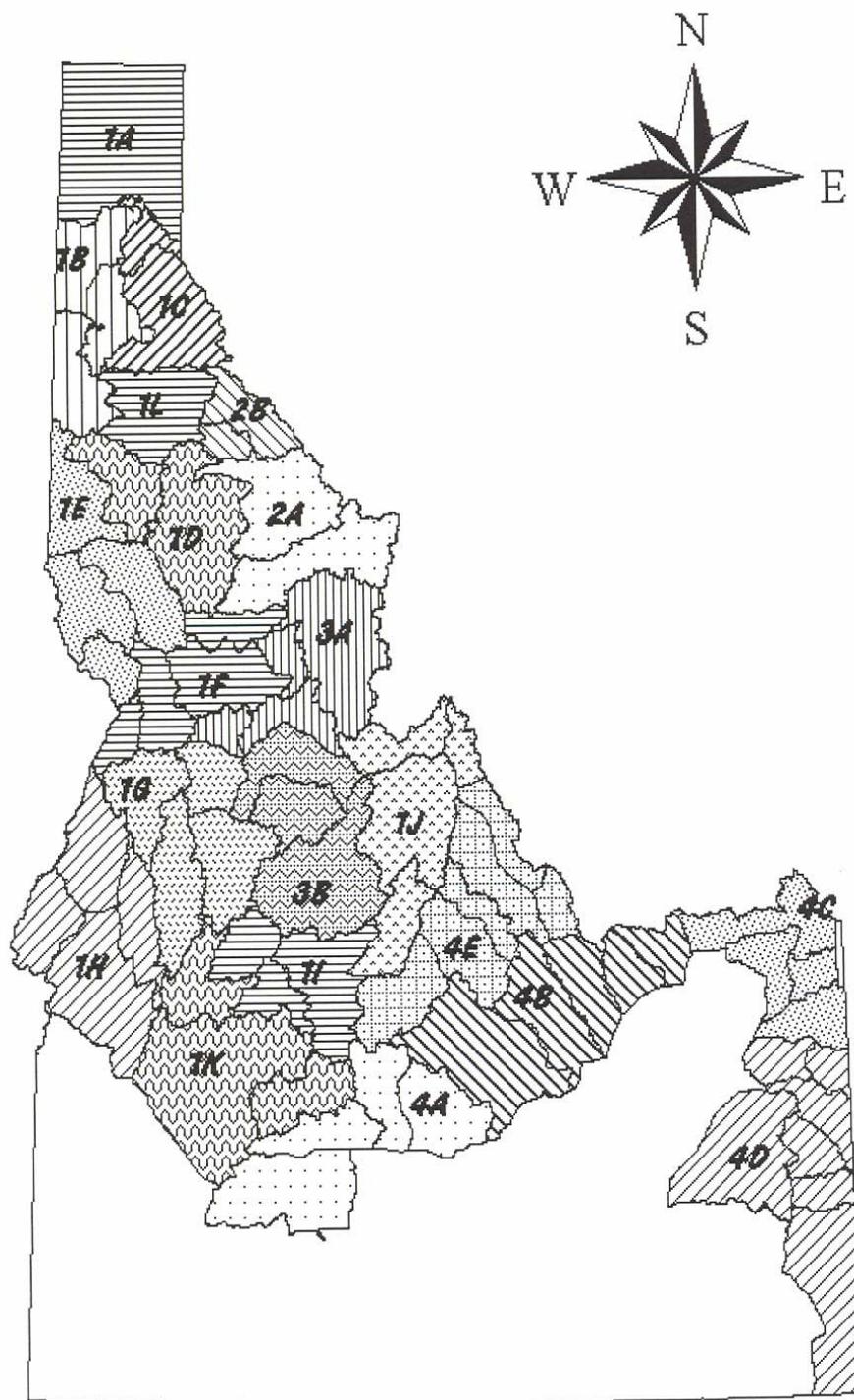


Figure 1. Twenty-one Data Analysis Units for black bear management in Idaho.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
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PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

Reported black bear harvested in Panhandle Region in 2004 were 587 bears. Female harvest (206) was 20% below that of 2003, but was similar to the 2001-2003 average. Male harvest (379) was 11% below that of 2003 but was only 2% below the 2001-2003 average. Two recorded kills had no information as to sex of the bear.

Only DAU 1B and 1L met both management criteria during the past 3 years. DAU 1B, including Game Management Units (GMUs) 2, 3, and 5, is managed for heavy harvest due to the high human population in this area; and DAU 1L, including GMU 6, is managed for moderate harvest. DAU 1A, managed for a light harvest, did not meet 1 of the 2 criteria, and was harvested heavier than desired. DAU 1C did not meet either of the 2 management criteria. Harvest rates in DAU 1C were lighter than the heavy harvest desired. DAU 2B met 1 of the harvest criteria. Harvest rates in DAU 2B were lower than desired in the criteria of percent females harvested. The Department has been attempting heavier harvest rates in DAU 1C to see if management criteria are responsive to changes in seasons. DAU 2B has traditionally been managed under a light harvest objective, but this was changed to an intermediate harvest objective in 1998 in order to attempt to increase elk calf recruitment. Recruitment has improved since 1998; until this year (2004 percent males 5+ met harvest requirements), no substantial changes have been observed in bear management criteria for the DAU.

AREA 1

Management Direction

The Department will offer a variety of hunting opportunities in Area 1. DAUs within the area include all harvest categories as defined in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. The “reservoir concept” is not a major influence affecting Area 1. That is, harvest data reflect true population characteristics and no reservoir of un-harvested black bears exists to disperse into hunted areas. A controlled hunt allowing use of dogs is provided in a portion of Unit 1 outside the grizzly bear recovery area.

Panhandle Region includes 4 DAUs in Area 1. DAU 1A is 1 of 2 DAUs statewide managed for light bear harvest characteristics. DAUs 1C and 1L are managed for moderate harvest objectives, while DAU 1B is managed under heavy harvest objectives.

DAU 1A (GMU 1)

Abstract

Reported harvest of black bear in DAU 1A was 199 during 2004 (Table 1), which was 9% above the previous 3-year average. Harvest characteristics indicate this population is not over-harvested and is very near meeting “light” harvest management objectives. The percentage of males in the harvest exceeding 4 years-of-age (40%) is above the target of 35%, and the percentage of females in the harvest (34%) misses the target of less than 30% by a small amount.

Management Direction

DAU 1A will be managed to maintain the light harvest targets of <30% females in the harvest and >35% of the males \geq 5 years old.

Background

Black bear management is heavily influenced by grizzly bear management needs in this DAU, as it includes parts of the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery areas. Consequently, this DAU has been closed to use of bait since 1984 and to use of hounds since 1988. In 1991, a small controlled hunt allowing use of hounds was initiated in a portion of DAU 1A outside of these recovery areas.

In general, dense conifer habitat types characterize this DAU. The climate produces an abundance of huckleberries. Portions of the Selkirk, Cabinet, and Purcell ranges are included in this DAU, with the broad Kootenai River Valley providing the only substantial agricultural area. Overall, DAU 1A contains some of the highest-quality black bear habitat in Idaho.

Harvest Characteristics

Because bait is prohibited in this DAU and hounds are restricted to a small controlled hunt, most of the harvest is by still-hunting. Eighty-five percent of the 2004 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunters specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Table 2).

Nearly all (95%) of black bears in DAU 1A are killed with rifles (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2004 harvest was composed of 34% females, just slightly higher than the target of less than 30% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates large cohorts in 1996, 2000, and 2002 with 40% of male bears \geq 5 years-of-age in the harvest (Table 4).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season is permitted in DAU 1A (Appendix A) to prevent possible encounters with grizzly bears in and around the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak Recovery Areas.

Management Implications

No changes in hunting seasons are indicated by examination of management criteria (Table 5). The 3-year average of 34% females in the harvest is very close to and moving toward management objective. Within the male harvest, 40% are age 5 years and older, meeting management objectives. There are no known problems with low calf elk or fawn deer ratios in this DAU.

DAU 1B (GMUs 2, 3, 5)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1B was 117 during 2004 (Table 1), slightly less than the previous 3-year average of 124. Management objectives for a heavy harvest regime are being met in this DAU.

Management Direction

To address depredation concerns, DAU 1B will be managed to maintain the heavy harvest targets of <25% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and >40% females in the total harvest.

Background

DAU 1B consists largely of developed and highly accessible areas. Mountains in this DAU are not particularly high or rugged. Depredations have been a substantial problem in this DAU (Table 6), particularly in Unit 2, which consists largely of second-growth coniferous forest under private ownership. Unit 3 is typified by publicly-owned coniferous forest with high road densities in close proximity to Coeur d'Alene. Unit 5 is similar to Unit 2 in the northern third, but the remainder consists largely of open agricultural land with stringers of coniferous forest. Much of Unit 5 is within the boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation.

Harvest Characteristics

The majority of bears in this DAU (37%) are taken while hunting over bait. However, 32% are by still hunting and 23% with hounds (Table 2).

Seventy-seven percent of the black bears harvested in DAU 1B are taken with a rifle (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Age data indicates large cohorts for 1996 and 2000-2002 (Table 4). The percentage of females in the 2004 harvest was 44% and the 3-year average was 45%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years old was 13% in 2004 and the 3-year average was 19%.

Dog-training Seasons

There is no dog-training season in this DAU (Appendix A) due to the high level of private ownership and high recreational use of public lands near Coeur d'Alene.

Management Implications

Both management criteria meet the heavy harvest targets in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Table 5). There are no known problems with low calf or fawn ratios.

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 135 during 2004, about the same as the previous 3-year average. This DAU is targeted for heavy harvest. Harvest criteria indicate this population is currently harvested lightly, and there is room to offer increased hunting opportunity.

Management Direction

To test the validity of the black bear harvest indicators, DAU 1C will be managed to maintain the heavy harvest targets of $<25\%$ age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and $>40\%$ females in the total harvest.

Background

DAU 1C consists mainly of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property and a belt of private property in Silver Valley. Much of this DAU was burned by wildfires during the early 1900s. It is a popular hunting area for Coeur d'Alene and Silver Valley big game hunters. Road densities are moderate to very high.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2004 harvest of 135 black bears was roughly the same as that of the 2001-2003 average (Table 1).

Twenty-eight percent of the bears harvested are taken incidental to other sportsmen's activities. Bears taken by hunters stalking bears accounted for 27% of the total (Table 2).

Over 84% of the black bears killed in DAU 1C are taken with rifles (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Examination of the age structure of the kill reveals large cohorts in 1996 and 2000-2002 (Table 4), similar to other DAUs in Panhandle Region. The percentage of females in the 2004 harvest was 29%, dropping the 3-year average to 30%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years old was 27% in 2004, bringing the 3-year average to 35%.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2004 dog-training season in DAU 1C was 1 June - 31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

This DAU is under-harvested relative to the management goal of heavy harvest (Table 5), despite a more liberal season beginning in 2000. Both criteria (% females in the harvest, % age 5+ males in the harvest) appear stable over the past 3 years. Further season changes may be warranted to move this DAU toward the heavy harvest category.

DAU 1L (GMU 6)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 1L was 80 during 2004, a decrease of 14% from the previous year and a 19% decrease from the average of the previous 3 years. Females made up 32% of the harvest and age 5+ males comprised 33% of the male harvest. This DAU is meeting management criteria for moderate harvest.

Management Direction

DAU 1L will be managed to maintain the moderate harvest targets of 25-35% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest. Harvest criteria falls within the desired category for both females and males. Because of the relatively small harvest in this DAU, there is significant fluctuation in the management criteria from year to year. Baiting is now allowed within this DAU; however, significant changes in harvest are not anticipated due to this regulation change.

Background

This DAU is a mix of private property, mainly timber company lands, with a mix of USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) property. This area has been influenced heavily by logging and, to a lesser extent, by the large fires of the early 1900s. Road densities range from moderate to high.

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest increased substantially from prior years during 2002 and then came down a little during the 2003 and 2004 season (Table 1).

Spotting/stalking is the primary method used to hunt bears in this DAU, with 52% of the harvest taken in this manner (Table 2). Use of hounds and bears taken incidental to other hunting were also important. Baiting has been allowed since the fall 2000 season, and 8% of the 2004 harvest was taken with the aid of bait.

Nearly all black bears taken in this DAU are taken with a rifle (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Consistent with that shown for other DAUs in Panhandle Region, the 1996 and 2000-2002 cohorts are larger than cohorts for other years (Table 4). Thirty-two percent of the 2004 harvest was female bears, reflective of a moderate harvest regime. Thirty-three percent of the male harvest was aged ≥ 5 years old.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2003 dog-training season in this DAU was 1 June - 31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

The percentage of females harvested is within the moderate harvest level prescribed for this DAU as well as the percentage of the male harvest reaching 5 years-of-age (Table 5).

AREA 2

DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 2B was 56 during 2004, near the average of the past 3 years. This DAU is targeted for moderate harvest. The percentage of females in the harvest is currently in the lightly harvested category, as is the average male age structure criterion.

Management Direction

DAU 2B will be managed to increase harvest to the moderate harvest targets of 25-35% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest. Seasons have been increased in this DAU. Few changes are anticipated in harvest levels because of the remote nature of this DAU; however, criteria will be monitored to see if significant changes do occur as a result of these changes.

Background

This DAU is the most remote from human population centers of any DAU in Panhandle Region. In addition, persistent snowdrifts make spring travel difficult, and substantial roadless areas preclude high levels of use. Most of the habitat in this DAU is managed by USFS.

DAU 2B has historically met criteria for a lightly harvested population. In the current Bear Plan, the Department targeted a moderate harvest requirement due to census of low calf elk recruitment. The male age structure of DAU 2B met the criteria for moderate harvest in 2004 for the first time since 1997.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2004 harvest of 56 bears was within the range seen during the past 10 years, an annual harvest of 37-63 bears. Eighty percent of the 2004 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Table 1). While spring outfitting for black bears has increased in recent years, this has apparently been offset by a decrease in harvest from non-outfitted hunters.

Forty-five percent of the 2004 harvest was taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Almost this entire take is through the efforts of outfitters. Spot and stalk hunting accounted for another 25% of the 2004 harvest, with the remaining harvest about evenly distributed between hound hunters and incidental harvest (Table 2).

The vast majority of the black bears harvested in this DAU are taken with a rifle (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The male age structure of DAU 2B met the criteria for moderate harvest in 2004 for the first time since 1997, with 30% of males reaching 5 years-of-age (Table 4). The number of age 5+ males has changed little over time, with exception to this year. Fifteen percent of the harvest was of female bears, reflecting a lightly hunted population.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2003 dog-training season in this DAU was 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Our attempt to move this population toward a younger age structure and a lower percentage of males appears to be successful for 2004, but the female population is still lightly harvested (Table 5).

Table 1. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
1A												
1994	81	21	1	103	51	35	1	87	132	56	2	190
1995	65	27	0	92	44	22	1	67	109	49	1	159
1996	102	49	0	151	41	28	1	70	143	77	1	221
1997	64	26	0	90	82	60	1	143	146	86	1	233
1998	75	29	0	104	140	69	1	210	215	98	1	314
1999	76	37	0	113	40	28	2	70	116	65	2	183
2000	70	30	0	100	44	16	1	61	114	46	1	161
2001	57	12	1	70	35	22	1	58	92	34	2	128
2002	53	26	0	79	68	34	1	103	121	60	1	182
2003	76	43	1	120	76	37	1	114	152	80	2	234
2004	79	39	1	119	51	29	0	80	130	68	1	199
3-yr. avg.	70	36	1	107	65	33	1	99	134	70	1	205
1B												
1994	22	14	0	36	28	25	0	53	50	39	0	89
1995	34	6	3	43	33	19	0	52	67	25	3	95
1996	29	15	0	44	38	26	0	64	67	41	0	108
1997	19	15	1	35	51	32	1	84	70	47	2	119
1998	42	24	0	66	79	59	1	139	121	83	1	205
1999	29	12	0	41	40	33	0	73	69	45	0	114
2000	26	16	0	42	37	28	0	65	63	44	0	107
2001	13	11	0	24	47	35	0	82	60	46	0	106
2002	15	17	0	32	49	37	1	87	64	54	1	119
2003	23	14	0	37	56	54	0	110	79	68	0	147
2004	27	19	0	46	38	33	0	71	65	52	0	117
3-yr. avg.	22	17	0	39	48	41	0	89	70	58	0	128
1C												
1994	30	5	0	35	24	11	0	35	54	16	0	70
1995	23	15	0	38	33	13	0	46	56	28	0	84
1996	13	4	0	17	41	27	0	68	54	31	0	85
1997	17	3	0	20	50	39	1	90	67	42	1	110
1998	40	14	0	54	56	33	0	89	96	47	0	143
1999	23	20	1	44	56	33	0	89	79	53	1	133
2000	21	7	0	28	62	26	0	88	83	33	0	116
2001	24	5	0	29	47	24	0	71	71	29	0	100
2002	22	5	0	27	93	36	2	131	115	41	2	158
2003	34	13	0	47	62	42	0	104	97	55	0	152
2004	46	13	0	59	49	26	1	76	95	39	1	135
3-yr. avg.	34	10	0	44	68	35	1	104	102	45	1	148
1L												
1994	15	5	0	20	19	11	0	30	34	16	0	50
1995	18	7	0	25	28	10	0	38	46	17	0	63
1996	19	6	0	25	19	18	0	37	38	24	0	62

Table 1. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
1997	14	9	0	23	30	27	0	57	44	36	0	80
1998	34	8	0	42	38	19	0	57	72	27	0	99
1999	25	16	0	41	27	16	0	43	52	32	0	84
2000	13	7	0	20	18	13	0	31	31	20	0	51
2001	17	4	0	21	28	17	1	46	45	21	1	67
2002	25	11	0	36	66	34	2	102	91	45	2	138
2003	22	9	0	31	38	24	0	62	60	33	0	93
2004	21	10	0	31	27	22	0	49	48	32	0	80
3-yr. avg.	23	10	0	33	44	27	1	72	66	37	1	104
2B												
1994	16	9	0	25	6	6	0	12	22	15	0	37
1995	17	8	0	25	12	2	0	14	29	10	0	39
1996	41	6	0	47	4	6	0	10	45	12	0	57
1997	25	5	0	30	8	6	0	14	33	11	0	44
1998	38	12	0	50	16	8	0	24	54	20	0	74
1999	28	14	0	42	10	9	0	19	38	23	0	61
2000	33	10	0	43	7	1	0	8	40	11	0	51
2001	26	17	0	43	6	3	11	20	32	20	11	63
2002	35	9	0	44	12	5	0	17	47	14	0	61
2003	29	17	0	46	11	6	0	17	40	23	0	63
2004	34	11	0	45	7	4	0	11	41	15	0	56
3-yr. avg.	33	12	0	45	10	5	0	15	43	18	0	61

Table 2. Method of black bear harvest, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1A							
	1994	1	3	144	32	10	190
	1995	0	0	61	17	82	160
	1996	0	4	183	29	5	221
	1997	1	1	135	81	15	233
	1998	0	0	249	46	10	305
	1999	0	4	145	28	6	183
	2000	0	5	138	11	7	161
	2001	0	7	99	6	5	117
	2002	0	5	140	11	25	181
	2003	0	3	188	17	1	209
	2004	0	7	166	22	0	195
1B							
	1994	18	20	29	19	3	89
	1995	16	15	26	11	28	96
	1996	22	24	45	13	3	107
	1997	20	23	37	35	4	119
	1998	47	42	75	42	8	214
	1999	25	28	41	19	1	114
	2000	24	22	47	11	3	107
	2001	29	20	28	10	2	89
	2002	28	24	41	17	9	119
	2003	44	33	39	25	0	141
	2004	42	27	37	9	0	115
1C							
	1994	15	12	27	12	4	70
	1995	6	12	18	21	27	84
	1996	6	17	33	24	4	84
	1997	9	3	54	42	3	111
	1998	21	20	61	39	2	143
	1999	13	33	46	37	3	132
	2000	11	27	41	14	2	95
	2001	11	31	41	12	0	95
	2002	24	23	72	30	10	159
	2003	20	29	57	39	0	145
	2004	30	30	36	37	0	133
1L							
	1994	1	13	18	14	3	49
	1995	0	10	19	18	16	63
	1996	0	10	26	26	0	62
	1997	0	11	37	27	5	80
	1998	0	23	45	28	1	97
	1999	0	21	41	22	0	84

Table 2. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2000	1	14	20	15	1	51
2001	4	12	25	21	0	62
2002	17	26	44	28	3	118
2003	13	21	33	24	0	91
2004	6	17	40	14	0	77
2B						
1994	12	0	19	6	0	37
1995	1	1	5	11	21	39
1996	29	2	13	12	1	57
1997	20	3	6	12	4	45
1998	19	5	24	24	0	72
1999	16	12	15	18	0	61
2000	24	7	10	9	1	51
2001	26	5	15	6	0	52
2002	26	11	18	4	2	61
2003	25	6	17	13	0	61
2004	25	12	14	4	0	55

Table 3. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1A						
1994	176	2	0	4	6	188
1995	149	4	1	3	3	160
1996	213	2	1	4	1	221
1997	221	2	0	5	2	230
1998	291	9	0	6	78	384
1999	172	3	1	5	2	183
2000	155	2	1	3	0	161
2001	91	1	0	0	0	92
2002	123	2	0	2	0	127
2003	170	8	1	1	2	182
2004	189	8	1	1	0	199
1B						
1994	70	9	1	6	1	87
1995	72	13	3	8	1	97
1996	92	10	1	4	1	108
1997	101	9	2	2	5	119
1998	177	15	1	7	0	200
1999	96	12	1	4	1	114
2000	93	8	1	2	3	107
2001	79	18	0	5	4	106
2002	104	10	3	2	0	119
2003	119	19	2	3	4	147
2004	90	21	4	2	0	117
1C						
1994	61	6	1	0	1	69
1995	74	6	1	1	2	84
1996	74	6	0	5	0	85
1997	102	4	1	1	2	110
1998	131	8	0	3	2	144
1999	121	4	0	5	2	132
2000	86	7	0	2	0	95
2001	90	8	1	1	1	101
2002	137	12	1	5	3	158
2003	137	9	1	1	4	152
2004	114	14	2	4	1	135
1L						
1994	43	3	0	1	2	49
1995	56	3	0	4	0	63
1996	59	2	0	1	0	62
1997	74	3	0	2	1	80
1998	92	4	0	2	1	99
1999	80	2	0	2	0	84

Table 3. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
2000	47	2	0	0	2	51
2001	54	1	1	0	2	58
2002	122	12	1	2	1	138
2003	85	4	0	4	0	93
2004	75	3	0	1	1	80
2B						
1994	34	3	0	0	0	37
1995	32	5	1	1	0	39
1996	49	8	0	0	0	57
1997	38	6	0	1	0	45
1998	58	10	2	2	2	74
1999	54	3	2	2	0	61
2000	39	6	2	2	2	51
2001	47	3	1	2	0	53
2002	49	6	1	0	3	59
2003	50	7	3	3	0	63
2004	45	9	2	0	0	56

Table 4. Age distribution of black bear, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age ^a										Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1A													
1994	M	8	40	21	17	4	11	1	2	3	14	121	
	F	6	7	9	7	1	4	2	2	0	14	52	
1995	M	11	16	26	5	8	5	10	1	1	15	98	
	F	3	3	9	8	5	4	2	3	1	7	45	
1996	M	9	34	25	14	18	10	6	10	1	11	138	
	F	3	14	7	12	4	5	5	5	1	21	77	
1997	M	18	27	26	16	15	7	7	3	7	11	137	
	F	8	10	22	3	8	5	4	5	0	15	80	
1998	M	1	10	4	10	3	3	1	3	2	11	48	
	F	0	1	3	4	0	0	5	0	1	6	20	
1999	M	8	13	17	13	15	3	6	7	7	12	101	
	F	6	3	7	4	4	0	2	4	2	23	55	
2000	M	5	9	13	22	8	9	7	6	4	7	90	
	F	0	3	3	4	3	6	1	3	1	14	38	
2001	M	13	3	7	4	11	3	14	3	5	8	71	
	F	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	0	3	11	29	
2002	M	9	39	7	6	4	9	3	7	5	9	98	
	F	2	8	1	3	7	6	4	3	3	14	51	
2003	M	19	24	34	3	6	6	7	4	8	21	132	
	F	4	10	18	2	3	2	9	8	4	9	69	
2004	M	7	20	19	24	4	2	2	7	4	27	116	
	F	1	7	5	13	2	1	0	7	3	26	65	
1B													
1994	M	6	15	9	5	2	4	0	1	2	5	49	
	F	5	8	4	4	0	1	2	1	3	6	34	
1995	M	9	10	13	8	4	1	1	2	1	5	54	
	F	3	2	2	3	2	0	1	2	0	7	22	
1996	M	6	17	6	14	2	5	1	3	0	5	59	
	F	2	4	7	5	0	5	2	4	2	8	39	
1997	M	18	10	16	7	7	2	2	1	2	1	66	
	F	6	6	12	2	2	1	4	3	0	8	44	
1998	M	0	6	0	10	2	2	1	1	1	4	27	
	F	1	3	1	6	0	3	0	1	0	7	22	
1999	M	8	10	23	3	9	2	3	3	1	1	63	
	F	3	2	10	5	3	4	4	0	1	9	41	
2000	M	4	13	10	10	2	4	0	1	1	0	45	
	F	1	3	4	3	4	4	2	2	1	10	34	
2001	M	14	9	13	6	7	1	3	1	1	1	56	
	F	6	6	7	4	4	1	2	2	5	8	45	
2002	M	14	23	9	4	0	6	1	2	0	3	62	
	F	6	11	6	8	3	2	1	5	1	9	52	
2003	M	14	16	20	7	6	4	4	1	1	2	75	
	F	5	15	11	2	7	5	4	4	1	11	65	
2004	M	9	16	18	13	2	2	1	2	0	1	64	
	F	6	10	9	4	2	0	1	0	4	11	47	

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	Sex	Age ^a										Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1C												
1994	M	6	11	9	6	3	5	0	1	2	7	50
	F	2	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	14
1995	M	11	10	8	3	7	1	3	0	0	5	48
	F	3	3	4	2	3	2	1	0	1	4	23
1996	M	11	18	9	10	1	1	1	1	0	2	54
	F	4	6	5	6	2	0	3	2	0	1	29
1997	M	20	10	18	3	3	0	3	1	0	4	62
	F	10	4	6	3	4	0	2	1	2	6	38
1998	M	0	3	3	9	0	3	0	3	1	3	25
	F	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	6
1999	M	6	17	16	6	11	2	7	3	2	5	75
	F	2	5	8	2	8	3	3	0	7	4	42
2000	M	4	6	9	8	4	3	4	2	2	7	49
	F	0	3	5	1	1	2	0	2	5	6	25
2001	M	18	8	9	5	8	2	6	0	2	8	66
	F	4	2	2	1	4	0	3	1	0	10	27
2002	M	14	41	2	3	6	10	3	10	5	13	107
	F	4	5	4	2	5	8	1	1	2	8	40
2003	M	15	15	28	1	5	3	5	1	4	12	89
	F	4	8	15	4	2	0	3	0	3	10	49
2004	M	10	20	20	17	4	2	3	7	3	6	92
	F	1	3	5	8	0	2	2	2	3	10	36
1L												
1994	M	3	14	5	3	2	2	0	0	0	3	32
	F	3	1	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	3	16
1995	M	8	7	5	4	4	0	0	1	0	6	35
	F	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	12
1996	M	2	11	2	3	2	5	2	2	0	4	33
	F	1	5	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	7	21
1997	M	12	6	9	5	3	2	1	0	0	3	41
	F	6	4	6	1	3	1	4	1	1	5	32
1998	M	0	5	3	6	0	4	0	1	0	3	22
	F	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
1999	M	0	7	15	4	8	2	3	1	3	6	49
	F	0	2	9	1	5	0	4	1	1	7	30
2000	M	0	6	1	7	4	5	1	2	0	3	29
	F	1	3	2	4	0	1	0	1	0	2	14
2001	M	8	4	5	4	5	3	6	2	1	3	41
	F	1	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	0	6	20
2002	M	9	30	3	12	2	9	1	6	4	3	79
	F	5	11	4	3	4	4	1	5	1	6	44
2003	M	11	14	15	3	2	2	4	2	3	3	59
	F	4	5	5	2	3	1	5	2	0	6	33
2004	M	8	11	5	7	4	2	3	1	1	5	47
	F	2	4	3	6	1	4	2	3	0	4	29

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age ^a										Total
Year	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
2B												
1994	M	0	1	2	3	3	4	0	3	1	4	21
	F	0	4	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	13
1995	M	4	4	7	2	2	0	6	0	0	1	26
	F	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	10
1996	M	0	12	2	9	7	1	3	6	0	4	44
	F	0	4	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	12
1997	M	5	6	10	2	2	1	2	0	0	3	31
	F	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	7
1998	M	0	5	7	4	1	2	5	2	0	2	28
	F	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	8
1999	M	1	0	9	7	3	5	1	1	3	5	35
	F	0	0	3	3	4	1	0	1	2	5	19
2000	M	0	2	6	8	4	6	3	3	1	5	38
	F	0	0	2	5	0	1	0	1	0	2	11
2001	M	2	1	4	3	3	1	7	2	2	6	31
	F	0	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	4	14
2002	M	4	14	2	3	3	4	2	6	2	3	43
	F	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	1	13
2003	M	2	2	18	0	2	0	4	2	0	8	38
	F	0	2	8	0	2	2	0	0	1	8	23
2004	M	2	10	6	10	0	1	2	3	0	6	40
	F	1	1	4	3	0	1	0	1	1	6	18

^a Includes only black bear with both known age and sex.

Table 5. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i>	% Females	% Males ≥ 5	# Males ≥ 5
1A				
1994	189	30	29	35
1995	164	32	42	44
1996	222	35	41	56
1997	232	37	36	50
1998	280	32	48	23
1999	181	36	50	50
2000	160	29	49	48
2001	126	27	63	45
2002	182	33	41	37
2003	234	34	39	52
2004	199	34	40	46
3-year avg.	205	34	40	45
Desired levels		<30	>35	
1B				
1994	90	43	28	14
1995	97	29	23	15
1996	114	37	27	16
1997	117	40	23	15
1998	179	43	41	11
1999	114	39	29	19
2000	107	41	18	8
2001	106	43	25	14
2002	119	46	19	12
2003	147	46	24	18
2004	117	44	13	8
3-year avg.	128	45	19	15
Desired levels		>40	<25	
1C				
1994	70	23	36	18
1995	84	33	29	16
1996	89	36	11	6
1997	109	39	18	11
1998	128	29	40	10
1999	131	35	40	30
2000	95	35	45	22
2001	100	29	39	26
2002	158	26	44	47
2003	152	36	34	30
2004	135	29	27	25
3-year avg.	148	30	35	34
Desired levels		>40	<25	

Table 5. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i>	% Females	% Males ≥ 5	# Males ≥ 5
1L				
1994	50	32	22	7
1995	63	27	27	11
1996	62	40	45	15
1997	81	44	22	9
1998	78	27	36	8
1999	84	38	46	23
2000	51	39	52	15
2001	66	32	49	20
2002	138	33	31	25
2003	93	35	27	16
2004	80	32	33	16
3-year avg.	104	33	30	19
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	
2B				
1994	37	41	68	15
1995	39	26	38	11
1996	56	21	48	21
1997	44	25	26	8
1998	62	26	43	12
1999	61	38	51	18
2000	51	22	58	22
2001	52	38	68	21
2002	61	23	49	20
2003	63	37	42	16
2004	56	15	30	12
3-year avg.	60	25	40	15
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

Table 6. Black bear depredation complaints, Panhandle Region, 1994-present.

Year	DAU					Total
	1A	1B	1C	1L	2B	
1994	18	10	0	0	0	28
1995	38	18	5	0	0	61
1996	18	22	2	0	0	42
1997	66	34	4	0	0	104
1998	167	103	46	17	7	340
1999	14	7	24	1	0	46
2000	19	14	23	1	0	57
2001	1	2	0	0	0	3
2002	0	7	0	0	0	7
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	42	6	1	0	0	49

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>2</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Reported harvest during 2004 for Clearwater Region was 852 black bears, a 4% decrease from 2003, but still an 18% increase from the previous 3-year average of 718 black bears. Total harvest by DAU in 2004 was 150 in 1D, 63 in 1E, 112 in 1F, 334 in 2A, and 193 in 3A.

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan criteria were met in all Clearwater Region DAUs for objectives outlined except for percent females in the harvest in DAU 1D (2002-2004 harvest: 42%; objective: <40%). Since the 1993 regulation changes, much of the harvest effort had shifted from spring to fall, except for DAU 2A, baiting had been replaced by incidental and still hunting as the most popular methods used Region-wide. The last 2 years have seen the harvest trend return to pre-1993 techniques with most bears being harvested in spring (69%) over bait (46%). Due to the intensive harvest efforts, increased season lengths, and bag limits, DAU 2A constituted 39% of the Regional harvest. Sixty-six percent of harvested black bears from DAU 2A were killed over bait, primarily in the spring season. The rest of the Regional harvest by method consisted of bait (46%), hounds (19%), still hunting (21%), incidental (13%), and other (1%). Management needs dictate continued monitoring as harvest levels continue to climb. All values should be reviewed in perspective of harvest trends, bait station surveys, road densities/access, and new hunting patterns resulting from regulation changes.

AREA 1

DAU 1D (GMUs 8A, 10A)

Abstract

DAU 1D had historically been one of the most over-harvested DAUs in the Region. Harvest criteria were exceeded in all 4 over-harvest criteria in 1992. In 1993, seasons were changed to reduce harvest of black bears in this DAU. The regulation changes apparently were successful in reducing harvest by an average of 16% over the following 3 years. However, from 1996-1998, harvest rebounded to an average of 132 and is currently increasing again, which is higher than prior to the regulation change. When analyzed by season and method, most harvest during 2004

occurred in fall (53%) by hound hunters (58%), incidental (25%), and still hunters (15%). During 1992, most harvest occurred during the spring season (66%) by bait hunters (44%). High road densities have allowed hunters to access most of the available black bear habitat.

Management Direction

DAU 1D has historically received intensive black bear harvest. This DAU receives many dispersers from DAU 2A; therefore, the current high harvest can probably be maintained. Direction for DAU 1D is to monitor harvest data to determine if changes in harvest structure reflect a negative trend in the population, or just a change in age of black bears being shot by hunters as a result of fall harvest and food availability. The population will be stabilized through regulation changes if necessary.

Background

Historically, season lengths in DAU 1D have been relatively long, becoming more restrictive in recent years. The 1992 season length was 107 days with a 2-week pursuit season. The fall season length under the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan was reduced to 63 days with a 61-day pursuit season. The spring general season is 47 days. No changes in this DAU were included in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan. But in 2000, the fall season was extended 2 weeks earlier for archery hunters. Black bear baiting was not allowed.

Mixed land ownership and high road densities on USFS, IDL, a private timber company, and small private landholdings characterize these units. Although the habitat provides high-quality forage, easy hunter access has led to over-harvest problems from direct mortality as a result of intensive hunting pressure.

DAU 1D typically receives high annual rainfall, as indicated by the common occurrence of western red cedar habitat types, lush forb associations, and a variety of berry species. Productive habitat provides optimal foraging for black bears.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys have not been conducted in DAU 1D since 1996 (Table 1). This technique is being evaluated on a statewide basis for its effectiveness in monitoring population trends.

Harvest Characteristics

During 2004, 150 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, an increase of 5% from the previous 3-year average (Table 2). Forty-two percent of the black bears harvested were females (Table 3). Most black bears (53%) were harvested during the fall season. This is consistent with 1993-1998 harvest, but a reversal from 1990-1992 when spring harvest predominated. Age characteristics of harvest for 2002-2004 indicate that all criteria were again met, but the percent female was above expected levels for a stable population and possibly indicative of dispersing younger females (Table 4).

The single method of harvest most preferred by hunters in 2004 was hound hunting, accounting for 58% of the harvest followed by incidental at 25% (Table 5). This was a reversal from 1990-1992, when baiting was the most common method used, accounting for 37% of the harvest. Weapon type used most frequently was rifle (87%) followed by archery (10%). During the 1990-1992 period, archery comprised 17% of the harvest. During 1993-1999, archery comprised only 3% of the harvest, probably a result of baiting restrictions, and the 2000-2004 increase was likely a result of the season lengthening (Table 6).

Depredations

One reported black bear depredation occurred in DAU 1D in 2004, which is near the long term average for this DAU (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

An 8-week dog-training season from 1 June-31 July was allowed in DAU 1D during 2004 (Appendix A).

Management Implications

According to new management criteria, black bears have been harvested at a moderate level in DAU 1D although percent females (42) slightly exceeded the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for 2002-2004. Under guidance of the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan, black bear harvest in 1D was reduced until the last few years when harvest rebounded to pre-1993 regulation-change levels.

Except for 1998, recent harvest records show increased harvest of predominantly younger age-class black bears. This could be indicative of increased numbers of subadult dispersers dominating the harvest. The 1995-1999 records indicated that harvest shifted to the fall season, thereby increasing harvest by incidental hunters and maintaining a younger age structure in the harvest. The 2000-2010 management plan objectives allow for maintaining high harvest in this DAU. However, older age-class black bear numbers likely increased in 1998 due to poor availability of fall foods, and in 2000 due to the subsequent age-class failure of 2-year-old dispersers.

DAU 1E (GMUs 8, 11, 11A, 13)

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1E harvested a total of 63 black bears during 2004, a 7% decrease over the previous 3-year average. Only 32% of this total were females. Fifty-four percent of black bears harvested were killed in fall, 38% of which were killed by incidental hunters.

Management Direction

Because most of the black bear habitat in DAU 1E is privately-owned and in steep canyons, harvest is not distributed evenly. Hound hunting is difficult and may conflict with private

landowners due to fragmented ownership. Consequently, management direction is to reduce hound hunting activity during take and dog-training seasons, but to maintain harvest levels. In addition, there is a lack of evenly dispersed quality black bear habitat and the potential for over-harvest in these isolated or fragmented habitats.

Background

DAU 1E lies mostly along the western side of Clearwater Region and is predominantly private land. Difficult access and fragmented black bear habitat through most of the DAU have kept overall harvest unevenly distributed. Agricultural use and sheep and cattle allotments are plentiful and characterize this DAU. Timbered habitat is clumped and interspersed with expansive grasslands along the Salmon, Snake, and lower Clearwater River breaks. Old homesteads and dispersed fruit trees provide black bears with plentiful fall foods in some areas. The largest black bears in the Region typically are harvested in these units. Bait station transects conducted on Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) indicate an increasing trend in black bear visitation since the WMA came under Department management, concurring with the increasing harvest rates.

The climate in this DAU ranges from hot and arid along the river breaks, to cooler and moister in the higher elevations. The 2004 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2004 was 31 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys have been conducted for DAU 1E in Unit 11 due to its representative habitat types and availability of personnel to conduct surveys. Sixteen transects were sampled in July 2004. A 33.8% visitation rate was observed in 2004 (Table 1) which was an increase to that observed in 2003 (25%).

Harvest Characteristics

There were 63 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2004; 54% were taken in the fall (Table 2). Adult male age criteria were in the moderate to high harvest category and percent females harvested was 32% in 2004 (Tables 4 and 5). The most frequent method of harvest was baiting, accounting for 33% of the harvest (Table 5). Weapon type most frequently used was rifle which accounted for 79% of the harvest, followed by archery (13%) and pistol at 8% (Table 6).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. One depredation complaint was recorded during 2004, down from an average of 3 for the previous 3-year period (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season occurred in DAU 1E during 2004 (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Much of the land in Units 8, 11, 11A, and 13 is either agricultural or river breaks, and black bear habitats are isolated. Consequently, most harvest occurs along major road, river, and creek corridors at higher elevations. Many of the young black bears harvested are probably dispersing to new territories with adult black bears using better quality habitats away from roads. It is likely that without much road access, harvest will continue to reflect young dispersing black bears. Harvest was 32% female and may indicate that the productive elements of the population (females) were usually selecting more isolated areas, thus, reducing the likelihood of mortality. The majority of black bears in any cohort being harvested in this DAU historically are 1- and 2-year old dispersing males.

DAU 1F (GMUs 14, 15, 16, 18)

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 112 black bears during 2004, a 12% increase from the previous 3-year average. Half of the black bears (52%) were harvested during fall, a change from 1990-1992 seasons when spring harvest predominated and accounted for 57% of harvest. The most frequent harvest method was still/stalk (30%) followed by bait or hounds (26% each) while using a rifle (82%) or bow or pistol (6% each). The 2004 age data showed heavy harvest in young males and older females. A portion of the DAU in Unit 15 was closed to harvest for research purposes but reopened in 2004.

Management Direction

Prior to 1993, black bear harvest had increased in DAU 1F, probably as a result of increased road densities in previously unroaded areas. The Black Bear Management Plan (1992-2000) adopted a decrease in season length, more restrictions on use of training dogs during take seasons, and dog-training season was lengthened. The direction for management was to reduce black bear harvest, improve black bear population demographics, and maintain hunting opportunity with a variety of hunting techniques. The new black bear plan for 2000-2010 calls for maintaining current harvest levels. A portion of Unit 15 that was closed to bear harvest in 1999 due to research was reopened in 2004 to coincide with the season in the rest of the unit. The partial closure of that unit could be a possible contributing factor to the 30% decline in harvest in previous years.

Background

Under the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan, season framework in DAU 1F is similar to that of the previous black bear plan. Under the 1992-2000 plan, fall general take season was shortened to 63 days with a dog-training season of 77 days (Appendix A). Spring general season in 2004 was 31 days.

DAU 1F is comprised of about 80% USFS land and 20% private and state lands. Much of the area has high road densities, has been logged, and is easily accessible. There are a few areas in these units that provide core security areas for black bears.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were conducted during 2004 in conjunction with the elk productivity research study. Data were analyzed for trails and open and closed roads. In general, trails and closed roads received more visitations than did open roads. Sixty-five transects were surveyed and 101 of 325 sites were visited by black bears, resulting in a 31.1% visitation rate (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

There were 112 black bears harvested in DAU 1F during 2004, 52% during the fall season (Table 2). Females comprised 36% of the harvest in DAU 1F. Management objectives under the new plan indicate heavy to moderate harvest (Tables 4 and 5). The most frequent methods of harvest were still/stalk (30%) followed by bait and hounds at 26% each (Table 5). Rifle was the most frequent (82%) weapon type (Table 6).

Depredations

No depredation complaints were recorded for this DAU during 2004 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 16 May-31 July 2004 in DAU 1F, except for Unit 16 which ran 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 1F receives intensive hound hunting activity because of its proximity to population centers and easy road access. Most of the DAU is on national forest lands with high road densities. Although black bear harvest criteria indicate moderate to high harvest levels, the high-quality black bear habitat in this DAU should allow black bear populations to be maintained at desired levels in reserve and unroaded areas. Currently, the harvest is fairly evenly distributed between bait, hounds, still, and incidental harvest for method of take. During the last 3 years, harvest increased over the previous years, increasing above levels that occurred prior to the regulation changes. The difference in harvest has been the shift from spring to fall harvest and the continuing increase in incidental take. The closure of the northern portion of Unit 15 had an impact on the amount of incidental harvest as well as overall harvest. Harvest has returned to, and exceeded, peak levels observed in 1998.

AREA 2

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

Abstract

During 2004, 334 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, an increase of 18% over the previous 3-year average of 283. Thirty-nine percent of harvest consisted of females. Eighty-three percent

were harvested during the spring season. Bait hunting accounted for 66% of the harvest followed by rifle (78%) and archery (18%). This was the highest level of harvest on record for this DAU.

Management Direction

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan recognizes DAU 2A as having productive habitat able to maintain high levels of harvest. DAU 2A may serve as a reservoir of black bears to surrounding units receiving higher harvest pressures (e.g., Unit 10A). Harvest occurs mainly on major road and river corridors in DAU 2A. Take seasons last 157 days with a 31-day dog-training season (Appendix A). The Department will continue to monitor harvest data on a 3-year average and conduct bait station surveys to obtain data to manage for a healthy population structure and harvest of black bears. Additionally, tetracycline baits may allow calculation of a population estimate for this DAU over time. The bag limit was increased to 2 black bears per year to take advantage of the high black bear numbers and enhance hunter opportunity as well as reduce the bear population within the elk productivity research study area boundaries.

Background

DAU 2A probably contains the most productive black bear habitat in Clearwater Region. High moisture, dense forests, and roadless areas allow for relatively dense populations. However, liberal hunting seasons since the late 1970s have probably kept black bear populations below achievable levels.

Population Surveys

Intensive bait station surveys have been conducted since 1997 as part of the elk productivity research study. These efforts have included use of tetracycline baits for determining population size and intensive overall efforts to determine trends (Table 1). Sixty-one transects and 305 sites were sampled with a visitation rate of 34.8% in 2004, up from 30.9% in 2003. In general, sites on closed roads and trails received higher visitation rates than those on open roads.

Harvest Characteristics

During 2004, 334 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, an increase of 18% over the previous 3-year average. Eighty-three percent of these black bears were harvested during spring season (Table 2). Of the black bears harvested, 39% were females. Age data criteria set under the new management plan allow for increased harvest. Current age criteria indicate harvest levels are light to moderate (Tables 4 and 5).

Hunting over bait accounted for 66% of the harvest in DAU 2A, followed by still/stalk (16%) and incidental and hounds at 9% each (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used (78%) followed by bow at 18% (Table 6).

Depredations

A record 12 depredation complaints were recorded during fall 1998, an indication of a poor huckleberry crop in DAU 2A. No complaints were recorded for 2004 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

A 1-month dog-training season occurred during 2004 from 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 2A receives moderate hunting pressure because of its unroaded habitats, public land, and healthy black bear populations. Harvest is light to moderate in the male component and 27% were ≥ 5 years old for 2002-2004. The adult female segment remains secure in the unroaded segments of the DAU, especially with the restrictions on females with cubs.

DAU 2A has potential for high black bear numbers because of the quality habitat. Harvest was reduced dramatically from 1993-1996 under the old black bear plan, but increased since 1998 to levels higher than occurred prior to the season changes. Because black bear populations appear to be healthy, an opportunity to harvest more black bears became apparent and most of the season length was extended to the end of June for the spring hunt and to the end of big game season in fall. Harvest doubled in 1998 and has remained at a high level through 2004. Most of the harvest in this DAU occurs in spring, unlike other DAUs in the Region.

AREA 3

DAU 3A (GMUs 16A, 17, 19, 20)

Abstract

During 2004, 193 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A compared to 192 in 2003. However, this total represents a 62% increase over the previous 3-year average. Thirty-two percent of the harvest consisted of females. This DAU consistently met the old (1992-2000) management criteria objectives and new (2000-2010) criteria suggest a lightly hunted population. Sixty-four percent of the black bears were harvested over bait.

Management Direction

This DAU probably serves as a reservoir of black bears for surrounding units that are more heavily harvested. The Department will manage DAU 3A to maintain or increase current harvest levels and distribution, although adjustments will be implemented to conform to statewide management direction. The bag limit for this DAU was doubled for fall 1999 to take advantage of high black bear numbers and to increase opportunity.

Background

Seasons have historically been 152 days long in DAU 3A but were reduced to 94 days beginning in 1993, then increased to 109 days in 1996. Seasons were increased to 159 days in 2000 and increased again in 2002 to the current season of 172 days (Appendix A). Dog-training seasons have not been allowed, primarily because of the inability of hound hunters to effectively monitor their hounds in wilderness areas.

Most of DAU 3A lies within wilderness and has relatively abundant black bear habitat. The northern portions receive substantial rainfall and provide some of the best black bear habitat in the DAU. The habitat within wilderness is varied with a range from poor- to high-quality habitat that is available throughout the year over a variety of elevations. Because of low hunting pressure and restricted access, black bear populations are probably quite healthy. Incidental harvest during other big game seasons distributes some pressure across the DAU.

Population Surveys

Black bear bait station surveys have not been conducted in DAU 3A since 1997 (Table 1). Due to intensive survey efforts in other units as part of the elk productivity study, personnel were not available to participate.

Harvest Characteristics

During 2004, 193 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A (Table 2). Of these, 32% were females. Only 19% of the black bears were harvested during fall. Harvest criteria in the new (2000-2010) plan indicate light harvest levels. Fifty-two percent of the males were ≥ 5 years old in 2004 (Tables 4 and 5). Most of the black bears harvested (64%) were taken over bait (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used (86%), then bow at 9% (Table 6).

The black bear population data for DAU 3A suggest that a small proportion of the overall population was harvested. Age structures and harvest criteria indicate this population was in the best condition of any DAU in the Region.

Depredations

No depredations occurred in this DAU during 2004, the same as prior years (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season occurred in DAU 3A during 2004 (Appendix A). Hound hunting for black bears was not popular in this DAU due to lack of roads and high probability of losing hounds.

Management Implications

Black bear populations are healthy and within desired levels in this DAU. Because of the adequate habitat within this DAU and light hunting pressure, the season structure proposed in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan allows for increased harvest, hence the 2-bear bag limit and extended seasons.

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Clearwater Region, 1993-present.

Year	Unit(s) surveyed	Survey dates	Total transects available	Total transects sampled	Total stations sampled	Total stations visited by black bear	90% confidence interval	
							%	(+/-)
1993 ^a	10A ^b	6/21-26	15	15	75	5	6.7	4.7
	11	6/15-22	11	10	49	2	4.1	3.3
	12	6/16-21	17	17	84	3	3.6	3.3
	15, 16	6/16-21	16	16	80	5	6.3	3.3
	19, 20	6/16-23	12	8	40	0	0.0	-
1994	10A ^{b,c}	6/10-16	15	15	75	6	8.0	5.1
	11	6/9-15	10	10	50	1	2.0	3.2
	12	6/13-18	17	17	85	2	2.4	2.7
	15, 16	6/10-15	13	13	65	8	12.3	6.7
	19, 20	6/9-16	12	7	35	2	5.7	6.4
1995	10, 12	6/24-7/9	102	80	400	26	6.5	2.0
	11	6/24-7/9	10	10	50	2	4.0	4.5
1996	10, 12	7/2-9	17	8	40	4	10.0	7.8
	11	7/3-8	10	10	50	3	6.0	5.5
	15, 16	6/28-7/13	13	10	50	5	10.0	7.0
	19, 20	6/26-7/2	12	5	25	4	16.0	12.0
1997	10, 12	7/9-14	18	48	237	21	8.9	3.0
	11	7/9-14	10	10	50	8	16.0	8.5
	15, 16	7/9-14	73	73	365	15	4.1	1.7
1997 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	49	49	242	94	38.8	5.2
	15, 16	July-Aug	73	73	365	144	39.5	4.2
1998 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	59	59	293	114	38.9	4.7
	15, 16	July-Aug	72	72	352	95	27.0	3.9
1999 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	47	47	235	85	36.2	5.2
	15, 16	July-Aug	65	65	325	98	30.2	4.2
2000 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	60	59	295	71	24.1	4.1
	11	July	10	10	47	7	14.8	8.6
	15, 16	July-Aug	68	68	340	95	27.9	4.0
2001 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	66	66	329	72	21.9	3.8
	11	July	12	12	65	9	13.9	7.1
	15	July-Aug	64	64	316	85	26.9	4.1
2002 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	58	57	285	88	30.9	4.5
	11	July	16	13	65	9	13.9	7.1
	15	July-Aug	60	60	300	102	34.0	4.5
2003 ^d	10, 12	July-Aug	67	67	318	87	26.7	4.1
	11	July	16	16	80	20	25.0	8.0
	15	July-Aug	67	67	325	128	39.4	4.5
2004	10,12	July-Aug	67	61	305	106	34.8	4.5
	11	July	16	16	80	27	33.8	8.8
	15	July-Aug	67	65	325	101	31.1	4.2

^a First year of data, no comparisons.

^b Potlatch Corporation purchased sardines and placed transects.

^c Transects collected at 6 days.

^d Transects conducted using bacon baits instead of sardines and leaving out 20 days.

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
1D												
1994	21	10	0	31	23	22	0	45	44	32	0	76
1995	19	12	0	31	36	25	0	61	55	37	0	92
1996	17	15	0	32	55	35	0	90	72	50	0	122
1997	15	10	1	26	62	36	0	98	77	46	1	124
1998	31	9	1	41	47	61	0	108	78	70	1	149
1999	24	16	0	40	55	20	0	75	79	36	0	115
2000	18	11	0	29	42	43	0	85	60	54	0	114
2001	19	11	0	30	50	32	0	82	69	43	0	112
2002	15	8	0	23	65	48	1	114	80	56	1	137
2003	43	28	0	71	62	47	0	109	105	75	0	180
2004	39	30	1	70	47	33	0	80	86	63	1	150
3-yr. avg.	32	22	0	54	58	43	0	101	90	65	1	156
1E												
1994	11	9	0	20	22	14	0	36	33	23	0	56
1995	13	8	0	21	26	9	0	35	39	17	0	56
1996	13	11	0	24	21	21	0	42	34	32	0	66
1997	15	2	1	18	28	9	0	37	43	11	1	55
1998	13	8	0	21	27	15	0	42	40	23	0	63
1999	16	8	0	24	22	17	0	39	38	25	0	63
2000	20	8	0	28	22	14	0	36	42	22	0	64
2001	25	13	0	38	16	11	0	27	41	24	0	65
2002	14	12	1	27	36	13	0	49	50	25	1	76
2003	14	13	0	27	24	13	0	37	38	26	0	64
2004	21	8	0	29	22	12	0	34	43	20	0	63
3-yr. avg.	16	11	0	27	27	13	0	40	44	24	0	68
1F												
1994	6	6	0	12	18	8	0	26	24	14	0	38
1995	13	6	0	19	34	11	0	45	47	17	0	64
1996	23	7	1	31	48	16	0	64	71	23	1	95
1997	31	3	1	35	42	20	0	62	73	23	1	97
1998	24	10	0	34	42	26	0	68	66	36	0	102
1999	16	14	0	30	37	14	0	51	53	28	0	81
2000	19	7	0	26	28	15	0	43	47	22	0	69
2001	19	10	0	29	30	11	0	41	49	21	0	70
2002	31	13	0	44	47	15	1	63	78	28	1	107
2003	35	22	0	57	45	22	0	67	80	44	0	124
2004	32	22	0	54	40	18	0	58	72	40	0	112
3-yr. avg.	33	19	0	52	44	18	0	62	77	37	0	114
2A												
1994	56	20	0	76	14	8	0	22	70	28	0	98
1995	64	25	0	89	12	9	0	21	76	34	0	110
1996	82	24	0	106	20	7	0	27	102	31	0	133

Table 2. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
1997	68	22	2	92	23	7	0	30	91	29	2	122
1998	137	72	2	211	54	30	0	84	191	102	2	295
1999	130	85	0	215	27	16	0	43	157	101	0	258
2000	131	49	0	180	22	12	0	34	153	61	0	214
2001	155	86	0	241	18	13	0	31	173	99	0	272
2002	156	57	1	214	23	17	0	40	179	74	1	254
2003	171	99	1	271	37	16	0	53	208	115	1	324
2004	169	108	0	277	35	22	0	57	204	130	0	334
3-yr. avg.	165	88	1	254	32	18	0	50	197	106	1	304
3A												
1994	27	4	0	31	11	10	0	21	38	14	0	52
1995	25	9	0	34	12	7	0	19	37	16	0	53
1996	17	7	0	24	26	13	0	39	43	20	0	63
1997	17	5	0	22	17	7	0	24	34	12	0	46
1998	29	8	1	38	23	14	0	37	52	22	1	75
1999	38	12	0	50	27	11	3	41	65	23	3	91
2000	28	16	0	44	30	4	0	34	58	20	0	78
2001	38	10	1	49	8	9	1	18	46	19	2	67
2002	47	17	1	65	27	7	0	34	74	24	1	99
2003	97	52	0	149	31	12	0	43	128	64	0	192
2004	106	49	1	156	26	11	0	37	132	60	1	193
3-yr. avg.	83	39	1	123	28	10	0	38	111	49	1	161

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1D													
1994	M	0	10	9	7	5	2	3	0	0	0	3	39
	F	1	2	7	3	4	3	1	1	2	4	2	30
1995	M	0	17	7	10	4	0	3	2	0	0	4	47
	F	0	8	4	6	0	4	3	2	1	0	6	34
1996	M	5	17	11	10	7	7	3	5	1	1	1	68
	F	2	2	18	5	7	1	1	1	3	1	2	43
1997	M	2	19	18	19	4	6	2	1	1	1	0	73
	F	1	10	6	8	0	8	1	4	1	1	5	45
1998	M	1	10	19	3	4	9	3	5	4	0	4	62
	F	0	11	13	7	5	2	4	1	1	2	9	55
1999	M	0	21	16	16	6	2	7	4	1	2	0	75
	F	0	10	4	6	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	33
2000	M	0	5	9	11	7	1	3	4	2	3	8	53
	F	0	14	10	13	6	2	5	0	1	0	1	52
2001	M	2	24	7	11	6	8	3	1	0	4	3	69
	F	0	12	5	5	1	4	4	3	0	3	3	40
2002	M	2	16	27	2	5	2	4	2	6	4	3	73
	F	0	11	12	5	2	2	3	3	4	0	10	52
2003	M	1	23	24	16	8	5	5	7	4	4	4	101
	F	0	13	14	6	8	7	4	5	1	4	12	74
2004	M	1	20	16	14	7	5	5	2	4	1	8	83
	F	0	5	11	7	7	3	5	4	4	3	13	62
1E													
1994	M	0	4	13	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	6	37
	F	0	5	2	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	16
1995	M	1	7	6	8	3	2	2	0	1	2	5	37
	F	0	5	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	15
1996	M	1	4	10	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	25
	F	3	4	7	2	5	1	3	0	1	1	3	30
1997	M	2	12	9	9	8	7	0	1	2	0	0	50
	F	1	3	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
1998	M	2	6	13	5	5	2	4	2	2	0	3	44
	F	1	2	7	2	5	0	2	1	0	1	3	24
1999	M	0	9	6	8	3	3	1	3	0	1	5	39
	F	0	3	2	6	5	3	1	1	2	0	3	26
2000	M	0	8	14	6	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	40
	F	0	0	3	3	5	0	2	0	2	0	6	21
2001	M	0	7	10	9	3	3	1	0	2	2	2	39
	F	0	4	4	5	2	2	0	3	0	0	4	24
2002	M	0	10	12	6	3	2	4	2	2	3	5	49
	F	0	1	7	5	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	25
2003	M	1	9	8	4	5	4	2	0	2	0	3	38
	F	0	4	2	6	1	2	0	1	1	2	7	26
2004	M	1	7	12	6	7	3	4	1	1	0	0	42
	F	0	4	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	19

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1F													
1994	M	0	6	7	3	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	23
	F	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	13
1995	M	0	9	3	8	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	27
	F	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	12
1996	M	2	11	15	13	7	3	1	3	0	0	4	59
	F	0	1	7	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	4	20
1997	M	1	13	12	12	7	9	2	0	1	2	4	63
	F	0	1	3	7	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	18
1998	M	1	7	11	9	7	3	3	3	0	3	4	51
	F	2	2	6	1	7	2	3	1	1	2	6	33
1999	M	0	8	11	8	7	4	3	3	3	2	6	55
	F	0	2	5	2	3	4	0	3	1	2	7	29
2000	M	1	4	12	9	7	1	2	1	4	1	1	43
	F	1	1	3	4	3	2	0	1	1	0	6	22
2001	M	1	12	6	8	4	6	7	2	1	1	2	50
	F	0	1	3	5	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	18
2002	M	1	10	19	5	14	5	6	1	1	3	9	74
	F	0	2	5	4	1	1	2	2	1	3	5	26
2003	M	0	8	18	18	5	4	6	6	2	3	7	77
	F	0	4	7	12	3	2	2	2	0	0	6	38
2004	M	0	8	19	7	13	2	2	3	1	2	5	62
	F	0	0	3	9	3	0	4	2	1	1	10	33
2A													
1994	M	0	7	11	10	12	9	8	1	3	3	4	68
	F	0	1	6	4	4	3	2	1	0	0	5	26
1995	M	3	2	6	23	10	7	5	5	4	1	7	73
	F	1	1	3	10	3	6	1	2	2	0	3	32
1996	M	1	7	22	12	20	13	6	5	10	1	7	104
	F	0	2	7	3	2	4	3	3	0	2	4	30
1997	M	0	4	15	32	7	6	3	5	3	4	7	86
	F	0	2	5	7	0	1	1	1	2	3	6	28
1998	M	0	8	24	39	28	15	11	5	8	4	21	163
	F	1	5	6	15	9	7	4	7	2	4	25	85
1999	M	1	3	14	21	20	31	13	13	8	8	19	151
	F	0	2	9	7	14	10	10	12	5	4	23	96
2000	M	0	0	9	15	0	16	15	9	6	5	18	93
	F	0	0	2	7	13	11	4	2	0	0	8	47
2001	M	0	23	7	11	23	28	13	23	10	5	25	168
	F	0	9	1	12	4	7	8	7	6	8	33	95
2002	M	0	4	101	5	7	10	9	12	11	5	10	174
	F	0	3	28	5	5	2	6	8	4	0	10	71
2003	M	1	22	41	80	6	9	6	4	9	4	22	204
	F	0	7	8	41	4	7	8	6	3	6	22	112
2004	M	0	9	42	31	43	3	6	5	12	5	18	174
	F	1	5	14	14	32	0	5	5	8	6	23	113

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
3A													
1994	M	0	3	11	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	6	36
	F	0	4	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	3	14
1995	M	0	1	7	9	4	3	6	1	1	1	8	41
	F	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	4	15
1996	M	3	5	10	7	5	1	1	2	0	0	8	42
	F	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	2	3	2	2	16
1997	M	0	2	5	7	3	3	0	2	0	2	7	31
	F	0	0	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
1998	M	0	1	6	6	8	9	3	1	0	3	10	47
	F	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	5	21
1999	M	0	2	8	12	1	3	3	2	1	4	19	55
	F	0	2	1	3	4	2	4	2	0	0	5	23
2000	M	0	2	9	5	7	2	8	7	0	0	11	51
	F	0	0	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	0	7	20
2001	M	0	2	1	6	5	7	3	8	6	3	4	45
	F	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	1	2	0	7	17
2002	M	0	5	17	2	9	5	7	2	4	4	11	66
	F	0	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	4	1	4	21
2003	M	0	8	10	23	3	5	6	7	6	12	44	124
	F	0	0	7	13	1	2	6	3	4	8	18	62
2004	M	0	3	14	20	17	9	6	6	6	8	34	123
	F	0	1	5	3	14	4	1	2	4	3	19	56

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ^b ≥5	# Males ^b ≥5
1D				
1994	76	42	21	8
1995	92	40	16	9
1996	122	41	25	18
1997	123	37	14	11
1998	148	47	32	25
1999 ^c	115	31	20	16
2000	114	47	35	21
2001	112	38	28	19
2002	136	41	26	21
2003	180	42	28	29
2004	149	42	29	25
3-year avg.	156	42	28	25
Desired levels		≤40	≥20	
1E				
1994	56	41	27	9
1995	56	22	31	12
1996	66	48	12	4
1997	54	20	23	10
1998	63	37	33	13
1999	63	40	34	13
2000	64	34	21	9
2001	65	37	24	10
2002	75	33	36	18
2003	64	41	29	11
2004	63	32	21	9
3-year avg.	67	35	29	13
Desired levels		≤40	≥20	
1F				
1994	38	37	22	5
1995	64	27	9	4
1996	94	24	15	11
1997	96	24	25	18
1998	102	35	24	16
1999	81	35	40	21
2000	69	32	21	10
2001	70	30	39	19
2002	106	26	32	25
2003	124	35	35	28
2004	112	36	21	15
3-year avg.	114	32	29	23
Desired levels		≤35	≥20	

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ^b ≥5	# Males ^b ≥5
2A				
1994	98	29	41	28
1995	110	31	38	29
1996	133	23	41	42
1997	120	24	31	28
1998	293	35	34	64
1999	258	39	59	92
2000	214	29	45	69
2001	272	36	60	104
2002	253	29	32	57
2003	323	36	26	54
2004	334	39	24	49
3-year avg.	303	35	27	53
Desired levels		≤40	≥25	
3A				
1994	52	27	55	18
1995	53	30	54	20
1996	63	32	28	12
1997	46	26	41	14
1998	74	30	50	26
1999	88	26	49	32
2000	78	26	48	28
2001	65	29	67	31
2002	98	24	45	33
2003	192	33	63	80
2004	192	31	52	69
3-year avg.	160	31	53	61
Desired levels		≤40	≥30	

^a Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknowns).

^b Number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknowns).

^c Spring only age data.

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1D						
1994	3	22	22	25	4	76
1995	0	29	17	36	1	83
1996	0	39	20	49	1	109
1997	0	46	15	61	0	122
1998	0	35	36	66	1	138
1999	0	22	48	39	0	109
2000	0	53	15	44	1	113
2001	2	49	32	29	0	112
2002	0	56	30	51	0	137
2003	1	95	30	53	1	180
2004	0	88	23	38	2	151
1E						
1994	13	10	9	18	0	50
1995	4	16	19	18	1	58
1996	11	10	18	25	2	66
1997	7	16	12	31	0	66
1998	6	7	25	22	5	65
1999	11	6	15	31	2	65
2000	13	4	18	30	1	66
2001	12	14	24	15	3	68
2002	10	5	33	28	0	76
2003	8	9	19	23	1	60
2004	21	11	17	14	0	63
1F						
1994	6	10	6	16	0	38
1995	4	12	2	25	1	44
1996	12	25	13	30	0	80
1997	20	20	20	23	0	83
1998	27	25	17	33	3	105
1999	17	35	11	21	0	84
2000	9	28	15	17	2	71
2001	17	22	18	12	3	72
2002	24	29	34	18	2	107
2003	40	20	34	30	0	124
2004	29	29	34	21	0	113
2A						
1994	23	9	17	15	2	66
1995	56	11	18	22	0	107
1996	69	18	30	26	1	144
1997	65	11	24	18	2	120
1998	150	41	43	53	4	291
1999	152	17	41	47	2	259

Table 5. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2000	139	28	24	21	2	214
2001	199	17	39	15	2	272
2002	163	15	50	20	6	254
2003	227	18	62	16	2	325
2004	222	29	52	29	2	334
3A						
1994	11	2	8	15	3	39
1995	9	6	26	19	3	63
1996	5	1	25	32	1	64
1997	3	1	26	15	1	46
1998	16	5	25	23	1	70
1999	19	7	35	22	3	86
2000	12	4	35	20	6	77
2001	35	4	15	10	1	65
2002	40	4	37	17	1	99
2003	108	12	54	13	5	192
2004	124	6	52	9	2	193

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1D						
1994	61	9	0	3	3	76
1995	78	2	0	4	0	84
1996	101	3	0	2	0	106
1997	113	4	0	5	0	122
1998	132	3	1	3	0	139
1999	99	4	1	6	0	110
2000	97	12	0	1	3	113
2001	96	13	0	3	0	112
2002	111	18	1	6	1	137
2003	159	15	0	5	1	180
2004	130	15	0	5	0	150
1E						
1994	40	7	1	2	8	58
1995	48	7	0	3	0	58
1996	60	5	0	1	0	66
1997	62	3	0	1	0	66
1998	56	7	1	0	1	65
1999	64	1	0	0	0	65
2000	51	8	3	1	3	66
2001	61	3	0	2	2	68
2002	61	13	1	1	0	76
2003	54	8	0	1	1	64
2004	50	8	0	5	0	63
1F						
1994	28	2	0	2	6	38
1995	38	5	1	2	0	46
1996	66	5	3	6	0	80
1997	79	3	0	1	0	83
1998	94	4	0	5	2	105
1999	76	4	0	2	2	84
2000	61	6	0	2	2	71
2001	66	3	0	1	2	72
2002	96	5	2	4	0	107
2003	104	10	6	3	1	124
2004	92	7	4	7	2	112
2A						
1994	52	8	0	4	35	99
1995	82	19	2	4	1	108
1996	99	30	2	10	0	141
1997	89	25	1	5	0	120
1998	221	54	3	12	1	291
1999	197	49	3	9	1	259

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
2000	160	41	3	5	5	214
2001	192	53	6	15	6	272
2002	197	45	4	6	2	254
2003	254	53	9	3	5	324
2004	259	59	4	9	3	334
3A						
1994	32	4	4	2	0	42
1995	57	1	2	4	0	64
1996	60	1	0	4	0	65
1997	44	0	0	2	0	46
1998	63	3	0	4	0	70
1999	76	9	0	2	0	87
2000	70	4	0	1	2	77
2001	51	6	4	3	1	65
2002	73	21	2	3	0	99
2003	158	22	3	8	1	192
2004	166	17	3	7	0	193

Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Clearwater Region, 1994-present.

Year	DAU					Total
	1D	1E	1F	2A	3A	
1994	0	2	1	0	0	3
1995	3	5	0	0	0	8
1996	1	7	7	1	1	17
1997	5	10	2	2	1	20
1998	9	10	17	12	2	50
1999	6	10	1	2	1	20
2000	8	7	2	0	0	17
2001	2	5	0	3	2	12
2002	4	3	0	0	0	7
2003	6	2	4	2	0	14
2004	1	1	0	0	0	2

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>3</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

Four hundred seventy-two black bears were reported harvested in Area 1 of Southwest Region in 2004. Bait station surveys were conducted in DAUs 1G and 1H during the reporting period. Visitation rates were 28% for both DAUs in 2005. Reported harvest was 138, 82, and 252 black bears for DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K, respectively, during 2004 hunting seasons. The reported harvest decreased 7% in DAU 1G. Harvest in DAUs 1H and 1K increased 11% and 14%, respectively, in 2004. Data indicate percent females and percent males ≥ 5 years-of-age in the harvest criteria are being met in all 3 DAUs. Harvest was well distributed among user groups in DAU 1G. Still hunting (stalking) and hound hunting methods contributed to the majority of black bear harvest in DAU 1H. Baiting comprised most of the black bear kill in DAU 1K in 2004. Liberalized seasons were implemented in 1998 and again in 1999 with adoption of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan. Data for DAU 1G indicate harvest criteria are stable. Harvest data for DAU 1K indicate that elimination of the fall split season in 1998 and increase in spring season in 2002 contributed to a significant increase in black bear harvest.

Sixty-five black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3B in 2004. Harvest criteria are being met in this area. Still hunting was the dominant harvest technique in this area. Season changes were incorporated into the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan to make this area consistent with statewide management direction.

AREA 1

DAU 1G (GMUs 19A, 23, 24, 25)

Management Direction

Area 1 contains 12 DAUs. Harvest guidelines and population characteristics targets provide management goals for these DAUs. The 1992-2000 Black Bear Species Management Plan directed the Department to manage Area 1 to maintain or reduce harvest, improve age structure, and offer a variety of hunting opportunities.

The plan called for monitoring certain population characteristics as reflected in the harvest over 3-year segments to evaluate the status of black bear populations. In DAUs where data indicated harvest reductions were necessary, the Department would evaluate harvest distribution, hunter density, season of harvest, and hunting methods before making a recommendation. Male, female, and overall median age and percent females were the harvest criteria monitored during the 1992-2000 planning period.

New, simpler criteria were developed in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan and took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria are the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males ≥ 5 years old. Bait station survey trends are also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates will be categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1G will be managed for moderate harvest rates.

Background

A statewide mandatory report requirement for harvested black bear was introduced in 1983. Most seasons in Area 1 were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. Area 1 was divided into DAUs when the 1986-1990 Black Bear Management Plan was implemented in 1986. Uniform seasons by DAU and more restrictive season structures were introduced at that time. Year-round black bear seasons and extra black bear tags were eliminated in DAU 1G in 1986. Slight modifications to the seasons proposed in the 1986-1990 plan were made based on monitoring of 3 consecutive years of harvest data and were reflected in the 1992 black bear harvest season. Further season reductions were incorporated into the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan and took effect with the beginning of the 1993 black bear harvest season. More liberal seasons were implemented in fall 1998 and were continued into the 2004 framework (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

A bait station survey, using pork fat and anise oil as attractants, was conducted in DAU 1G in July 2005 (Table 2). Sixty-six transects were sampled resulting in a 28% visitation rate (93 out of 330 stations visited by bears). This visitation rate was the same as that recorded in 2004.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest in DAU 1G was 7% lower in 2004 than in 2003 (Table 3). The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in fall than spring in 2004. Black bear age data indicate 2-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Harvest criteria for percent females and males ≥ 5 years old were within acceptable limits (Table 5). There was adequate distribution of harvest among user groups in DAU 1G in 2004 (Table 6). The rifle is the most prominent weapon used for harvesting black bear in DAU 1G (Table 7).

Depredations

Black bear depredations occur annually in Southwest Region. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations do occur.

A few more depredations were reported in 2004 when compared to 2003 (Table 8). Tracking of depredation reports is sporadic at best and a more concerted effort is needed to improve reporting.

Management Implications

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan identifies 3 harvest-level targets for black bear populations: light, moderate, and heavy. Light harvest strategies provide for thriving black bear populations in which a hunter could expect to encounter a lot of black bears and have an elevated chance of harvesting one. Moderate harvest is designed to provide maximum hunter opportunity yet maintain a viable self-sustaining black bear population. Heavy harvest criteria are employed where an obvious desire exists to severely reduce a black bear population. Areas of heavy harvest do not maintain a viable, self-sustaining black bear population over the long term.

DAU 1G appeared to be within acceptable harvest levels in 1998. As a result, the first 2 weeks of October were added back into the fall season to eliminate the split that caused confusion and regulation complication for sportsmen. This season change increased bear harvest by more than 30%. Harvest parameters remained within desired limits. Subsequently, the fall 2000 season was opened on 30 August in this DAU to restore some hunter opportunity lost when seasons were curtailed in the early 1990s. This change also increased bear harvest in the DAU. The 2004 harvest season reflected the fourth year of monitoring this change. Younger bears have become more preponderant in the harvest. The current season framework should be monitored through the 2005 season to further assess changes in harvest criteria and subsequent impact to the bear population.

DAU 1H (GMUs 22, 31, 32, 32A)

Management Direction

The 1992-2000 Black Bear Species Management Plan directed the Department to manage Area 1 to maintain or reduce harvest, improve age structure, and offer a variety of hunting opportunities. This included high-quality controlled hunts in DAU 1H.

New, simpler criteria were developed in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan and took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria are the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males ≥ 5 years old. Bait station survey trends are also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates will be categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1H will be managed for light harvest of black bear.

Background

A statewide mandatory report requirement for harvested black bear was introduced in 1983. Most seasons in Area 1 were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. Area 1 was divided into DAUs when the 1986-1990 Black Bear Management Plan was implemented in 1986. Uniform seasons by DAU and more restrictive season structures were introduced at that time. Season restrictions in DAU 1H were designed to

protect the vulnerable black bear populations in that area. Slight modifications to the seasons proposed in the 1986-1990 plan were made based on monitoring of 3 consecutive years of harvest data and were reflected in the 1992 black bear harvest season. Further season reductions were incorporated into the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan and took effect with the beginning of the 1993 black bear harvest season. More liberal seasons were implemented in fall 1998 and were continued into 2004 (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were conducted in the Middle Fork Weiser and Little Weiser River drainages of DAU 1H to monitor black bear population trends (Table 9). Sardines were used as the bait attractant. Twenty-eight percent of the stations (24 of 85) were visited by black bear in June 2005. This visitation rate was the same as that documented in June 2004.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest increased 11% in 2004 when compared to 2003 in DAU 1H (Table 3). The black bear harvest was higher in fall as compared to spring in 2004. Black bear age data indicate 2-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2004 (Table 4). A decrease was noted for percent females in the harvest criteria (Table 5). Percent males ≥ 5 years old increased in 2004. Still and hound hunting methods are the dominant means of harvest in DAU 1H (Table 6). The rifle is the most used weapon of choice (Table 7).

Depredations

Black bear depredations occur annually in Southwest Region. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations do occur. Three depredations were recorded in 2004 (Table 8). Tracking of depredation reports is sporadic at best and a more concerted effort is needed to improve reporting.

Management Implications

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan identifies 3 harvest-level targets for black bear populations: light, moderate, and heavy. Light harvest strategies provide for thriving black bear populations in which a hunter could expect to encounter a lot of black bears and have an elevated chance of harvesting one. Moderate harvest is designed to provide maximum hunter opportunity yet maintain a viable self-sustaining black bear population. Heavy harvest criteria are employed where an obvious desire exists to severely reduce a black bear population. Areas of heavy harvest do not maintain a viable, self-sustaining black bear population over the long term.

Harvest parameters in DAU 1H showed a trend toward too many female black bears in the harvest. This did not seem logical under a conservative controlled hunt strategy; however, most black bears were harvested in September when females are vulnerable. The 15 April-15 May spring season framework is a less vulnerable time period for female black bears; hence, spring permits were increased in 1998 to attempt to skew the sex ratio of the harvest further toward male black bears. This strategy did not yield the most promising results. Black bear harvest had

become nearly equal between the 2 seasons. Fall permits were increased from 30 to 50 in 2000 and the season extended to the end of October to respond to a clamor about increased black bear sightings in this DAU and another attempt at influencing male black bear harvest. This increase in permits did not lead to an appreciable increase in fall bear harvest. Subsequently, the spring and fall permit levels were increased to 75 each, beginning with the fall 2003 season. This change has caused an appreciable increase in male harvest. The goal is to continue to increase the percentage of males in the harvest and to maintain a 30% or higher hunter success rate. It may turn out that the controlled hunt area is too small to protect the wider ranging adult male black bears, and a harvest rate of 30% or greater females may be the norm for a lightly hunted population under these conditions. Monitoring through the 2006 bear season will be necessary to evaluate the effect of current permit level changes on bear harvest. Education regarding species management plan harvest goals and population objectives is needed to help sportsmen understand that the seasons in this DAU are meant to provide for high black bear numbers and an increased chance for seeing black bears.

DAU 1K (GMUs 33, 39, 43)

Management Direction

The 1992-2000 Black Bear Species Management Plan directed the Department to manage Area 1 to maintain or reduce harvest, improve age structure, and offer a variety of hunting opportunities. This included high-quality controlled hunts in DAU 1K.

New, simpler criteria were developed in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan and took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria are the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males ≥ 5 years old. Bait station survey trends are also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates will be categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1K will be managed for moderate harvest rates.

Background

A statewide mandatory report requirement for harvested black bear was introduced in 1983. Most seasons in Area 1 were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. Area 1 was divided into DAUs when the 1986-1990 Black Bear Management Plan was implemented in 1986. Uniform seasons by DAU and more restrictive season structures were introduced at that time. Slight modifications to the seasons proposed in the 1986-1990 plan were made based on monitoring of 3 consecutive years of harvest data and were reflected in the 1992 black bear harvest season. Further season reductions were incorporated into the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan and took effect with the beginning of the 1993 black bear harvest season. More liberal seasons were implemented in fall 1998 and were continued into the 2004 framework (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

A DNA mark-recapture project was implemented in July 2003 to assess population size and survival rates of black bears in GMU 39. The study area was divided into 48.8 km² sampling

units in which barbed wire enclosures were set around a small bait or scent lures to capture hair samples from visiting bears. Following an initial “capture” hair-trapping session, hair traps were relocated within the sample units for 2 subsequent “recapture” trapping sessions. DNA extracted from bear hair samples will be used to identify bears as individuals, thus, resulting in “marked” animals in the study area. The frequency of new captures vs. recaptures in subsequent hair capture sessions will enable estimation of the bear population within the study area. Further, tissue samples were collected from all black bears harvested by hunters in the study area, creating an additional recapture event and allowing an estimate of harvest rate of the bear population.

From 16 June-31 August 2003, 180 hair traps were set. Staff collected 232 hair samples from 153 hair traps. During the same period in 2004, 251 hair trap stations were set and 204 hair samples were collected from 184 visited trap sites. IDFG personnel also collected tissue and hair samples from 153 black bears harvested in the GMU during 2003 and 2004.

Lab work for extraction of DNA and identification of individual bears was originally being conducted by Idaho Department of Fish and Game’s Wildlife Health Lab, but reprioritization of the geneticist’s duties at the lab forced us to contract the work elsewhere. We expect to receive lab results from the first 2 field seasons of the study by mid-May 2005. Work on the third and final field season for this project will commence mid-June and end 31 August 2005.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest increased 14% in 2004 when compared to 2003 totals in DAU 1K (Table 3). Hunters harvested more bears in spring than fall in 2004. Black bear age data indicate 2-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2004 (Table 4). The percent females and percent males ≥ 5 years old harvest criteria are within acceptable levels (Table 5). Baiting was the most frequently used method to kill black bears in DAU 1K in 2004 (Table 6). Rifle was the most reported weapon of choice in DAU 1K (Table 7).

Depredations

Black bear depredations occur annually in Southwest Region. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations do occur. No depredations were recorded in DAU 1K in 2004 (Table 8). Tracking of depredation reports is sporadic at best and a more concerted effort is needed to improve reporting.

Management Implications

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan identifies 3 harvest-level targets for black bear populations: light, moderate, and heavy. Light harvest strategies provide for thriving black bear populations in which a hunter could expect to encounter a lot of black bears and have an elevated chance of harvesting one. Moderate harvest is designed to provide maximum hunter opportunity yet maintain a viable self-sustaining black bear population. Heavy harvest criteria are employed where an obvious desire exists to severely reduce a black bear population. Areas of heavy harvest do not maintain a viable, self-sustaining black bear population over the long term.

The fall split season was eliminated in 1998 in DAU 1K for the same reasons as mentioned above for DAU 1G. This change did result in a significant increase in fall black bear harvest, as well as overall annual harvest. This increase was also apparent in the 1999 harvest. The 2000 harvest was even larger than 1998 and 1999, nearly equaling harvest levels of the early 1990s that precipitated significant season reductions in 1992 in this DAU. The Commission further expanded season lengths for the spring 2002 black bear season. This change probably contributed to the 55% higher harvest of black bears in the spring 2002 and 2003 seasons as compared to the 1999-2001 3-year average. Harvest criteria for percent female bears and percent males ≥ 5 years old in DAU 1K is now near the maximum level desired. Harvest associated with these season changes needs to be monitored closely to prevent large declines in the black bear population and subsequent hunter complaints.

AREA 3

DAU 3B (GMUs 20A, 26, 27)

Management Direction

Area 3 is divided into 2 analysis units, 1 north and 1 south of Salmon River. Harvest in this area is dominated by young, dispersing black bears and occurs mostly along river corridors and backcountry landing strips. The harvest is not thought to be reflective of the overall population. The Department will manage Area 3 black bear populations to maintain moderate harvest targets of 25-35% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest. Minor season adjustments may be implemented to conform to statewide management direction. There is no dog-training season in Area 3.

Harvest in Area 3 is consistently low, resulting in small samples from which to monitor harvest parameters. Harvest criteria will be monitored but will only apply if average annual harvest is at least 30 black bears. Professional judgment will be used when average annual harvest is less than 30 black bears.

Background

A large portion of DAU 3B is roadless, lying within the Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness boundaries. Except for a few mining roads penetrating the periphery, access in these units is restricted to boat, airplane, pack-string, or foot travel. A statewide mandatory report requirement for harvested black bear was introduced in 1983. Year-round seasons and extra black bear tags were eliminated with implementation of the 1986-1990 Black Bear Management Plan. Seasons were shortened to conform to statewide management direction listed in the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan. The fall and spring seasons were expanded again with implementation of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

No population surveys were conducted in DAU 3B during the reporting period.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest increased 23% in 2004 compared to 2003 for DAU 3B (Table 3). Black bear harvest in DAU 3B was greater in the fall than spring season. Black bear age data indicate 6-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2004 (Table 4). Percent females in the harvest was similar to that reported in 2003 (Table 5). Still hunting was the primary method of kill in this DAU (Table 6). The prominent weapon of choice in DAU 3B is the rifle (Table 7).

Depredations

No depredations were recorded in DAU 3B in 2004 (Table 8).

Management Implications

Historically, harvest in DAU 3B is usually minor and small sample sizes precluded meaningful interpretation of harvest criteria. Minor changes to season structure were incorporated into the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan to make this DAU consistent with statewide management direction. Minor changes to the fall season structure were implemented with the 2000-2010 Black Bear Species Management Plan. A 2-black bear bag limit, discounted non-resident bear tag fees, and a longer fall season was adopted by the Commission beginning with the 2000 season in response to sportsmen's unsubstantiated concerns of black bear predation on elk calves in the Middle Fork Elk Zone. Harvest criteria are within acceptable limits in DAU 3B. The Department will continue to monitor harvest criteria for DAU 3B to assess the effects of season changes on black bear populations.

Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.

Criteria	Light harvest	Moderate harvest	Heavy harvest
% Females	<30	30-40	>40
% Males \geq 5	>35	25-35	<25
Bait station survey	Increasing	Stable	Decreasing

Table 2. Bait station (pork fat and anise oil) survey results from DAU 1G, 2003-present.

Year	Survey number	Survey dates	Total transects available	Total transects sampled	Total stations sampled	Total stations visited by black bear	90% confidence interval	
							%	(+/-)
2003	1	7/22-8/14	92	20	100	20	20	6.6
2004	1	7/7-8/3	92	48	240	70	29	4.8
2005	1	7/6-8/2	92	66	330	93	28	4.1

Table 3. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1G									
1994	22	10	32	18	12	30	40	22	62
1995	33	12	45	36	25	61	69	37	106
1996	40	17	57	36	22	58	76	39	115
1997	27	11	38	38	28	66	65	39	104
1998	38	10	48	36	19	55	74	29	103
1999	38	16	54	51	32	83	89	48	137
2000	43	12	55	59	23	82	102	35	137
2001	34	18	52	46	33	79	80	51	131
2002	37	13	50	57	35	92	94	48	142
2003	40	12	52	57	39	96	97	51	148
2004	35	15	50	55	33	88	90	48	138
3-yr. avg.	37	13	50	56	36	92	93	49	142
1H									
1994	8	3	11	6	7	13	14	10	24
1995	7	1	8	11	10	21	18	11	29
1996	14	3	17	8	7	15	22	10	32
1997	15	6	21	23	8	31	38	14	52
1998	23	10	33	21	12	33	44	22	66
1999	14	10	24	16	12	28	30	22	52
2000	23	13	36	15	18	33	38	31	69
2001	17	8	25	14	22	36	31	30	61
2002	25	9	34	22	16	38	47	25	72
2003	18	5	23	23	28	51	41	33	74
2004	17	14	31	33	18	51	50	32	82
3-yr. avg.	20	9	29	26	21	47	46	30	76
1K									
1994	33	20	53	44	20	64	77	40	117
1995	52	21	73	49	36	85	101	57	158
1996	47	32	79	31	20	51	78	52	130
1997	34	23	57	41	33	74	75	56	131
1998	39	24	63	75	55	130	114	79	193
1999	66	26	92	65	42	107	131	68	199
2000	54	26	80	76	65	141	130	91	221
2001	66	30	96	65	42	107	131	72	203
2002	103	35	138	77	56	133	180	91	271
2003	87	59	146	47	29	76	134	88	222
2004	105	44	149	59	44	103	164	88	252
3-yr. avg.	98	46	144	61	43	104	159	89	248
3B									
1994	5	3	8	26	18	44	31	21	52
1995	4	7	11	16	8	24	20	15	35
1996	7	2	9	32	8	40	39	10	49

Table 3. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1997	5	3	8	8	8	16	13	11	24
1998	9	6	15	9	5	14	18	11	29
1999	2	0	2	19	15	34	21	15	36
2000	3	1	4	23	13	36	26	14	40
2001	5	4	9	29	13	42	34	17	51
2002	7	5	12	40	17	57	47	22	69
2003	17	6	23	19	11	30	36	17	53
2004	12	9	21	32	12	44	44	21	65
3-yr. avg.	12	7	19	30	13	43	42	20	62

Table 4. Age distribution of black bear, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age										Unknown	Total
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1G														
1994	M	0	4	14	3	5	6	2	1	1	0	0	5	41
	F	0	0	6	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	3	5	22
1995	M	1	7	11	18	2	4	6	6	0	4	7	3	69
	F	0	5	7	6	1	1	3	4	1	2	5	2	37
1996	M	0	1	18	8	15	1	6	5	1	0	10	11	76
	F	1	0	5	2	3	0	1	3	1	1	10	12	39
1997	M	0	8	6	18	6	7	2	2	1	2	9	4	65
	F	0	1	5	8	1	4	1	2	1	2	8	6	39
1998	M	0	6	8	10	14	10	10	3	2	2	7	2	74
	F	0	4	6	4	3	2	3	0	0	3	0	4	29
1999	M	0	12	17	14	2	6	1	8	1	1	13	14	89
	F	0	6	7	6	2	5	5	3	0	3	5	6	48
2000	M	0	4	31	18	7	4	9	5	3	1	10	10	102
	F	1	1	4	4	2	3	4	4	0	1	7	4	35
2001	M	1	16	6	23	4	6	2	2	5	2	6	7	80
	F	0	4	4	4	3	4	2	7	5	1	11	6	51
2002	M	0	3	26	10	16	5	5	1	4	7	9	8	94
	F	0	8	8	2	5	3	3	2	3	0	9	5	48
2003	M	0	17	11	25	7	11	5	3	2	3	7	6	97
	F	0	8	8	7	4	7	2	1	1	1	8	4	51
2004	M	3	10	21	14	12	5	6	0	3	2	9	5	90
	F	0	0	7	8	5	5	0	2	2	3	9	7	48
1H														
1994	M	0	2	5	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	14
	F	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	10
1995	M	0	3	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	5	18
	F	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	11
1996	M	0	2	10	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	22
	F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	10
1997	M	0	5	7	7	4	0	4	2	2	1	1	5	38
	F	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	3	1	14
1998	M	0	3	13	4	8	2	2	2	1	1	5	3	44
	F	0	0	4	3	2	0	2	1	3	2	1	4	22
1999	M	0	5	6	3	3	3	3	0	3	0	3	1	30
	F	0	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	0	5	4	22
2000	M	0	2	9	4	5	2	5	1	3	0	0	7	38
	F	0	0	6	2	6	3	0	3	3	0	6	2	31
2001	M	0	6	5	7	2	5	1	0	1	0	1	3	31
	F	0	1	4	7	2	4	3	0	0	2	4	3	30
2002	M	0	5	13	3	8	1	4	0	2	1	5	5	47
	F	0	2	0	4	6	2	1	0	0	1	6	3	25
2003	M	0	4	9	11	3	3	1	2	0	2	1	5	41
	F	0	5	7	5	2	2	2	3	0	1	3	3	33
2004	M	0	9	13	2	6	4	2	2	0	3	7	2	50
	F	0	3	9	4	2	1	4	0	0	0	3	6	32

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	Sex	Age											Unknown	Total
		Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
1K														
1994	M	0	8	23	5	7	6	8	4	2	3	4	7	77
	F	0	0	12	3	2	8	3	0	0	2	6	4	40
1995	M	0	14	12	34	5	3	9	3	3	4	3	11	101
	F	0	10	3	14	3	2	6	1	2	1	6	9	57
1996	M	0	8	25	6	14	2	3	2	3	1	6	8	78
	F	0	4	14	9	6	2	0	2	1	1	5	8	52
1997	M	2	8	9	25	2	13	3	1	4	0	5	3	75
	F	0	3	9	12	2	4	1	3	4	3	9	6	56
1998	M	0	25	23	5	16	8	11	4	3	5	5	9	114
	F	0	12	7	7	9	4	7	3	1	4	17	8	79
1999	M	0	21	21	27	8	19	3	10	3	2	8	9	131
	F	0	8	6	10	6	6	8	5	0	2	7	10	68
2000	M	4	19	22	13	15	5	10	4	9	1	11	17	130
	F	1	11	20	6	6	5	10	1	3	3	9	16	91
2001	M	0	20	11	26	3	13	8	13	1	4	7	25	131
	F	0	7	3	10	7	7	3	4	1	4	19	7	72
2002	M	2	13	46	24	26	11	10	2	13	6	16	11	180
	F	3	7	18	9	11	5	7	1	3	2	15	10	91
2003	M	0	19	12	30	6	15	7	3	7	5	15	15	134
	F	0	8	6	14	4	6	6	3	4	10	15	12	88
2004	M	0	8	65	13	27	4	7	2	3	3	18	14	164
	F	0	5	26	2	10	4	2	6	6	1	14	12	88
3B														
1994	M	0	4	4	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	13	2	31
	F	0	1	7	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	5	21
1995	M	0	1	4	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	6	20
	F	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	5	2	15
1996	M	0	2	6	5	10	0	0	2	2	0	8	4	39
	F	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	10
1997	M	0	1	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	13
	F	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	11
1998	M	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	3	5	18
	F	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	4	0	11
1999	M	0	2	1	3	1	3	4	1	0	0	4	2	21
	F	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	5	4	15
2000	M	1	0	9	4	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	26
	F	0	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	14
2001	M	0	2	6	7	1	4	1	1	2	4	2	4	34
	F	0	3	0	5	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	17
2002	M	0	1	7	4	11	5	2	0	5	0	9	3	47
	F	0	0	1	4	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	4	22
2003	M	0	4	2	4	1	8	1	1	1	0	9	5	36
	F	0	3	0	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	5	0	17
2004	M	0	4	8	4	2	6	9	1	4	1	4	1	44
	F	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	6	5	21

Table 5. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values, criteria, and median ages, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

DAU		%	Median age			%		
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	Females	Males	Females	Total	Males ≥ 5	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
1G								
1994	63	35	2	3	3	26	40	50
1995	106	35	3	3	3	40	69	101
1996	115	34	4	7	4	35	76	92
1997	104	38	3	5	4	38	65	94
1998	103	28	4	3	7	47	74	97
1999	137	35	3	5	3	40	89	117
2000	137	26	3	6	3	34	102	123
2001	131	39	3	7	4	33	80	118
2002	142	34	4	4	4	36	94	128
2003	148	34	3	4	3	34	97	138
2004	138	35	3	5	4	30	90	126
3-year avg.	142	35	3	4	4	33	94	131
Desired levels		30-40	≥ 4	≥ 6	≥ 5	25-35		
1H								
1994	24	42	2	4	3	25	14	21
1995	29	38	4	3	3	31	18	23
1996	32	31	2	2	2	21	22	25
1997	52	27	3	6	4	30	38	46
1998	66	33	4	5	4	32	44	59
1999	52	42	4	5	4	41	30	47
2000	69	45	4	5	4	35	37	59
2001	61	49	3	4	3	29	31	55
2002	72	35	4	4	4	31	46	64
2003	74	45	3	3	3	25	41	66
2004	82	39	4	3	3	38	50	74
3-year avg.	76	39	3	4	3	32	46	68
Desired levels		≤ 30	≥ 4	≥ 6	≥ 5	≥ 35		
1K								
1994	117	35	2	5	3	34	76	97
1995	158	36	3	3	3	28	101	138
1996	130	40	3	3	3	24	78	114
1997	131	43	3	4	3	36	75	122
1998	193	41	3	5	4	34	114	176
1999	199	34	3	4	3	37	131	180
2000	221	41	3	3	3	36	130	188
2001	203	35	3	5	4	43	131	171
2002	271	34	3	4	4	34	180	250
2003	222	40	3	5	4	44	134	195
2004	252	35	3	4	3	25	164	226
3-year avg.	248	36	3	4	4	34	159	224
Desired levels		30-40	≥ 4	≥ 6	≥ 5	25-35		

Table 5. Continued.

DAU		%	Median age			%		
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	Females	Males	Females	Total	Males ≥5	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
3B								
1994	50	42	8	4	4	58	29	42
1995	35	43	3	5	3	21	20	27
1996	49	20	4	7	4	34	39	43
1997	24	46	4	7	4	18	13	22
1998	29	38	5	5	5	62	18	24
1999	36	42	5	9	6	58	21	30
2000	40	35	3	4	3	40	26	39
2001	51	33	4	4	4	47	34	47
2002	69	32	4	4	4	48	47	62
2003	53	32	5	6	5	65	36	48
2004	65	32	5	6	6	58	44	59
3-year avg.	62	32	5	6	5	56	42	56
Desired levels		30-40	≥4	≥6	≥5	25-35		

^a Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknowns).

^b Number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknowns).

Table 6. Method of black bear harvest, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1G						
1994	16	7	21	17	2	63
1995	17	21	39	28	1	106
1996	13	18	51	31	2	115
1997	26	17	21	37	3	104
1998	22	18	21	38	4	103
1999	23	33	32	46	3	137
2000	30	30	37	36	4	137
2001						131
2002	36	29	39	36	2	142
2003	41	32	40	35	0	148
2004	39	16	49	33	1	138
1H						
1994	1	8	13	1	1	24
1995	0	12	16	1	0	29
1996	0	9	21	0	2	32
1997	1	17	30	2	2	52
1998	0	25	32	7	2	66
1999	0	24	26	2	0	52
2000	1	20	41	5	2	69
2001	1	23	30	6	1	61
2002	0	23	43	5	1	72
2003	0	31	40	3	0	74
2004	0	23	54	5	0	82
1K						
1994	27	18	28	38	6	117
1995	34	22	56	42	4	158
1996	35	19	38	36	2	130
1997	29	16	38	47	1	131
1998	30	23	61	75	4	193
1999	39	30	81	45	4	199
2000	53	32	72	56	8	221
2001						203
2002	74	60	73	56	8	271
2003	93	47	40	34	8	222
2004	85	49	65	46	7	252
3B						
1994	2	0	14	33	3	52
1995	0	0	16	17	2	35
1996	0	1	17	30	1	49
1997	0	0	8	14	2	24
1998	0	1	14	14	0	29
1999	0	0	10	25	1	36

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2000	1	0	18	19	2	40
2001	2	1	15	30	3	51
2002	2	0	23	44	0	69
2003	10	1	23	18	1	53
2004	7	1	34	22	1	65

Table 7. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1G						
1994	53	7	0	1	2	63
1995	96	5	1	3	1	106
1996	93	17	1	4	0	115
1997	87	11	2	2	2	104
1998	92	8	0	3	0	103
1999	115	14	1	7	0	137
2000	111	17	0	3	6	137
2001	101	15	3	9	3	131
2002	107	23	1	7	4	142
2003	120	16	3	9	0	148
2004	100	25	5	5	3	138
1H						
1994	22	0	0	2	0	24
1995	26	1	0	1	1	29
1996	27	3	0	0	2	32
1997	46	4	0	2	0	52
1998	60	6	0	0	0	66
1999	45	4	1	1	1	52
2000	61	3	0	4	1	69
2001	52	4	1	4	0	61
2002	65	4	0	3	0	72
2003	61	5	0	8	0	74
2004	69	6	2	3	2	82
1K						
1994	90	21	0	5	1	117
1995	119	29	1	9	0	158
1996	102	15	3	10	0	130
1997	110	15	1	4	1	131
1998	170	15	2	6	0	193
1999	162	24	0	13	0	199
2000	180	25	2	10	4	221
2001	169	21	2	9	2	203
2002	201	44	3	17	6	271
2003	164	38	6	8	6	222
2004	190	44	7	8	3	252
3B						
1994	52	0	0	0	0	52
1995	34	1	0	0	0	35
1996	48	0	0	1	0	49
1997	22	0	0	2	0	24
1998	29	0	0	0	0	29
1999	35	1	0	0	0	36

Table 7. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
2000	39	0	0	1	0	40
2001	48	2	0	0	1	51
2002	67	2	0	0	0	69
2003	52	0	0	0	1	53
2004	60	0	0	2	3	65

Table 8. Black bear depredation complaints, Southwest Region, 1994-present.

Year	DAU				Total
	1G	1H	1K	3B	
1994	3	0	3	1	7
1995	7	2	11	1	21
1996	11	4	3	1	19
1997	1	1	2	1	5
1998	5	1	5	0	11
1999	4	5	1	0	10
2000	0	2	12	0	14
2001	0	1	1	0	2
2002	0	7	2	0	9
2003	0	2	0	1	3
2004	3	3	0	0	6

Table 9. Bait station (sardines) survey results from Council routes (DAU 1H), 1994-present.

Year	Survey number	Survey dates	Total transects available	Total transects sampled	Total stations sampled	Total stations visited by black bear	90% confidence interval	
							%	(+/-)
1994	1	6/30-7/5	17	17	85	15	18	6.7
1995	1	6/22-27	17	17	85	13	15	6.5
1996	1	6/27-7/2	17	17	85	30	35	8.4
1997	1	6/26-7/1	16	16	80	14	18	7.0
1998	1	7/5-13	17	17	85	19	22	7.4
1999	1	7/1-6 ^a	16	16	80	31	39	10.0
2000	1	6/22-27	17	17	85	32	38	8.6
2001	1	6/17-22	17	17	85	30	35	8.7
2002	1	6/27-7/2	17	17	85	24	28	8.2
2003 ^b								
2004	1	6/25-30	17	17	85	24	28	8.2
2005	1	6/16-21	17	17	85	24	28	8.2

^a Nineteen stations were not checked until 13 July 1999.

^b Survey not conducted.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>4</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Fifty-three black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2004, 32% more than the 2001-2003 mean of 40 black bears. The 2001, 2002, and 2003 hunter harvests of 37, 36, and 30 bears, respectively, were all slightly higher than the 10-year average of 30 bears taken in DAU 4A. Baiting, hound hunting, incidental, and still-hunting accounted for 27%, 39%, 16%, and 16%, respectively, of the black bears harvested. Most black bears were taken by rifle (77%), while 6 bears each (11%) were killed with archery equipment and handguns. The Department recorded 3 bears killed in response to depredation complaints during this reporting period, which brings the total number of bears harvested during 2004 to 56.

AREA 4

DAU 4A (GMUs 44, 45, 48, 49)

Management Direction

The 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan directed the Department to manage DAU 4A to reduce or maintain harvest and work with the livestock industry and USDA Wildlife Services to gather more data about black bears that are killed in defense of private property. Management objectives in the 2000-2010 plan are to manage the DAU to maintain moderate harvest targets of 25-35% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest.

Background

The units in DAU 4A are on the southern edge of black bear range in Idaho and black bear densities are relatively low. Harvest in this DAU generally comprises >5% of the annual statewide black bear harvest. Urban development in the Big Wood Valley (Units 48 and 49) and livestock grazing are the primary influences on black bear habitat in this DAU.

Separate spring and fall seasons were implemented in Units 45, 48, and 49 in the 1970s. However, year-round seasons remained in effect in Unit 44 through June 1986 because of

livestock industry and landowner concerns. Restrictions on fall dog-training apply in this DAU during October to minimize conflicts with deer and elk hunters.

Populations Surveys

Bait station surveys were continued in DAU 4A in 2004. Twenty transects were sampled in July 2004 with 7 transects in Unit 44, 2 in Unit 45, 6 in Unit 48, and 5 in Unit 49. Of the 100 bait sites surveyed, bears visited 5 during the 21-day survey period (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

The 2004 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2003. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A).

Fifty-three black bears were harvested in 2004, which is 32% above the 3-year average for this DAU. Fifty-five percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. The spring harvest of 29 bears represents the highest spring harvest recorded for the previous 10 years (Table 2). The 2003 spring harvest was also relatively high, and these high spring numbers may be a result of low snow pack and warm spring weather, which may have facilitated increased hunter access.

Sixty-five percent of the black bears harvested in 2004 were >5 years old (Table 3). Total harvest (hunter harvest and depredation kill) of black bears in DAU 4A in 2004 was adequate for the third year in a row to allow application of harvest criteria established in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 4).

Still and incidental hunting only accounted for 32% of the total hunter harvest of all black bears harvested in this DAU in 2004. Fifteen of 53 hunter-harvested black bears were taken over bait in 2004 compared to 11 of 30 in 2003. Hound hunting comprised 39% of the harvest for 2004 (Table 5).

Rifles accounted for 77% while bows and handguns each accounted for 11% of the harvest in 2004 (Table 6).

Most of the depredation complaints reported to Idaho Fish and Game involved nuisance black bears in the Big Wood River Valley. In 2004, we received 9 complaints from Unit 48, 3 from Unit 49, 2 from Unit 44, and 1 from Unit 43 (Table 7).

Wildlife Services personnel handle depredations on livestock. From 1995-2004, we received mortality reports on 21 black bears dispatched by Wildlife Services for this DAU (Table 7). In 2004, Wildlife Services personnel reported dispatching 3 black bears.

Dog-training Season

A standard dog-training season of 1 June-31 July was implemented in 2003 and remained in place through 2004.

Management Implications

Because of the small number of black bears typically harvested in this DAU, management decisions have not been based exclusively on the established monitoring criteria. The data suggest black bear harvest has been moderate (2002-2004 average of 30% females in the harvest and 33% 5+-year-old males), and it is believed the black bear population has increased in recent years. Percent females in the 2004 harvest met management objectives, as was the case in 2003. In 2004, percent males ≥ 5 years old in the harvest also met management objectives. Black bear complaints and depredation problems remain at tolerable levels. Nuisance complaints in the Wood River Valley were the only significant depredation problem in 2004.

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Magic Valley routes, 2003-present.

Year	Unit(s) surveyed	Survey dates	Total transects available	Total transects sampled	Total stations sampled	Total stations visited by black bear	90% confidence interval	
							%	(+/-)
2003	44, 45, 48, 49	7/3-28	20	20	100	14	41	5.7
2004	44, 45, 48, 49	7/6-26	20	20	100	5		

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
4A									
1994	12	5	17	7	6	13	19	11	30
1995	8	2	10	7	1	8	15	3	18
1996	7	3	10	1	2	3	8	5	13
1997	8	5	13	9	5	14	17	10	27
1998	8	5	13	9	2	11	17	7	24
1999	9	4	13	3	6	9	12	10	22
2000	10	1	11	18	13	31	28	14	42
2001	9	4	13	15	9	24	24	13	37
2002	10	2	12	15	9	24	25	11	36
2003	12	7	19	9	2	11	21	9	30
2004	22	7	29	14	10	24	36	17	53
3-yr. avg.	15	5	20	13	7	20	27	12	39

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU		Age											Total ^a
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
4A													
1994	M	1	4	5	3	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	19
	F	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	3	10
1995	M	1	3	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
	F	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	5
1996	M	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	8
	F	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1997	M	2	0	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	12
	F	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	10
1998	M	0	3	2	2	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	17
	F	2	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	10
1999	M	0	4	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	17
	F	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
2000	M	0	7	10	3	4	0	2	1	0	0	1	28
	F	0	1	2	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	12
2001	M	0	3	3	4	5	6	1	3	0	1	1	27
	F	0	3	2	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	13
2002	M	0	2	4	6	1	1	5	3	1	0	1	24
	F	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	10
2003	M	1	2	4	4	3	1	2	2	0	1	2	22
	F	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	8
2004	M	0	7	10	1	6	4	1	0	3	0	3	35
	F	0	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	2	1	4	17

^a Some bears may not have been aged; therefore, totals in this column may differ from totals reported elsewhere in this report.

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females ^b	% Males ≥5	# Males ≥5
4A				
1994	30	37	26	5
1995	18	17	8	1
1996	13	38	38	3
1997	27	37	22	3
1998	27	37	44	4
1999	23	26	25	8
2000	40	30	14	4
2001	42	33	44	13
2002	40	30	44	12
2003	30	27	36	8
2004	52	33	32	11
3-yr. average	37	30	37	10
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

^a Number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknown). Sample sizes typically have been too small to make reliable inferences from the data about population trends.

^b Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknown).

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
4A						
1994	6	8	6	9	1	30
1995	6	2	5	5	0	18
1996	2	4	6	1	0	13
1997	6	3	10	8	1	28
1998	1	7	6	10	1	25
1999	6	4	7	5	0	22
2000	3	15	11	12	1	42
2001	6	12	6	13	5	42
2002	4	13	5	13	1	36
2003	15	11	4	3	1	34
2004	15	22	9	9	1	56

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
4A	1994	22	8	0	0	0	30
	1995	15	1	0	2	0	18
	1996	12	1	0	0	0	13
	1997	24	3	0	0	1	28
	1998	20	2	0	2	1	25
	1999	20	1	0	1	0	22
	2000	33	5	1	2	1	42
	2001	30	5	2	0	4	41
	2002	27	8	0	1	0	36
	2003	26	1	1	1	1	30
	2004	41	6	0	6	0	53

Table 7. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Depredation ^a	Nuisance	Total
4A	1994	1	9	10
	1995	1	4	5
	1996	0	1	1
	1997	2	3	5
	1998	3	5	8
	1999	1	8	9
	2000	4	6	10
	2001	5	3	8
	2002	2	11	13
	2003	0	4	4
	2004	3	15	18

^a Number of black bears killed by Wildlife Services for depredations on livestock.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>6</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

UPPER SNAKE REGION

Abstract

Black bear harvest has increased markedly in recent years in all 3 Upper Snake/Southeast Region DAUs. In 2002, total black bear harvest was the highest ever recorded since implementation of the present DAU framework in DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D. A total of 198 black bears were harvested which was an increase of 56% over the 1999-2001 average of 127. Reasons for this increase are not well understood, but they may be the result of drier-than-normal weather conditions, increased popularity of bear hunting, or the liberalized hunting season framework brought on by public perceptions of high predator populations and their potential negative impacts on deer and elk numbers. In 2003, harvest dropped back to a total of 165 bears, similar to the 2000-2002 average of 164, but still above the 1999-2001 average of 127. In 2004 harvest was once again up to 183.

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets management objectives for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% male bears ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the total harvest calculated on a 3-year running average. These criteria apply to DAUs with an average annual harvest of ≥ 30 known-age black bears. DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D have 3-year average annual harvests of 41, 53, and 88 black bears, respectively, for the 2002-2004 period. DAU 4B was within the female and male criteria, suggesting harvest was within the desired level. DAU 4C harvest falls below the percent female criteria and within the male criteria, indicating a light harvest. DAU 4D was below the percent female criteria and below the male criteria, suggesting harvest was above the desired level. Three-year average values (2002-2004) for percent males ≥ 5 years old for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D were 30, 34, and 22, respectively. Three-year average values for percent females in the harvest were 33, 28, and 43 for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D, respectively.

AREA 4

DAU 4B (GMUs 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A)

Abstract

In the past, harvest data has been highly variable and unreliable for this DAU. Harvest was also too low (<30 black bears) to meet criteria specified in the Black Bear Management Plan. Only 15 black bears were harvested in 1999 and the 3-year average for 1998-2000 was 27. Harvest has stabilized recently and the 3-year average for 2002-2004 was 41 bears. In 2004, 42 black bears were reported harvested.

Management Direction

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets management objectives for DAU 4B to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% male bears ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average.

Background

DAU 4B contains relatively dry black bear habitats where timber stands are generally distributed on moister north and east aspects. These habitats are marginal for black bear because they grow few berry-producing shrubs. Black bear populations are vulnerable to over-harvest because the limited habitat is often isolated from adjacent black bear habitat. The livestock industry is a major user of DAU 4B.

Spring and summer weather conditions during 2004 were cooler and much wetter than normal. Winter precipitation was below normal and temperatures were warmer than normal. Spring 2005 has also seen better precipitation levels.

Population Surveys

A bait station survey was conducted in Units 50, 51, 58, 59, and 59A in July/August 2003 (Table 1). Twenty transects were set up on secondary roads or trails. A pork-fat bait with anis-oil scent were wired to a tree every mile and greater than 100 yards off the transect. Unit 50 had 7 routes with 35 stations, Unit 51 had 4 routes with 20 stations, Unit 58 had 3 routes with 15 stations, Unit 59 had 3 routes with 15 stations, and Unit 59A had 3 routes with 15 stations. Bait stations were set out for 20 days before being checked. A total of 9 baits were visited by bears; 1 in Unit 50, 1 in Unit 51, 5 in Unit 58, 1 in Unit 59, and 1 in Unit 59A.

The use of this technique in this Region is questionable. With such low bear densities, the hit rates are so low that trend data is considered unreliable. We will most likely discontinue this survey.

Harvest Characteristics

Forty-two black bears were checked from DAU 4B in 2004 (Table 2). This was above the current 3-year average for 2002-2004 of 41. Age was determined for all 42 black bears harvested in 2004 (Table 3).

Harvest management criteria (Table 4) did not technically apply in this DAU in the past due to low average annual harvest. Since 2000, harvest levels have surpassed the minimum of 30 bears. The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets harvest objectives for DAU 4B to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% of male bears ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% of the total harvest being female. Values for the 2002-2004 period were within the desired level for percent of the total harvest being female (33%) and within the male harvest criteria (30% ≥ 5 years old).

Bait and hound hunters have historically accounted for the majority of the harvest for this DAU (Table 5). This trend continued in 2003 as 15 (33%) black bears were harvested over bait and 20 (43%) were taken by hound hunters, based on the 45 black bears for which method of harvest was known. Incidental harvest has decreased from a high of 13 (28%) in 2002 to 9 (15%) in 2004. Hound hunter harvest increased from a 10-year average (1994-2003) of 10 animals harvested to 20 animals harvested in 2004. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

Depredations and Nuisance

One depredation complaint and no nuisance reports were received during this reporting period (Table 7). The depredation complaint was from Custer County involving the verified loss of 1 calf received by Wildlife Services during this reporting period.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2004 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in DAU 4B (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Current management criteria specified in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan have been in effect for 4 years. DAU 4B is to be managed to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range. Values for the 2002-2004 period were within the desired level for percent of the total harvest being female and within the male harvest criteria, suggesting harvest was at the desired level.

DAU 4C (GMUs 60, 61, 62, 62A)

Abstract

DAU 4C historically had a low (<30) average annual black bear harvest. Consequently, harvest criteria have not technically applied to this DAU. However, harvest over the last 6 years has

exceeded 30 bears. Harvest objectives for DAU 4C have been set to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” level of harvest. Harvest over the last 3 years falls below this level for percent females and falls within the desired level for percent males ≥ 5 years-of-age, indicating a light harvest level.

Management Direction

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan set management objectives for DAU 4C to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average. DAU 4C includes part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which supports a grizzly bear population. This DAU is managed to protect that threatened population by prohibiting bait and use of hounds to hunt black bear within the grizzly bear recovery area.

Background

DAU 4C contains a mixture of relatively dry black bear habitats where timber stands are generally distributed on moister north and east aspects and moist caldera-type habitat. The drier habitats are marginal for black bear because they grow few berry-producing shrubs, but the moist caldera habitats produce a variety of berry-producing shrubs and represent the best black bear habitat in the Region. The livestock industry is a major user of DAU 4C.

Spring and summer weather conditions during 2004 were cooler and much wetter than normal. Winter precipitation was below normal and temperatures were warmer than normal. Spring 2005 has also seen better precipitation levels.

Population Surveys

A bait station survey was conducted in parts of Units 61 and 62A in 2002 (Table 1). Two partially-opened sardine cans were wired to a tree every mile along the transect (secondary road or trail). Four transects were set up: one 9.3 miles in length with 9 bait stations in the Targhee Creek/Dry Creek area, one 32 miles in length with 32 bait stations along Fish Creek Road, one 9 miles in length with 10 bait stations in Black Canyon, and one 7 miles in length with 8 bait stations in the Two Top area. Bait stations were set out 9 July and rechecked 17 July. A total of 5 baits were visited by bears; 1 on the Targhee Creek/Dry Creek transect, 2 on the Fish Creek Road transect, and 1 each on the Black Canyon and Two Top transects. Of the 5 visitations observed, 1 contained a single hair sample consistent with black bear, but the other 4 had no evidence to identify what visited the bait. The use of this technique is questionable in this Region. With such low bear densities, the hit rates are so low that trend data is considered unreliable. We will most likely discontinue this survey.

Harvest Characteristics

The Black Bear Management Plan states that when average annual harvest is less than 30 black bears, black bear management criteria do not apply, and management decisions will be based on professional judgment of Department biologists. Historically, a relatively small number of black

bears (<30) were checked from this DAU annually. However, the most recent 3-year average of 53 bears from DAU 4C exceeds the ≥ 30 -bear criteria (Table 2). Therefore, management criteria in the plan can be used to direct bear management in this DAU.

Males have dominated harvest from this DAU with spring and fall black bear harvest relatively equally split historically (Table 2). Age distribution of black bear checked from DAU 4C is presented in Table 3.

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets harvest objectives for DAU 4C to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets. Values for the 2002-2004 period are within the target for males ≥ 5 years old (34%) but below the percentage of the desired level of percent females (28%), indicating a light harvest (Table 4).

Stalking and incidental hunting dominate the method of take from this DAU (Table 5). This is most likely due to restrictions on use of bait and hounds to protect grizzly bear for much of the DAU. However, the number of bears harvested over bait is growing. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

Depredations and Nuisance

Eight black bear nuisance complaints were received during this reporting period, but no depredation complaints were received (Table 7).

Dog-training Season

The 2004 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July (Appendix A) in the portion of DAU 4C open to dog-training (that portion of Unit 61 west of Howard Creek in Clark County and Unit 60).

Management Implications

The objectives for DAU 4C are to maintain “moderate” harvest levels. Values for the 2002-2004 period are within the target for males ≥ 5 years old but below the percentage of the desired level of percent females, indicating a light harvest. This population is possibly more lightly harvested than other DAUs in the Region because of restrictions placed on baiting and hound hunting to protect grizzly bear in most of the DAU. In an effort to bring DAU 4C into the desired levels for percent female and percent males ≥ 5 years old in the harvest and to provide more hunting opportunity, the Fish and Game Commission extended the spring take season by 15 days in 2003. This should provide for a heavier harvest of this DAU in future years.

DAU 4D (GMUs 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76)

Abstract

Black bear harvest has increased markedly in DAU 4D in recent years. A total of 92 black bears were harvested in 2003. This represents an increase of 26% over the 2000-2002 average annual

harvest of 72 bears and an increase of 50% over the 1999-2001 average of 60 bears. Reasons for this increase are not well understood. Recent harvest data indicate that this population is being harvested above the target “moderate” level of harvest management criteria in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan.

Management Direction

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan set management objectives for DAU 4D to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average.

Background

DAU 4D contains relatively dry black bear habitats where timber stands are generally distributed on moister north and east aspects. Chokecherry and hawthorn are distributed along some of the streams, and huckleberry occurs in some areas throughout the DAU. These habitats are marginal for black bear because berry-producing shrubs are limited to isolated locations within the DAU. Black bear populations may be vulnerable to over-harvest because the limited habitat is often isolated from adjacent black bear habitat. The livestock industry is a major user of DAU 4D.

Spring and summer weather conditions during 2004 were cooler and much wetter than normal. Winter precipitation was below normal and temperatures were warmer than normal. Spring 2005 has also seen better precipitation levels.

Population Surveys

A bait station survey was conducted in Units 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, and 76 in July/August 2004 (Table 1). Twenty transects were set up on secondary roads or trails. A pork-fat bait with anis-oil scent were wired to a tree every mile and greater than 100 yards off the transect. Unit 64 had 1 route with 5 stations, Unit 65 had 1 route with 5 stations, Unit 67 had 5 routes with 25 stations, Unit 66 had 5 routes with 25 stations, and Units 66A and 76 had 8 routes with 40 stations. Bait stations were set out for 20 days before being checked. Zero baits were visited by bears.

The use of this technique in this Region is questionable. With such low bear densities, the hit rates are so low, or in this case, nonexistent, that trend data is considered unreliable. We will most likely discontinue this survey.

Harvest Characteristics

A total of 92 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2004 (Table 2). This represents the historical high for this DAU and is the seventh time in the past 8 years that a new historical high has been established or tied. Those 8 years also represent the only times that ≥ 30 black bears have been harvested in this DAU in the past 10-year period. The average annual harvest for the 2002-2004 period is 88. Most of the bears harvested in DAU 4D fell in the 1-to-4-year-old age range (Table 3).

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets harvest objectives for DAU 4D to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets. Values for the 2002-2004 period were 22% of male harvest ≥ 5 years old and 43% of the harvest female (Table 4).

A large percentage of black bears harvested in this DAU are taken in spring (Table 2) and in association with baiting (Table 5). Sixty-two percent of the black bears harvested in this DAU were taken with a rifle (Table 6).

Depredations and Nuisance

Four depredation complaints were received in DAU 4D for 2004 (Table 7). In Unit 66, a sheep depredation involving the loss of 13 sheep/lambs was verified caused by black bear by Wildlife Services. In Unit 64, a sheep depredation involving the loss of 12 sheep/lambs was verified by Wildlife Services. One black bear was removed by use of foot snares. In Unit 66A, a sheep depredation involving the loss of 6 sheep/lambs was received by Wildlife Services. They verified the loss of 1 sheep was caused by black bear. In Unit 65, a sheep depredation involving the loss of 6 sheep/lambs was verified by Wildlife Services. Nuisance black bear reports were received by several officers during this reporting period. Most instances involved bears searching for food around homes.

Dog-training Season

The 2004 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in DAU 4D (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Black bear harvest has increased markedly in this DAU in recent years. The 92 black bears harvested in 2004 represents a historical high for DAU 4D and is the seventh time in 8 years that a new high harvest has been established. Reasons for this increased harvest are not well understood, but they may be the result of drier-than-normal conditions over the past few years or a more liberalized hunting season framework brought on by public perceptions of high predator populations and their potential negative impacts on deer and elk numbers.

Management criteria in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan indicate that this population is presently harvested higher than the targeted “moderate” range for this DAU. Due to this information, the take season has been reduced for the spring 2006 season in this DAU.

AREA 5

GMUs 60A, 63, 63A

Management Direction

The Department has not offered an open season in Area 5 because black bear numbers are low and too sparse to justify a hunting season.

Background

Area 5 units are irrigated farmland and drier, desert-like areas. Habitat quality is marginal and few black bears occur in Area 5. Area 5 units have historically had no black bear hunting seasons.

Population Surveys

No population surveys are conducted in Area 5.

Depredations and Nuisance

Two black bear nuisance complaints were received during this reporting period. Both complaints involved young bears coming down into farm ground during late fall, most likely due to their mothers being killed and not knowing how to hibernate. No black bear depredation complaints were received during this reporting period.

Management Implications

The Department will not likely offer an open season in Area 5 during the 2000-2010 planning period.

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Upper Snake and Southeast Regions, 1992-present.

Units surveyed	Year	Survey dates	Total transects available	Total transects sampled	Total stations sampled	Total stations visited by black bear	% stations visited by black bear
66A, 76	1992	6/24-7/11	16	16	94	0	0.0
	1993	6/24-7/1	18	18	107	1	0.9
	2004 ^a	7/16-8/12	8	8	40	0	0.0
66, 66A, 67, 76	1999	6/24-29	23	23	138	0	0.0
64, 65, 66, 67	2004 ^a	7/16-8/12	12	12	60	0	0.0
61, 62A	2002 ^b	7/9-17	4	4	60	5	8.3
50, 51, 58, 59, 59A	2003 ^a	7/2-8/17	20	20	100	9	9.0

^a All transects were 5 miles in length with 5 bait stations per transect at 1-mile intervals along transects.

^b Transects ranged in length from 7-32 miles with bait stations at 1-mile intervals along transects.

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
4B												
1994	10	6	0	16	5	4	0	9	15	10	0	25
1995	8	6	0	14	3	1	0	4	11	7	0	18
1996	18	4	0	22	3	3	0	6	21	7	0	28
1997	13	7	0	20	4	3	0	7	17	10	0	27
1998	12	9	0	21	3	4	0	7	15	13	0	28
1999	5	2	0	7	7	1	0	8	12	3	0	15
2000	12	14	0	26	8	4	0	12	20	18	0	38
2001	18	12	0	30	4	5	0	9	22	17	0	39
2002	17	11	0	28	12	7	0	19	29	18	0	47
2003	16	6	0	22	8	5	0	13	24	11	0	35
2004	19	9	0	28	11	3	0	14	30	12	0	42
3 yr. avg.	17	9	0	26	10	5	0	15	28	14	0	42
4C												
1994	6	3	0	9	12	5	0	17	18	8	0	26
1995	8	7	0	15	10	4	0	14	18	11	0	29
1996	12	2	0	14	7	8	0	15	19	10	0	29
1997	12	1	0	13	6	4	0	10	18	5	0	23
1998	4	1	0	5	6	3	0	9	10	4	0	14
1999	14	3	0	17	10	5	0	15	24	8	0	32
2000	8	6	0	14	19	5	0	24	27	11	0	38
2001	13	3	0	16	18	6	1	25	31	9	1	41
2002	12	11	0	23	40	7	0	47	52	18	0	70
2003	11	6	0	17	14	9	0	23	25	15	0	40
2004	20	9	0	29	13	7	0	20	33	16	0	49
3 yr. avg.	14	9	0	23	22	8	0	30	37	16	0	53
4D												
1994	10	3	0	13	5	6	0	11	15	9	0	24
1995	5	3	0	8	7	2	0	9	12	5	0	17
1996	13	4	0	17	5	7	0	12	18	11	0	29
1997	18	5	0	23	9	6	0	15	27	11	0	38
1998	20	5	0	25	5	3	1	9	25	8	1	34
1999	18	4	0	22	11	11	0	22	29	15	0	44
2000	25	15	0	40	10	6	0	16	35	21	0	56
2001	26	19	0	45	20	14	0	34	46	33	0	79
2002	27	18	0	45	21	15	0	36	48	33	0	81
2003	29	23	0	52	18	20	0	38	47	43	0	90
2004	33	20	0	53	21	18	0	39	54	38	0	92
3 yr. avg.	29	21	0	50	20	18	0	38	50	38	0	88

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age										Unknown	Total
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
4B														
1994	M	0	2	1	2	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	15
	F	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	10
1995	M	0	3	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
	F	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	7
1996	M	0	3	1	4	5	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	21
	F	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	7
1997	M	1	2	4	3	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	17
	F	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	10
1998	M	3	1	4	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	15
	F	4	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	13
1999	M	1	1	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	11
	F	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
2000	M	0	4	6	5	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	22
	F	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	1	16
2001	M	0	3	5	3	3	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	22
	F	0	0	2	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	3	3	17
2002	M	0	4	5	5	4	4	3	0	1	0	3	0	29
	F	0	0	2	5	3	1	0	0	2	0	5	0	18
2003	M	0	0	1	3	6	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	22
	F	0	2	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	11
2004	M	0	2	5	9	3	3	2	2	0	0	3	1	30
	F	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	2	12
4C														
1994	M	1	6	1	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	18
	F	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
1995	M	0	4	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	3	18
	F	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	11
1996	M	0	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	18
	F	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	9
1997	M	0	1	2	3	6	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	21
	F	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5
1998	M	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	10
	F	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
1999	M	0	6	1	3	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	0	24
	F	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
2000	M	0	3	6	6	2	2	3	0	1	2	1	1	27
	F	0	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	11
2001	M	0	6	4	5	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	32
	F	0	1	3	^a 2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
2002	M	0	7	12	15	4	3	2	0	1	2	5	1	52
	F	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	2	5	1	18
2003	M	0	4	3	5	2	3	0	3	0	0	4	1	25
	F	0	3	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	15
2004	M	0	3	8	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	1	33
	F	0	1	4	2	4	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	16

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
4D														
1994	M	0	3	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
	F	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
1995	M	0	0	2	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	12
	F	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1996	M	0	0	7	3	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	18
	F	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
1997	M	1	2	8	3	4	3	3	1	0	0	1	1	27
	F	0	1	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	11
1998	M	3	3	6	3	3	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	25
	F	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	8
1999	M	2	6	5	6	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	29
	F	2	3	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	15
2000	M	0	6	9	5	5	3	1	3	0	1	2	0	35
	F	0	1	3	4	1	1	1	0	3	1	4	2	21
2001	M	0	8	6	14	9	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	46
	F	0	2	8	5	2	2	2	1	5	1	2	3	33
2002	M	0	2	15	12	5	7	2	1	0	1	2	1	48
	F	2	2	7	5	7	3	2	0	0	0	3	2	33
2003	M	0	10	9	15	1	4	0	2	0	0	5	1	47
	F	1	5	9	9	4	1	6	0	2	0	6	0	43
2004	M	0	8	14	4	12	7	4	1	0	1	3	0	54
	F	0	3	8	5	6	2	3	1	0	0	9	1	38

^a One bear of unknown sex.

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females ^b	% Males ≥5	# Males ≥5
4B				
1994	23	39	29	4
1995	17	41	36	4
1996	27	26	35	7
1997	27	37	24	4
1998	28	46	27	4
1999	14	21	18	2
2000	35	43	15	3
2001	34	35	36	8
2002	47	38	24	7
2003	35	31	33	8
2004	39	29	34	10
3-year avg.	40	33	30	8
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	
4C				
1994	25	32	24	4
1995	25	40	33	5
1996	26	35	41	7
1997	22	23	47	8
1998	14	29	50	5
1999	32	25	46	11
2000	37	30	35	9
2001	40	20	41	13
2002	70	26	20	10
2003	70	26	42	14
2004	48	33	38	12
3-year avg.	63	28	34	12
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	
4D				
1994	26	35	0	0
1995	15	33	30	3
1996	27	41	35	6
1997	37	30	31	8
1998	33	24	28	7
1999	42	33	25	7
2000	53	36	29	10
2001	76	39	20	9
2002	81	41	13	6
2003	90	48	24	11
2004	91	41	30	16
3-year avg.	87	43	22	11
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

^a Number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknown).

^b Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknown).

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
4B						
1994	5	11	3	6	0	25
1995	6	8	2	2	0	18
1996	9	14	3	2	0	28
1997	12	8	2	5	0	27
1998	10	8	4	4	0	26
1999	4	4	2	5	0	15
2000	17	9	7	3	0	36
2001	15	10	5	9	0	39
2002	16	10	6	13	2	47
2003	13	7	5	9	1	35
2004	15	20	3	7	1	46
4C						
1994	6	2	11	6	1	26
1995	10	3	8	7	1	29
1996	7	1	13	7	1	29
1997	6	2	12	2	0	22
1998	1	1	4	8	0	14
1999	8	1	7	14	2	32
2000	6	1	21	9	1 ^a	38
2001	9	1	17	14	0	41
2002	11	14	21	24	0	70
2003	9	3	11	15	2	40
2004	15	3	17	13	1	49
4D						
1994	10	1	5	8	0	24
1995	8	0	4	5	0	17
1996	13	7	3	5	1	29
1997	25	5	3	4	1	38
1998	12	11	1	7	2	33
1999	19	8	5	12	0	44
2000	30	11	7	5	3	56
2001	38	14	18	6	3 ^b	79
2002	31	24	6	15	5	81
2003	35	30	16	8	1	90
2004	44	30	7	14	3	98

^a Method of harvest not reported for 1 black bear.

^b Method of harvest not reported for 2 black bears.

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
4B						
1994	14	9	1	1	0	25
1995	12	2	0	3	1	18
1996	15	6	1	6	0	28
1997	11	13	0	3	0	27
1998	15	7	0	4	0	26
1999	11	1	1	2	0	15
2000	26	6	2	1	1	36
2001	26	10	0	3	0	39
2002	25	17	0	5	0	47
2003	22	7	1	4	1	35
2004	21	12	0	8	1	42
4C						
1994	18	5	0	3	0	26
1995	21	4	0	4	0	29
1996	21	6	1	1	0	29
1997	16	5	0	1	0	22
1998	9	4	0	1	0	14
1999	24	7	0	1	0	32
2000	27	9	0	2	0	38
2001	29	11	0	1	0	41
2002	46	17	0	7	0	70
2003	28	6	1	5	0	40
2004	32	14	0	1	2	49
4D						
1994	15	7	0	2	0	24
1995	13	4	0	0	0	17
1996	16	10	0	3	0	29
1997	21	7	0	9	1	38
1998	21	6	1	4	1	33
1999	26	13	0	5	0	44
2000	31	20	1	3	1	56
2001	40	25	1	11	2 ^a	79
2002	40	19	20	2	0	81
2003	43	37	0	9	1	90
2004	57	25	1	7	2	92

^a One bear taken with unknown weapon.

Table 7. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Upper Snake Region, 1994-present.

Year	4B		4C		4D		Total	
	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.
1994 ^a	0		10		15		25	
1995 ^a	1		11		9		21	
1996	0	2	0	11	0	1	0	14
1997	0	0	2	6	4	0	6	6
1998	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2
1999	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
2000	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2001	2	1	3	0	3	1	8	2
2002	2	0	2	0	4	0	8	0
2003	0	0	1	0	5	0	6	0
2004	1	0	0	8	4	4	5	12

^a Depredation and nuisance complaints combined.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>7</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

SALMON REGION

Abstract

Salmon Region is responsible for DAUs 1I, 1J, and 4E. In these DAUs, black bear depredation problems and hunter harvest tend to peak during dry years. Conversely, depredations and harvest are minimal during wet years. For example, in 1994, a dry year, depredation complaints reached an all-time high of 64 complaints and 171 black bears were harvested. In the wet years of 1997 and 1998, there were few depredation problems and approximately 100 black bears were harvested. However, 1999 was also a relatively dry year, but only 100 black bears were harvested. Although the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan specifies moderate to heavy harvest rates in these DAUs, management criteria indicate light harvest rates throughout the Region. Accordingly, starting in fall 1999, additional days of hunting opportunity were added to spring and fall seasons in these DAUs. Harvest increased, likely in part due to regulation changes. During 2002, 2003, and 2004, 248 (largest harvest since 1983), 161, and 232 bears were harvested, respectively. Spring harvest in 2004 increased 23%, whereas fall harvest was 102% above 2003 levels. Approximately 30% of harvest (67/year) occurred during extended seasons over the last 4 years. Bait and hound hunters continued to be slightly more selective in the sex of animals they took in 2004 (approximately 32% females) compared with still and incidental hunters (approximately 41% females).

AREA 1

DAU 1I (GMUs 34, 35, 36)

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 1I is to maintain a heavy harvest rate; <25% males \geq 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest (Table 1).

Background

DAU 1I is bordered by the Frank Church Wilderness on the north and includes part of the Sawtooth Wilderness in the south. Virtually all of DAU 1I is land administered by USFS, with small amounts of private land in valley bottoms. The area is covered with high-elevation forest with the exception of open valley bottoms in Unit 36. The area receives high recreational use throughout the year. Black bear season structure is currently the same as in other DAUs in the Region (Appendix A).

This area typically receives high snowfall and endures cold winter temperatures. Spring and early summer 2004 was cool and wet. Rainfall during mid to late summer was below average with warm, dry weather during early fall. Vegetative growth generally appeared above average. However, anecdotal evidence suggested that high elevation berry production was below average. Winter conditions were generally mild with temperatures above normal and snow accumulation at lower elevations below average. Animals, therefore, likely entered winter in average body condition, then encountered a mild to average winter, which should have produced average over-winter survival. Snow pack (as measured at higher elevations) was approximately 58% of average by late winter. Onset of spring weather and associated plant phenology was apparently advanced by approximately 3-4 weeks. Water-year precipitation to date has been below average.

Population Surveys

No population surveys or management studies were completed in this DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest in 2004 increased slightly (+11%) from 2003 and was identical to the 3-year average (Table 2). Conditions were somewhat dry through late October; dry fall seasons generally make females and young black bears much more vulnerable than under more moist conditions. Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1I indicates a much lighter harvest rate than specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 3). The percent of males ≥ 5 years old began moving away from goal levels in 2001 and 2002 and have continued to move away from goal levels during the last 2 years (Table 4). Use of bait to harvest bears decreased from 2000-2003, but increased again in 2004. Use of bait still accounts for >40% of black bears harvested in this DAU (Table 5). Approximately 39% of bears are taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting. Use of rifles (68%) to harvest bears remained below 70% (Table 6).

Depredations

Depredations in this DAU usually accounted for the majority of black bear problems in Salmon Region prior to 1994 (Table 7). Complaints were chronic problems with garbage in the same locations each year. The USFS provided black bear-proof trash containers for the 1994 season in Stanley area campgrounds, which helped alleviate some problems. Since then, depredation complaints have decreased. There were 2 depredation complaints during the reporting period (Table 7).

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate (<25% males \geq 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggested a light harvest rate during the 1990s. Accordingly, the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 7 to 30 June, creating an additional 24 days to hunt black bears. In addition, the fall 1999 season in Unit 36 opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years. Harvest during extended seasons increased from 18% of total harvest in 2000 to 54% in 2004.

DAU 1J (GMUs 21, 21A, 28, 36B)

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 1J is to maintain a moderate harvest rate; 25-35% males \geq 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest (Table 1).

Background

DAU 1J consists of black bear habitat that varies from dense, semi-coastal forests to dry river breaks with patchy timber stands. Much of this DAU is heavily roaded, which makes black bear populations vulnerable to over-harvest.

Units in DAU 1J contain some of the best black bear habitat in Salmon Region. However, hunter access is good over much of this DAU, so black bear harvest rates are comparatively high. Annual harvests vary considerably due to weather fluctuations; snow melt patterns in spring and summer drought can concentrate black bears along accessible riparian areas in fall. Black bear season structure mirrors the rest of the Region (Appendix A).

Most of DAU 1J is public land, primarily USFS, with some BLM and Idaho state lands. Private property in these units is primarily associated with valley bottoms or patented mining claims.

Population Surveys

In July 2003, Salmon Region implemented black bear bait station transects per statewide direction to obtain an independent estimate of population trend. This effort was once again completed in July 2004. Transects consisted of 5 stations located approximately 1.6 km apart and situated along established roads and trails. Bait included fresh pork fat and anise oil attached to smooth-bark trees 2-2.5 m above the ground. Baits were placed 6-20 July and retrieved 20 days later. Of 120 stations (24 transects), all 120 were revisited according to protocol. Bears visited 31 of 120 stations (26%). According to estimates by Rice et al. (2001), the visitation rate we observed was adequate to detect a 50% change in bear population over a 5-year period with a confidence level of 90%. Therefore, current sample size renders this method inadequate for monitoring bear population trend at the DAU level. Approximately 380 additional stations would be required to increase power to detect a 25% change in population over 5 years with 90%

confidence. Bait station data from 2003 should only be evaluated in combination with data from across the state.

Harvest Characteristics

During the wet years of 1996-1998, DAU 1J black bear harvest was 53-55 per year, compared to 66-82 per year during the dry 1993-1995 years (Table 2). Typical of dry years, black bear harvest increased dramatically in DAU 1J during 2000 and 2001 (103 and 102, respectively), reaching the highest levels since 1983. A dry weather pattern prevailed in 2002 and harvest reached a new high with 132 bears taken. However, harvest rates since 2000 were confounded by increased hunting opportunity and associated harvest beginning with the 1999 fall season. Harvest in 2003 decreased to 73 animals, but increased to 132 animals in 2004, equal to the record high harvest in 2002. The vast majority of the increase in harvest was attributed to the fall season.

Male age composition of DAU 1J black bear harvest indicates a lighter harvest rate than specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 3); however, percent females in the harvest met goal level during the last 3 seasons (Table 4). Over the last 10 years, harvest by hunters using bait and hounds averaged 28% females compared to still hunter and incidental harvest of 35% females (Table 5). In 2004, harvest using bait and hounds resulted in 34% females compared to 38% females for still hunter and incidental harvest. In most years, 80-85% of black bears are taken with a rifle (Table 6).

Depredations

Black bear depredation complaints in past years were primarily related to fruit trees and garbage along Salmon River below North Fork. The USFS installed black bear-proof dumpsters at dump sites along Salmon River for the 1994 camping season. The dry summer and fall produced very poor forage conditions and a dramatic increase in black bear complaints during 1994. Since 1995, complaints have fluctuated widely from 0-18 (Table 7). Eight complaints were received in 2004 for this DAU.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggest a light harvest rate. Accordingly, fall 1999 season opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years, and the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 15 to 30 June, creating a total of 31 additional days to hunt black bears. Extended season dates accounted for a consistent 16% of harvest during 2001-2003. Harvest during extended season dates increased to 27% in 2004.

AREA 4

DAU 4E (GMUs 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A)

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 4E is to maintain a moderate harvest rate, 25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest (Table 1).

Background

Units in DAU 4E are generally characterized by mountain valleys separated by rugged mountain ranges. Most black bear habitat occurs in scattered pockets in the mountains. Valleys are generally agricultural land and contain little suitable black bear habitat except along creeks. Black bear populations are very vulnerable to harvest because of limited, often isolated black bear habitats. Both harvest and pursuit-only seasons are currently in effect (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

No population surveys or management studies were completed in this DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Typically, 25-35 black bears are harvested in DAU 4E, ranging from 14 in 1992 to 72 in 2002 (Table 2). The 59 black bears harvested in 2004 was the second highest harvest since 1983, and an increase of 16% from 2003. The increase was shared about equally between the spring and fall seasons. Sex and age composition of DAU 4E black bear harvest indicates a harvest rate within or close to that specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 3). Percentage of females in the harvest has been within the desired range during 3 of the last 5 years (Table 4). Male harvest age structure has only been within the desired range for 1 of the last 5 years. It has been older than specified in the management plan the other 4 years. Harvest by hunters using bait and hounds is composed of a lower proportion of females (31%) compared to still or incidental (68%) hunters (Table 5). In the last 3 years, approximately 70% of hunters used a rifle to harvest bears (Table 6).

Depredations

Except for 1994, an unusually dry year, DAU 4E experiences relatively few depredation problems (Table 7). One complaint was reported in 2004.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggest harvest at or near goal levels. Fall 1999 season opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years, and the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 15 to 30 June,

creating a total of 31 additional days to hunt black bears. Extended season dates accounted for approximately 19% of harvest during 2001-2003.

LITERATURE CITED

RICE, C. G., J. ROHLMAN, J. BEECHAM, AND S. POZZANGHERA. 2001. Power analysis of bait station surveys in Idaho and Washington. *Ursus* 12:227-236.

Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.

Criteria	Light harvest	Moderate harvest	Heavy harvest
Percent females	<30%	30-40%	>40%
Percent males ≥ 5	>35%	25-35%	<25%
Bait station survey	Increasing	Stable	Decreasing

Table 2. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1I									
1994	16	7	23	18	16	34	34	23	57
1995	9	6	15	21	9	30	30	15	45
1996	9	4	13	8	3	11	17	7	24
1997	8	4	12	7	3	10	15	7	22
1998	6	2	8	7	2	9	13	4	17
1999	17	2	19	16	4	20	33	6	39
2000	22	5	27	17	4	21	39	9	48
2001	18	10	28	14	4	18	32	14	46
2002	16	8	24	15	5	20	31	13	44
2003	16	9	25	9	3	12	25	12	37
2004	23	7	30	7	4	11	30	11	41
3-yr. avg.	18	8	26	10	4	14	29	12	41
1J									
1994	26	11	37	31	14	45	57	25	82
1995	24	20	44	14	15	29	38	35	73
1996	25	8	33	18	4	22	43	12	55
1997	20	10	30	12	11	23	32	21	53
1998	27	7	34	14	5	19	41	12	53
1999	29	5	34	9	7	16	38	12	50
2000	46	14	60	30	13	43	76	27	103
2001	53	19	72	23	7	30	76	26	102
2002	44	23	67	44	21	65	88	44	132
2003	43	16	59	3	11	14	46	27	73
2004	51	25	76	35	21	56	86	46	132
3-yr. avg.	46	21	67	27	18	45	74	39	113
4E									
1994	11	9	20	10	6	16	21	15	36
1995	18	6	24	6	9	15	24	15	39
1996	13	4	17	3	5	8	16	9	25
1997	17	8	25	1	3	4	18	11	29
1998	9	9	18	2	6	8	11	15	26
1999	25	9	34	0	5	5	25	14	39
2000	17	16	33	6	3	9	23	19	42
2001	27	11	38	4	5	9	31	16	47
2002	27	15	42	16	14	30	43	29	72
2003	24	10	34	11	6	17	35	16	51
2004	26	13	39	9	11	20	35	24	59
3-yr. avg.	26	13	39	12	10	22	38	23	61

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age										Unknown	Total
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
II														
1994	M	0	4	8	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	3	4	34
	F	0	2	4	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	6	5	23
1995	M	1	4	1	2	4	1	2	2	1	2	4	4	28
	F	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	1	15
1996	M	0	2	3	2	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	17
	F	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	7
1997	M	0	0	0	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	15
	F	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	7
1998	M	0	0	1	1	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	13
	F	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
1999	M	0	1	4	4	1	5	3	5	1	1	1	6	32
	F	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	6
2000	M	0	2	5	11	7	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	40
	F	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	1	9
2001	M	0	3	5	6	4	5	0	0	0	1	4	4	32
	F	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	7	1	14
2002	M	0	0	5	7	5	2	3	1	1	1	5	0	30
	F	0	0	1	0	4	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	12
2003	M	0	6	3	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	4	3	25
	F	0	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	1	2	1	1	12
2004	M	0	0	7	3	3	4	3	4	0	1	2	0	27
	F	0	1	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	10
IJ														
1994	M	0	10	9	8	11	4	2	0	4	0	8	1	57
	F	0	3	1	2	5	4	1	2	0	0	6	1	25
1995	M	1	3	8	6	5	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	39
	F	0	2	7	8	2	9	0	0	0	2	7	0	37
1996	M	0	3	3	9	10	3	5	1	1	1	5	2	43
	F	0	0	0	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	12
1997	M	0	5	4	4	3	6	0	2	3	0	4	1	32
	F	0	2	2	2	2	4	0	0	1	1	3	4	21
1998	M	0	4	9	5	2	5	4	2	3	0	1	6	41
	F	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	3	0	12
1999	M	0	3	1	6	3	4	6	2	4	3	4	2	38
	F	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	12
2000	M	0	6	20	6	16	5	3	5	5	3	3	4	76
	F	0	2	7	2	7	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	27
2001	M	0	8	11	16	9	10	0	5	1	2	9	5	76
	F	0	3	0	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	10	1	26
2002	M	0	10	18	8	13	11	9	2	5	3	8	0	87
	F	0	3	8	4	10	2	5	3	0	1	6	0	42
2003	M	1	4	5	6	5	6	7	4	2	0	6	0	46
	F	0	6	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	10	0	27
2004	M	0	5	24	10	12	6	15	4	0	0	4	0	80
	F	0	3	11	2	12	3	5	1	2	0	6	0	45

Table 3. Continued.

DAU Year	Sex	Age											Unknown	Total
		Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
4E														
1994	M	1	5	4	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	21
	F	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	15
1995	M	0	2	1	8	5	4	0	0	0	2	2	2	26
	F	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	14
1996	M	0	1	1	3	5	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	16
	F	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	9
1997	M	0	0	4	3	3	2	0	3	2	0	0	1	18
	F	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	11
1998	M	0	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	11
	F	0	2	3	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	15
1999	M	0	3	7	1	1	2	4	4	3	0	0	0	25
	F	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	1	14
2000	M	0	1	3	3	11	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	23
	F	0	1	6	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	2	19
2001	M	0	2	6	5	4	9	1	0	2	0	2	0	31
	F	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	2	2	1	3	1	16
2002	M	0	2	14	7	7	2	5	0	1	1	3	0	42
	F	0	4	6	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	8	0	27
2003	M	0	4	2	4	7	7	3	2	0	0	3	3	35
	F	0	0	2	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	4	2	16
2004	M	0	6	6	3	4	0	2	3	5	0	4	0	33
	F	0	1	8	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	7	0	23

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ≥ 5 ^b	# Males ≥ 5 ^b
II				
1994	57	40	43	13
1995	45	33	46	12
1996	24	29	40	6
1997	22	32	29	4
1998	17	24	42	5
1999	38	16	62	16
2000	49	18	29	10
2001	46	30	36	10
2002	42	29	43	13
2003	37	32	46	10
2004	41	27	52	14
3-year avg.	40	29	47	12
Desired levels		>40	<25	
IJ				
1994	81	31	31	17
1995	73	48	39	15
1996	55	22	39	16
1997	54	40	48	15
1998	53	23	43	15
1999	50	24	64	23
2000	103	26	33	24
2001	102	25	38	27
2002	132	33	44	38
2003	73	37	54	25
2004	132	35	36	29
3-year avg.	112	35	45	31
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	
4E				
1994	36	42	26	4
1995	39	39	33	8
1996	25	36	41	6
1997	29	38	41	7
1998	26	58	55	6
1999	39	36	52	13
2000	43	45	14	3
2001	47	34	45	14
2002	72	40	29	12
2003	51	31	43	15
2004	59	41	42	14
3-year avg.	61	37	38	14
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

^a Number of black bears for which sex was determined (excluding unknown).

^b Number of black bears for which age was estimated (excluding unknown).

Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1I						
1994	12	11	15	16	0	54
1995	8	8	6	19	0	41
1996	9	4	2	9	0	24
1997	7	4	4	7	0	22
1998	1	3	5	8	0	17
1999	14	5	10	10	0	39
2000	25	2	10	12	1	50
2001	20	6	7	11	2	46
2002	19	1	17	6	1	44
2003	17	4	10	6	1	38
2004	24	1	10	5	1	41
1J						
1994	15	26	17	23	0	81
1995	13	22	18	20	0	73
1996	18	16	10	10	1	55
1997	11	17	10	15	1	54
1998	13	15	9	14	2	53
1999	12	17	10	10	1	50
2000	37	15	33	15	3	103
2001	33	17	23	18	11	102
2002	34	21	43	31	3	132
2003	32	13	10	12	6	73
2004	44	15	41	31	2	133
4E						
1994	4	14	8	9	1	36
1995	12	9	6	12	0	39
1996	9	5	6	5	0	25
1997	9	12	2	6	0	29
1998	11	5	3	7	0	26
1999	15	12	5	5	2	39
2000	18	10	7	7	0	42
2001	28	5	4	7	3	47
2002	28	11	9	23	0	71
2003	26	14	4	8	0	52
2004	26	19	6	13	3	67

^a Total may exceed sum of method types because hunters can identify multiple methods.

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
II						
1994	43	7	0	5	1	56
1995	34	5	0	6	0	45
1996	18	2	0	4	0	24
1997	17	2	0	3	0	22
1998	12	3	0	2	0	17
1999	28	9	1	1	0	39
2000	37	9	0	2	0	48
2001	30	10	0	5	1	46
2002	34	7	1	2	0	44
2003	24	9	0	1	1	35
2004	28	12	0	1	0	41
IJ						
1994	60	13	0	8	0	81
1995	57	9	0	5	2	73
1996	46	7	0	2	0	55
1997	43	8	1	2	0	54
1998	41	8	2	2	0	53
1999	42	7	0	1	0	50
2000	84	14	1	2	2	103
2001	86	10	3	3	0	102
2002	110	16	1	3	0	130
2003	55	15	0	2	1	73
2004	111	14	1	4	2	132
4E						
1994	25	6	2	3	0	36
1995	28	7	0	4	0	39
1996	21	2	0	1	1	25
1997	21	5	0	3	0	29
1998	20	3	0	2	1	26
1999	22	7	0	9	1	39
2000	28	9	0	4	1	42
2001	30	13	1	3	0	47
2002	51	12	3	5	1	72
2003	40	9	0	1	1	51
2004	41	14	2	1	1	59

Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

Year	DAU			Total
	1I	1J	4E	
1994	11	33	20	64
1995	0	6	1	7
1996	0	12	0	12
1997	0	0	0	0
1998	12	11	4	27
1999	2	1	0	3
2000	0	18	0	18
2001	1	2	1	4
2002	1	9	5	15
2003	0	3	1	4
2004	2	8	1	11

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2004 SEASON
BLACK BEAR RULES

**FALL 2003 / SPRING 2004 BLACK BEAR SEASONS
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)**

Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training Season	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Sep 14 (Archery Only) Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Dogs prohibited	None	Bait prohibited
2, 3, 5	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
4, 4A, 6	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	May 16 - Jul 31	
7, 9	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
8	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
8A, 10A	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	Jun 1 - Jul 31	Bait prohibited Archery ONLY from Aug 30 - Sep 14
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	2 bear bag limit, See Lolo Motorway Travel Permit on page 20
11	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	None	
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
14, 18	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	May 16 - Jul 31	
15	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 3 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	May 16 - Jul 31	Take allowed south of the South Fork Clearwater River and north of the river west of Green Creek Road (Forest Service Rd. 1108) and east of the Allison Creek-Elk Summit roads (Forest Service Roads 307, 1808, and 471) Remainder of unit closed to take.
16	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	Jul 1 - Jul 31	North of Selway River: 2 bear bag limit Remainder of unit: 1 bear bag limit
16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	2 bear bag limit
19A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	

BEAR

(continued)

FALL 2003 / SPRING 2004 BLACK BEAR SEASONS - Continued
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training Season	Notes
21, 21A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - Jul 31	Bait prohibited, <i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 32, 32A, See note 2, Page 57</i>
23	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	
24, 25	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	
26, 27	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	2 bear bag limit
28, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
33	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	That portion of Unit 33 within the Middle Fork of the Payette River drainage downstream from but excluding Powder House Gulch drainage is CLOSED during dog training season.
34, 35, 36	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
36A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
39	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	
43, 44, 45, 48, 49	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 48 & 49, See note 2, Page 57</i>
50, 51, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 57</i>
60	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	None	
61	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31 west of Howard Creek in Clark County ONLY.	Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Dogs prohibited	None	Bait prohibited
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	

BEAR



FALL 2003 / SPRING 2004 EITHER SEX BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNTS
(315 Permits) (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
8001	Sep 15 - Oct 9	1	15	Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 57
8002	Sep 1 - Oct 31	22* (see pg 57)	75	Bait prohibited Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31
8003	Sep 1 - Oct 31	32* (see pg 57)	75	Bait prohibited. Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31 <i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 57</i>
8004	Apr 15 - May 22	22* (see pg 57)	75	Bait and dogs prohibited
8005	Apr 15 - May 22	32*(see pg 57)	75	Bait and dogs prohibited <i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 57</i>

* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units.

Notes:

- 1— Controlled hunt permittees must have a hound hunter permit to use dogs in this hunt. Any dogs used must be under the control of the controlled hunt permittee.
- 2— Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for wildlife is restricted to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 1500 pounds.

BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNT AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Hunt Area 1 – That portion of Unit 1 within the following boundary: Beginning at the Idaho/Washington state line where it intersects the Pend Oreille River, then northward along the Idaho/Washington state line to the Lamb Creek drainage, then southeasterly along the northern edge of the Lamb Creek divide to Priest Lake, then along the southern shore of Priest Lake to the Soldier Creek drainage, then easterly along the northern edge of the Soldier Creek drainage to the Selkirk Divide, then southerly along the Selkirk Divide to Baldy Mountain, then easterly along Little Sand Creek to the Pend Oreille River, then westerly along the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River to the point of beginning AND that portion of Unit 1 within the following

boundary: Beginning at the confluence of the Moyie River and the Kootenai River, then west and north on the Kootenai River to the Copeland Bridge, then east on County Road 45 to the junction with State Hwy 1, then south on State Hwy 1 to the intersection with State Hwy 95, then north and east on State Hwy 95 to where State Hwy 95 crosses the Moyie River, then south on the Moyie River to the point of beginning.

Hunt Area 22 — All of Units 22 and 31.

Hunt Area 32 — All of Units 32 and 32A.



Idaho law requires every outfitter and guide to be licensed and bonded. ***Outfitting or guiding without a license is a crime.*** You can ask your outfitter or guide to see their license, or you can contact the **Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board** with inquires, complaints or for more information at **1-800-506-5656, (208) 327-7167 or (208) 327-7380** or visit the website at www2.state.id.us/oglb/oglbhome.htm

BEAR

Hound Hunter Alert: Selway and Middle Fork zones are wilderness areas! Vehicle access is not allowed and rugged terrain can make pursuit extremely difficult. Contact the local Forest Service office for maps showing trails and access. Wolves may be present in any big game unit.

**FALL 2004 / SPRING 2005 BLACK BEAR SEASONS
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)**

Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training Season	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Sep 14 (Archery Only) Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Dogs prohibited	None	Bait prohibited
2, 3, 5	Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
4, 4A, 6	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	Jun 1 - Jul 31	
7, 9	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 9 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
8	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
8A, 10A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	Jun 1 - Jul 31	Bait prohibited
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Oct 9 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	2 bear bag limit, See Lolo Motorway Travel Permit on page 19
11	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	None	
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
14, 18	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	May 16 - Jul 31	
15	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 3 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	May 16 - Jul 31	
16	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 9 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	Jul 1 - Jul 31	North of Selway River: 2 bear bag limit Remainder of unit: 1 bear bag limit
16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	2 bear bag limit
19A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	
21, 21A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - Jul 31	Bait prohibited, Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 32, 32A, See note 2, Page 55
23	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	
24, 25	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	
26, 27	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	2 bear bag limit
28, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 29, 30, 30A, 37A, See note 2, Page 55
33	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	That portion of Unit 33 within the Middle Fork of the Payette River drainage downstream from but excluding Powder House Gulch drainage is CLOSED during dog training season.

BEAR

FALL 2004/ SPRING 2005 BLACK BEAR SEASONS - Continued
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training Season	Notes
34, 35, 36	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
36A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 55</i>
39	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	
43, 44, 45, 48, 49	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 45, 48, 49, See note 2, Page 55</i>
50, 51, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 55</i>
60	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	None	
61	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31 west of Howard Creek in Clark County ONLY.	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Dogs prohibited	None	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Unit 66, See note 2, Page 55</i>

FALL 2004 EITHER SEX BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNTS
(165 Permits) (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
8501	Sep 15 - Oct 9	1	15	<i>Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 55</i>
8502	Sep 1 - Oct 31	22* (see pg 56)	75	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 55</i>
8503	Sep 1 - Oct 31	32* (see pg 56)	75	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 55 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 55</i>

SPRING 2005 EITHER SEX BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNTS
(150 Permits) (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
8001	Apr 1 - May 22	22* (see pg 56)	75	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	Apr 1 - May 22	32*(see pg 56)	75	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 55</i>

BEAR

* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units.

Notes:

- 1— Controlled hunt permittees must have a hound hunter permit to use dogs in this hunt. Any dogs used must be under the control of the controlled hunt permittee.
- 2— Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for wildlife is restricted to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 1500 pounds. See page 28.

Submitted by:

Jim Hayden
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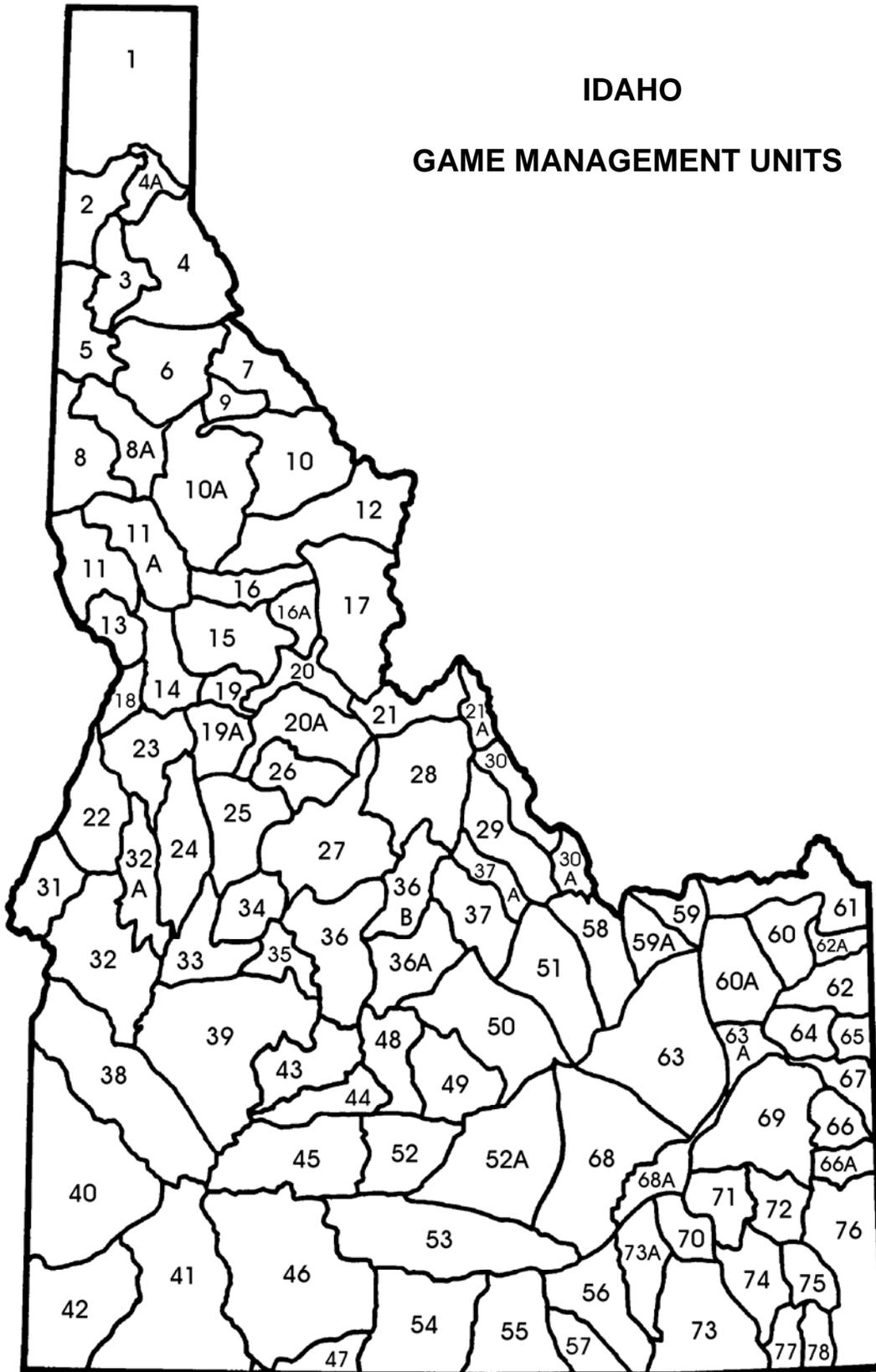
Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Towell
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

James W. Unsworth, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

IDAHO

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

