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Progress Report



BLACK BEAR

Study I, Job 9

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

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**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</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 2005, 29,787 resident and 3,883 non-resident bear tags were sold, accounting for 33,053 total tags sold which was a 2% increase from 2004. Only 169 hunters had 2 bear tags, down from 836 second tags sold in 2004. In Idaho, a nonresident deer tag can be used to kill a bear; 33 such tags were used on black bears in 2005. A total of 3,117 hound-hunting permits (43 fewer than 2004), including 129 non-resident and 2,945 resident permits, were issued during 2005. Both resident and non-resident permits reduced slightly (1%) in 2005, reversing the trend of steady increase over the last several years. 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 2,018 bear-baiting permits in 2004, a 10% increase from 2004.

Successful black bear hunters checked 2,425 bears at Department regional offices or checkpoints, about the same as 2004. The Panhandle Region accounted for 677 bears (28%), the Clearwater Region 791 (33%), the Southwest Region 499 (21%), the Magic Valley Region 79 (3%), the Southeast and Upper Snake regions combined for 187 (8%), and the Salmon Region accounted for 192 (8%) bears. Of the bears harvested, 1,407 (58%) were harvested in spring and 1,018 (42%) were harvested in fall. The shift from fall to spring harvest over the last several years is predominantly the result of spring bait harvest in high bear populations in the Clearwater and Panhandle regions. Males comprised 63% of the overall harvest, 66% of spring harvest, and 58% of fall harvest. The most common harvest technique used was bait hunting, accounting for 864 (36%) of the bears harvested, followed by still hunting which accounted for 764 (32%), and hound hunting which accounted for 454 (15%) of bears harvested. Rifle hunters checked 1,944 bears while archery hunters checked 354 bears. During 2005, guided hunters decreased harvest 11% to 463 with most being harvested over bait. Outfitters and guides were engaged in an effort to reduce black bear numbers in north-central Idaho in an area where bear predation on elk

calves was believed excessive. 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 (Apr-Jun) and fall (Aug-Nov) 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 (40%) were used to tag 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 and 2005, the pulse continued as 4- and 5-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.

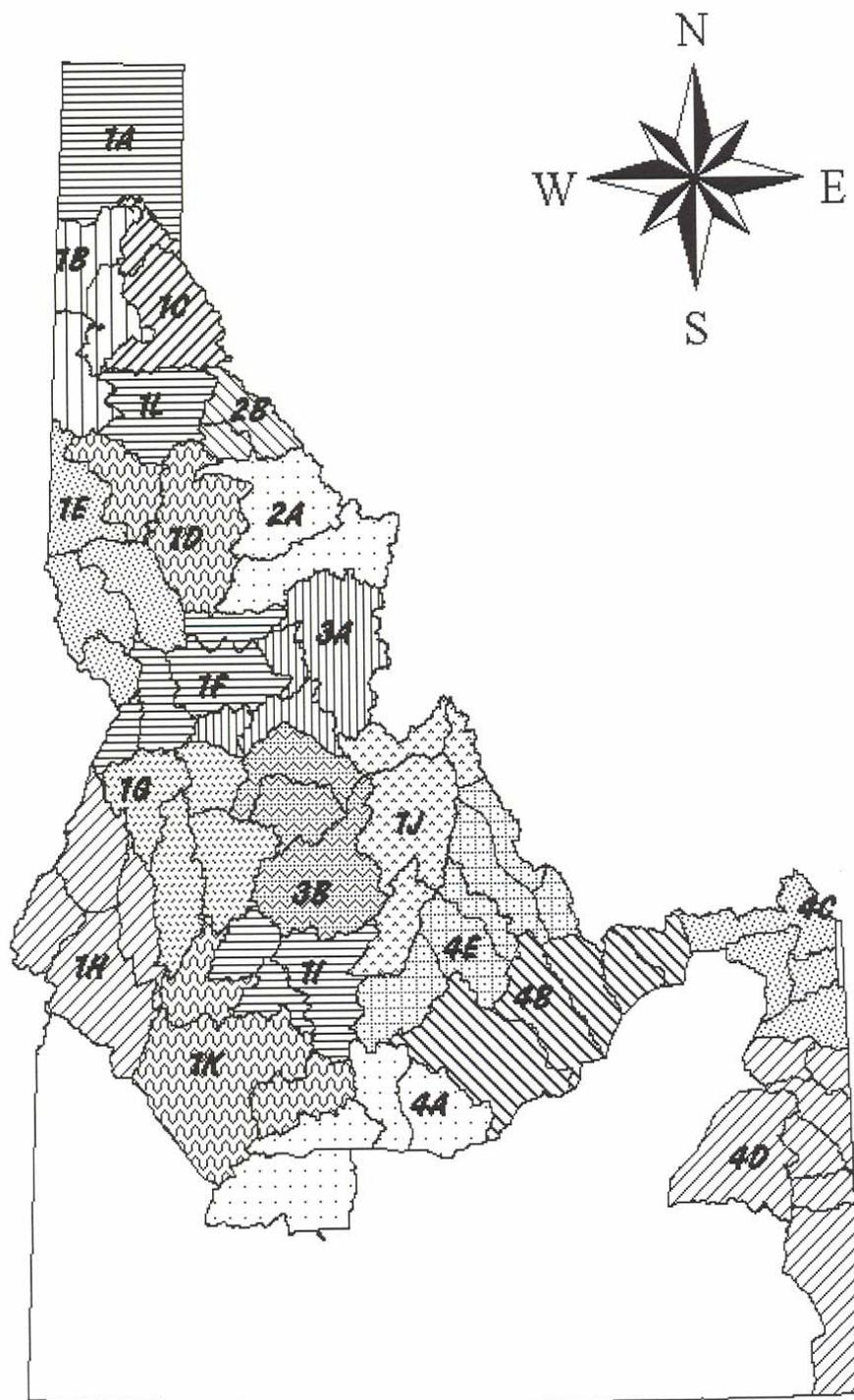


Figure 1. Twenty-one Data Analysis Units for black bear management in Idaho.

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PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-30</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
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JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006</u>		

PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in Panhandle Region during 2005 was 677 bears. Female harvest (245) was similar to the 2002-2004 average. Male harvest (428) was nearly identical to the 2002-2004 average. Four recorded kills had no information as to sex of the bear.

Only DAUs 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. 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.

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 168 during 2005 (Table 1), which was 19% below 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 females in the harvest (34%) is slightly above the maximum of 35% desired for this DAU, while the percentage of males at least 5 years-of-age (40%) meets the desired minimum of 35%.

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-six percent of the 2005 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunters specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Table 2).

Nearly all (94%) of black bears in DAU 1A are killed with rifles (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2005 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 132 during 2005 (Table 1), about the same as the previous 3-year average of 127. 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

During 2005, approximately equal numbers of bears were taken in the DAU via still-hunting/stalking (36%) and over bait (34%). Sixteen percent of bears from this DAU were taken with the use of hounds (Table 2).

Eighty-three 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 2005 harvest was 41% and the 3-year average was 44%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years old was 14% in 2005 and the 3-year average was 17%. This is the youngest age structure of the 5 DAUs in the Panhandle Region.

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 in this DAU.

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 200 during 2005, an increase of about a third compared to 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

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 200 during 2005, an increase of about a third compared to the previous 3-year average (Table 1).

Still hunting/stalking is the most predominant form of bear hunting in this DAU, accounting for 43% of the bears taken. Twenty-seven percent of the bears harvested are taken with the use of bait, with most of the remainder split evenly between use of hounds and incidental harvest (Table 2).

Over 85% 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 2005 harvest was 26%, dropping the 3-year average to 30%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years old was 31% in 2005, identical to the 3-year average.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2005 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 119 during 2005, an increase of 16% from the average of the previous 3 years. Females made up 39% 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 (137), came down during the 2003 (93) and 2004 (78) seasons, and then increased to 119 in 2005 (Table 1). Spotting/stalking is the primary method used to hunt bears in this DAU, with about half 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 21% of the 2005 harvest was taken with the aid of bait, higher than previous years.

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-nine percent of the 2005 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 2005 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 58 during 2005, 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 2005 for the second time since 1997.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2005 harvest of 58 bears was within the range seen during the past 10 years, an annual harvest of 37-63 bears. Eighty-One percent of the 2005 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.

Fifty-seven percent of the 2005 harvest was taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Almost this entire take is through the efforts of outfitters. The remaining harvest is split nearly evenly among hunters via spot and stalk hunting, hound hunting, 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 2005 for only the second time since 1997, with a 3-year average of 38% 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 2005 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 2005, 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
2005	69	26	1	96	39	32	1	72	108	58	2	168
3-yr. avg.	75	36	1	112	55	33	1	89	130	69	2	201
1B												
1994	22	14	0	36	28	25	0	53	50	39	0	89
1995	34	5	3	42	25	18	0	43	59	23	3	85
1996	32	14	0	46	35	26	2	63	67	40	2	109
1997	18	14	1	33	47	31	1	79	65	45	2	112
1998	30	19	0	49	69	57	1	127	99	76	1	176
1999	26	12	0	38	40	33	0	73	66	45	0	111
2000	24	16	0	40	37	27	0	64	61	43	0	104
2001	14	11	0	25	45	35	0	80	59	46	0	105
2002	14	17	0	31	49	37	1	87	63	54	1	118
2003	22	14	0	36	56	54	0	110	78	68	0	146
2004	27	19	0	46	37	33	0	70	64	52	0	116
2005	35	13	0	48	43	41	0	84	78	54	0	132
3-yr. avg.	28	15	0	43	45	43	0	88	73	58	0	131
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	41	26	0	67	62	33	0	95
2001	24	5	0	29	47	24	0	71	71	29	0	100
2002	22	5	0	27	95	36	2	133	117	41	2	160
2003	36	13	0	49	65	44	0	109	101	57	0	158
2004	46	13	0	59	50	26	1	77	95	39	1	135
2005	70	33	1	104	57	38	1	96	127	71	2	200
3-yr. avg.	51	20	0	71	57	36	1	94	108	56	1	165

Table 1. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
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
1997	14	9	0	23	29	27	0	56	43	36	0	79
1998	23	4	0	27	34	16	0	50	57	20	0	77
1999	25	16	0	41	27	16	0	43	52	32	0	84
2000	13	6	0	19	18	13	0	31	31	19	0	50
2001	17	4	0	21	28	17	0	45	45	21	0	66
2002	25	11	0	36	65	35	1	101	90	46	1	137
2003	22	9	0	31	38	24	0	62	60	33	0	93
2004	21	9	0	30	26	22	0	48	47	31	0	78
2005	40	16	0	56	33	30	0	63	73	46	0	119
3-yr. avg.	28	11	0	39	32	25	0	57	60	36	0	96
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	19	0	48	11	6	0	17	40	25	0	65
2004	34	11	0	45	7	4	0	11	41	15	0	56
2005	34	13	0	47	8	3	0	11	42	16	0	58
3-yr. avg.	32	14	0	46	9	4	0	13	41	18	0	59

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	142	12	26	185
2003	1	3	191	17	25	237
2004	0	7	166	22	4	199
2005	0	3	144	14	7	168
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	40	17	9	118
2003	44	34	39	23	6	146
2004	42	26	37	9	2	116
2005	45	21	47	12	7	132
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	73	30	10	160
2003	21	30	60	41	6	158
2004	30	30	37	37	2	136
2005	54	26	86	30	4	200
1L						
1994	1	13	18	14	3	49
1995	0	10	19	18	16	63
1996	0	10	26	26	0	62

Table 2. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1997	0	11	37	27	5	80
1998	0	23	45	28	1	97
1999	0	21	41	22	0	84
2000	1	14	20	15	1	51
2001	4	12	25	21	0	62
2002	17	26	44	47	3	137
2003	13	21	33	24	2	93
2004	6	16	40	14	2	78
2005	25	21	57	14	2	119
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	18	13	3	65
2004	26	12	14	4	0	56
2005	33	7	7	7	4	58

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	175	8	1	1	0	185
2003	209	18	2	6	2	237
2004	189	8	1	1	0	199
2005	158	6	0	2	2	168
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	103	10	3	2	0	118
2003	118	19	2	3	4	146
2004	89	21	4	2	0	116
2005	110	16	0	5	1	132
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	140	12	1	5	2	160
2003	142	10	1	1	4	158
2004	115	14	2	4	1	136
2005	171	23	1	3	2	200
1L						
1994	43	3	0	1	2	49
1995	56	3	0	4	0	63
1996	59	2	0	1	0	62

Table 3. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1997	74	3	0	2	1	80
1998	92	4	0	2	1	99
1999	80	2	0	2	0	84
2000	47	2	0	0	2	51
2001	54	1	1	0	2	58
2002	122	11	1	2	1	137
2003	85	4	0	4	0	93
2004	74	3	0	1	0	78
2005	109	6	2	1	1	119
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	5	61
2003	52	7	3	3	0	65
2004	45	9	2	0	0	56
2005	48	5	2	2	1	58

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
2005	M	7	16	17	13	10	0	2	5	7	12	89
	F	3	4	11	6	7	0	1	0	3	11	46
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age ^a										Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2005	M		12	16	20	12	6	1	2	0	0	1	70
	F		5	14	8	6	2	1	7	1	1	7	52
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
2005	M		11	22	37	12	19	1	1	2	3	11	119
	F		7	11	9	5	12	1	4	1	4	13	67
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age ^a										Total
Year	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2005	M	10	12	20	6	8	1	2	1	2	9	71
	F	3	6	8	5	7	1	1	1	1	10	43
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
2005	M	3	6	7	8	7	2	2	0	2	4	41
	F	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	13

^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
2005	168	35	40	36
3-year avg.	200	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
2005	132	41	14	10
3-year avg.	132	44	17	12
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

Table 5. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i>	% Females	% Males ≥ 5	# Males ≥ 5
2005	200	26	31	37
3-year avg.	162	30	31	31
Desired levels		>40	<25	
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
2005	119	39	33	16
3-year avg.	97	35	31	16
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
2005	58	28	41	17
3-year avg.	59	27	38	15
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

Table 6. Black bear depredation complaints, Panhandle Region, 1994-2004.

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-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</u>			

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Reported harvest for 2005 for the Clearwater Region was 791 black bears. This total represents a 7% decline from 2004 and was 1% below the previous 3-year average of 803 black bears. Total harvest by DAU in 2005 was 139 in 1D, 65 in 1E, 145 in 1F, 307 in 2A, and 135 in 3A.

All 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan harvest criteria were met in DAUs 1E, 2A, and 3A for the 2003-2005 period. In DAUs 1D and 1F, the criteria for percent females was exceeded slightly (by 1% in DAU 1D and by 2% in DAU 1F).

Concerns over elk calf recruitment rates in DAUs 2A and 3A has led to liberalized season frameworks beginning in 1998 (2-bear bag limit, extended season length, implementation of an outfitter-overlap program, reduced price nonresident tag fees, etc.). Harvest has increased markedly in these DAUs. However, harvest criteria indicate that populations are still lightly harvested. Unlike other regional DAUs, harvest in 2A and 3A occurs primarily during the spring season (85%) and with hunting over bait (70%) being the predominant method (2005 data). For the rest of the region (DAUs 1D, 1E, and 1F) 42% of the 2005 harvest occurred during the spring season and only 18% occurred over bait.

Bait station surveys were conducted in DAUs 1E, 1F, and 2A during the reporting period with visitation rates of 19%, 35%, and 28%, respectively.

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 modified 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, since 1996, harvest

has increased to levels higher than those observed prior to the regulation change. When analyzed by season and method, most harvest during 2005 occurred in the fall (58%) by hound hunters (47%), still hunters (26%), and incidental harvest (24%). High road densities have allowed hunters to access most of the available black bear habitat. The current Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1D is to be managed for harvest at the “moderate” level. Harvest criteria fall within these levels with the exception of percent females (41) which slightly exceeds the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for the 2003-2005 period.

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

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.

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.

Historically, season lengths in DAU 1D were relatively long, but have been 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.

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 2005, 139 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, a decrease of 11% from the previous 3-year average (Table 2). Forty-one percent of the black bears harvested were females (Table 3). Most black bears (58%) were harvested during the fall season. This is consistent with recent harvest trends, but a reversal from 1990-1992 (prior to changes designed to reduce harvest) when

spring harvest predominated. Age characteristics of bears harvested from 2003-2005 indicate that criteria were met, except percent females, which slightly exceeded target levels and is possibly indicative of dispersing younger females (Table 4).

The method of harvest most preferred by hunters in 2005 was hound hunting, which accounted for 47% of the total harvest, followed by still hunting at 26%, and incidental harvest at 24% (Table 5). This represents 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 (91%) followed by archery at 6% (Table 6).

Depredations

No black bear depredations were reported in DAU 1D in 2005 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

An 8-week dog-training season from 1 June-31 July was offered in DAU 1D during 2005 (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Based on current management criteria, black bears have been harvested at a moderate level in DAU 1D, although percent females (41) slightly exceeded the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for 2003-2005. Under guidance of the 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan, black bear harvest in 1D was reduced after the season framework was modified. However, harvest has rebounded to pre-1993 levels and beyond since that time.

Recent harvest records indicate an increased harvest of predominantly younger age-class black bears. This could be indicative of increased numbers of subadult dispersers dominating the harvest.

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1E harvested a total of 65 black bears during 2005, a 2% increase over the previous 3-year average. Thirty-five percent of this total was females. Fifty-seven percent of the harvest occurred in the fall, with still hunting being the most common method employed (32%).

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 2005 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2005 was 31 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys have been conducted for DAU 1E in Unit 11 due to its representative habitat types and the availability of personnel to conduct surveys. Sixteen transects were sampled in July 2005. A 19% visitation rate was observed (Table 1) which was a 44% decrease to that observed in 2004 (34%).

Harvest Characteristics

There were 65 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2005. This total is nearly identical to the previous 10-year average of 63.5. Forty-three and 57% were taken in the spring and fall, respectively (Table 2). Harvest criteria were all within the moderate range as desired based upon plan goals (Table 4). The most frequent method of harvest was still hunting, accounting for 32% of the harvest (Table 5). Weapon type most frequently used was rifle which accounted for 85% of the harvest, followed by archery (12%) and pistol at 3% (Table 6).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. One depredation complaint was recorded during 2005, down from an average of 2 for the previous 3-year period (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season was offered in DAU 1E in 2005 (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 35% 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-, 2-, and 3-year-old dispersing males.

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 145 black bears during 2005, a 27% increase from the previous 3-year average. More than half of the black bears (58%) harvested were taken during the fall, a change from pre-1993, when spring harvest predominated (accounting for 57% of harvest). The most frequent harvest methods were still/stalk and bait (32% each) while rifle (83%) and archery (10%) were the most common weapon used. The 2003-2005 harvest criteria indicated levels in the “moderate” range, although percent females (37%) slightly exceeded the target criteria of $\leq 35\%$. A portion of the DAU in Unit 15 was closed to harvest for research purposes for several years, 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 into 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 moderate 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 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 2005 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 most recently 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 in 2004, and 101 of 325 stations were visited by black bears, resulting in a 31% visitation rate (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

There were 145 black bears harvested in DAU 1F in 2005 with 58% being taken during the fall season (Table 2). Females comprised 42% of the harvest. Management objectives under the new plan indicate moderate harvest although percent females (37%) slightly exceeded the criteria of $\leq 35\%$ (Tables 3 and 4). The most frequent methods of harvest were still/stalk and bait at 32% each (Table 5). Rifle was the most frequent (83%) weapon type (Table 6).

Depredations

No depredation complaints were recorded for this DAU during 2005 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 16 May-31 July 2005 in DAU 1F, except for Unit 16 which had a season framework of 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 1F has historically received 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. In recent years, harvest has increased to levels above what occurred prior to the regulation changes. The closure of the northern portion of Unit 15 had an impact on overall harvest. Harvest levels have returned to, and exceeded, previous peak levels observed in 1998.

AREA 2

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

Abstract

In 2005, 307 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, a decrease of 8% from 2004, but 1% higher than the previous 3-year average of 304. Thirty-eight percent of harvest consisted of females. Ninety percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season. Bait hunting accounted for 77% of the harvest with rifle (73%) and archery (22%) being the most common weapons used.

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. 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, abundant berry producing shrubs, dense forests, and roadless areas allow for relatively high density 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). Fifty-one transects and 253 sites were sampled with a visitation rate of 27.7% in 2005. This hit rate represents a decrease of 20% from 2004 but is just slightly lower than the previous 3-year average of 30.0. In general, sites on closed roads and trails received higher visitation rates than those on open roads.

Harvest Characteristics

In 2005, 307 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, a decrease of 8% from 2004, but 1% higher than the previous 3-year average of 304. Ninety percent of these black bears were harvested during spring season (Table 2). Of the black bears harvested, 38% were females. Age criteria set under the new management plan allow for increased harvest as plan goals identify this DAU

to be harvested at the “heavy” range. Current age criteria indicate harvest levels are light to moderate (Table 4).

Hunting over bait accounted for 77% of the harvest in DAU 2A, followed by still/stalk at 13% (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used accounting for 73% of the harvest and was followed by archery at 22% (Table 6).

Depredations

A record 12 depredation complaints were recorded during fall 1998, an indication of a poor huckleberry crop in DAU 2A. A total of only 7 depredations have been reported in the 7 years since, with none in 2004 or 2005 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

A 1-month dog-training season occurred during 2005 from 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 2A receives moderate hunting pressure. The DAU is characterized by unroaded habitats, public land, and healthy black bear populations and liberal hunting season frameworks. Harvest is light to moderate in the male component and 29% were ≥ 5 years old for 2003-2005. 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 has increased dramatically since 1998 due to liberalized hunting season frameworks. Because black bear populations appear to be healthy, an opportunity to harvest more black bears became apparent and was deemed desirable to address elk calf recruitment concerns. Season length was extended to the end of June for the spring hunt and to the end of big game season in fall. Harvest more than doubled in 1998, and has remained at a high level since. 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 2005, 135 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A. This total represents a 30% decline from the record harvest of 193 bears in 2004, but is still the third highest total ever for this DAU. Thirty-five 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 harvested population. Fifty-four percent of the black bears taken 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 historical 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 while also attempting to address concerns over low elk calf recruitment.

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 1996 (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

In 2005, 135 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A (Table 2). This total represents a 30% decline from 2004. However, it should be noted that the 192 bears harvested in 2003 and the 193 in 2004 are more than double the number killed in any other year in this DAU. An outfitter-overlap program resulted in a substantial increase in hunter participation in this predominantly wilderness DAU and the corresponding increase in harvest. Of the 135 bears harvested in 2005, 35% were females. Only 27% of the black bears were harvested during fall. Harvest criteria in the new (2000-2010) plan indicate light harvest levels. Fifty-seven percent of the males were ≥ 5 years old in the 2003-2005 period (Tables 3 and 4). Most of the black bears harvested (54%) were taken over bait (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used (93%) followed by archery at 5% (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 the most lightly harvested DAU in the region.

Depredations

No depredations occurred in this DAU during 2005 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season was offered in DAU 3A during 2005 (Appendix A). Hound hunting for black bears is impractical 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. This liberalized season framework also serves to address concerns over low calf elk recruitment rates.

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Clearwater Region, 1996-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	
							%	(+/-)
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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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 ^a	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
2005 ^a	10,12	June-Aug	67	51	253	70	27.7	4.6
	11	June-July	16	16	80	15	18.8	7.2
	15	June-July	67	49	245	86	35.1	5.0

^a 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
2005	37	21	0	58	46	35	0	81	83	56	0	139
3-yr. avg.	40	26	0	66	52	38	0	90	91	65	0	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
2005	22	6	0	28	20	17	0	37	42	23	0	65
3-yr. avg.	19	9	0	28	22	14	0	36	41	23	0	64
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
2005	38	23	0	61	46	38	0	84	84	61	0	145
3-yr. avg.	35	22	0	57	44	26	0	70	79	48	0	127

Table 2. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
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
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
2005	169	106	0	275	21	11	0	32	190	117	0	307
3-yr. avg.	170	104	0	274	31	16	0	47	201	121	0	322
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
2005	64	35	0	99	24	12	0	36	88	47	0	135
3-yr. avg.	89	45	0	134	27	12	0	39	116	57	0	173

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
2005	M	2	14	18	18	9	9	1	1	2	0	7	81
	F	0	7	7	18	4	4	3	1	2	3	3	52
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2005	M	0	6	13	7	3	4	2	1	0	1	2	39
	F	0	0	6	3	2	2	0	4	2	0	4	23
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
2005	M	0	14	13	19	8	3	4	5	1	0	11	78
	F	1	8	7	15	3	8	4	1	1	1	5	54
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2005	M	0	9	31	59	24	30	2	5	1	5	18	184
	F	0	5	8	25	16	18	0	2	4	2	33	113
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
2005	M	0	5	7	14	11	11	3	6	6	1	19	83
	F	0	1	1	3	8	5	0	4	0	3	16	41

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
2005	133	39	25	20
3-year avg.	154	41	27	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
2005	62	37	26	10
3-year avg.	63	37	25	10
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ^b ≥5	# Males ^b ≥5
2005	132	41	31	24
3-year avg.	123	37	29	22
Desired levels		≤35	≥20	
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
2005	297	38	33	61
3-year avg.	318	38	29	55
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
2005	124	33	55	46
3-year avg.	169	32	57	65
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	36	3	150
	2005	1	66	36	34	2	139
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	5	64
	2004	21	11	17	14	0	63
	2005	16	10	21	17	1	65
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	20	0	112
	2005	47	24	47	25	2	145
2A							
	1994	23	9	17	15	2	66
	1995	56	11	18	22	0	107
	1996	69	18	30	26	1	144

Table 5. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1997	65	11	24	18	2	120
1998	150	41	43	53	4	291
1999	152	17	41	47	2	259
2000	139	28	24	21	2	214
2001	199	17	39	15	2	272
2002	163	15	50	20	6	254
2003	226	17	62	16	3	324
2004	222	29	52	29	2	334
2005	236	13	40	11	7	307
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
2005	73	8	42	11	1	135

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
2005	127	8	0	4	0	139
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
2005	55	8	0	2	0	65
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
2005	121	14	3	7	0	145
2A						
1994	52	8	0	4	35	99
1995	82	19	2	4	1	108
1996	99	30	2	10	0	141

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1997	89	25	1	5	0	120
1998	221	54	3	12	1	291
1999	197	49	3	9	1	259
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
2005	224	69	6	6	2	307
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
2005	126	7	0	2	0	135

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
2005	0	1	0	0	0	1

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</u>		

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

Four hundred seventy-four black bears were reported harvested in Area 1 of Southwest Region in 2005. Bait station surveys were conducted in DAUs 1G and 1H during the reporting period. Visitation rates were 25% and 40% in 2006 for DAUs 1G and 1H, respectively. Reported harvest was 139, 87, and 248 black bears for DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K, respectively, during 2005 hunting seasons. The reported harvest in Area 1 in 2005 was very similar to that reported 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 method comprised most of the black bear kill in DAU 1K in 2005. 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.

Thirty-nine black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3B in 2005. 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 2005 framework (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

A bait station survey, using pork fat and anise oil as attractants, was conducted in DAU 1G in July 2006 (Table 2). Sixty-eight transects were sampled resulting in a 25% visitation rate (86 out of 340 stations visited by bears). This visitation rate was slightly lower than that recorded in 2005.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest in DAU 1G was nearly the same in 2005 as it was in 2004 (Table 3). The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in fall than spring in 2005. Black bear age data indicate 3-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 2005 (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. No depredations were reported in DAU 1G in 2005 (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 2005 harvest season reflected the fifth year of monitoring this change. Younger bears have become more preponderant in the harvest. The current season framework should be monitored through the 2006 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 2005 (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. Forty percent of the stations (34 of 85) were visited by black bear in June 2006. This visitation rate was 12 percentage points higher than that documented in June 2005.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest increased 6% in 2005 when compared to 2004 in DAU 1H (Table 3). The black bear harvest was higher in fall as compared to spring in 2005. Black bear age data indicate 3-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2005 (Table 4). Percent females in the harvest criteria remained the same in 2005 (Table 5). Percent males ≥ 5 years old increased in 2005. 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. One depredation was recorded in 2005 in DAU 1H (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 (success rate was 29% in 2005). 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 2005 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 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. Department personnel also collected tissue and hair samples from 153 black bears harvested in the GMU during 2003 and 2004. A third field season of hair snagging was conducted in 2005. The 2005 samples are still being analyzed.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest decreased 2% in 2005 when compared to 2004 totals in DAU 1K (Table 3). Hunters harvested more bears in spring than fall in 2005. Black bear age data indicate 3-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2005 (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 2005 (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. One depredation was recorded in DAU 1K in 2005 (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, one north and one 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 decreased 40% in 2005 compared to 2004 for DAU 3B (Table 3). Black bear harvest in DAU 3B was greater in the fall than spring season. Black bear age data indicate 3-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group in 2005 (Table 4). Percent females in the harvest was similar to that reported in 2004 (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 2005 (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
2006	1	7/12-8/13	92	68	340	86	25	3.9

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
2005	35	16	51	60	28	88	95	44	139
3-yr. avg.	36	14	50	57	33	90	94	48	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
2005	30	8	38	23	26	49	53	34	87
3-yr. avg.	22	9	31	26	24	50	48	33	81
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
2005	109	54	163	48	37	85	157	91	248
3-yr. avg.	100	52	152	51	37	88	152	89	241

Table 3. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
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
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
2005	11	7	18	15	6	21	26	13	39
3-yr. avg.	13	7	20	22	10	32	35	17	52

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
2005	M	0	13	13	16	10	15	1	7	2	1	15	2	95
	F	0	3	2	7	6	7	4	2	2	2	8	1	44
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age										Unknown	Total
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
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
2005	M	0	5	7	11	5	5	4	2	1	3	4	6	53
	F	0	6	2	3	3	4	3	1	3	4	4	1	34
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
2005	M	0	24	12	49	10	21	8	6	6	2	16	3	157
	F	0	11	9	12	4	10	6	4	5	4	19	7	91
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
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
2005	M	0	3	3	5	1	0	0	2	1	1	9	1	26
	F	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	13

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

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	Median age			% Males ≥5	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
			Males	Females	Total			
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
2005	139	32	4	5	4	44	95	136
3-year avg.	141	34	3	5	4	36	94	133
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
2005	87	39	4	5	4	40	53	80
3-year avg.	81	41	4	4	3	34	48	73
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

Table 5. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	%	Median age			%	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
			Females	Males	Females			
2005	248	37	3	5	4	38	157	238
3-year avg.	241	37	3	5	4	36	152	220
Desired levels		30-40	≥4	≥6	≥5	25-35		
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
2005	39	33	7	7	7	50	26	37
3-year avg.	52	32	6	6	6	58	35	48
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	38	16	49	33	1	137
2005	47	28	32	32	1	140
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
2005	0	29	53	3	2	87
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	46	23	26	1	107	203
2002	75	60	73	56	8	272
2003	93	47	40	34	8	222
2004	85	49	65	46	7	252
2005	104	42	53	41	8	248
3B						
1994	2	0	14	33	3	52
1995	0	0	16	17	2	35
1996	0	1	17	30	1	49

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1997	0	0	8	14	2	24
1998	0	1	14	14	0	29
1999	0	0	10	25	1	36
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
2005	4	2	22	10	1	39

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	2	137
2005	103	26	2	7	1	139
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
2005	80	4	0	2	1	87
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	202	44	3	17	6	272
2003	164	38	6	8	6	222
2004	190	44	7	8	3	252
2005	186	48	3	7	4	248
3B						
1994	52	0	0	0	0	52
1995	34	1	0	0	0	35
1996	48	0	0	1	0	49

Table 7. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1997	22	0	0	2	0	24
1998	29	0	0	0	0	29
1999	35	1	0	0	0	36
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
2005	37	1	0	0	1	39

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
2005	0	1	1	0	2

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
2006	1	6/23-28	17	17	85	34	40	8.8

^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-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</u>		

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Fifty-one black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2005, 27% more than the 2002-2004 mean of 40 black bears. The 2004 and 2005 hunter harvests of 53 and 51 bears, respectively, were higher than the 10-year average of 35 bears taken in DAU 4A. Baiting, hound hunting, incidental, and still-hunting accounted for 25%, 29%, 22%, and 23%, respectively, of the black bears harvested. Most black bears were taken by rifle (78%), while 10 bears (20%) were killed with archery equipment and 1 bear (2%) with a handgun. The Department recorded 1 bear killed in response to depredation complaints during this reporting period, which brings the total number of bears harvested during 2005 to 52.

AREA 4

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

Management Direction

Management objectives in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management 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 less than 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 Unit 44 through June 1986 because of livestock industry and landowner concerns. Restrictions on dog use apply in this DAU during October to minimize conflicts with deer and elk hunters.

Populations Surveys

Bait station surveys were not conducted in 2005 in DAU 4A (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

The 2005 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2004. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A).

Fifty-one black bears were harvested in 2005; similar to the 2004 harvest but higher than the harvests from 1995-2003. Spring harvest accounted for 47% of the total harvest and was 58% higher than the 1995-2004 average harvest of 14 bears (Table 2).

Total harvest (hunter harvest and depredation kill) of black bears in DAU 4A in 2005 was adequate for the third year in a row to allow application of harvest criteria established in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 3). Fifty-three percent of male bears taken in 2005 were ≥ 5 years old. The 3-year running average for percent males ≥ 5 years old is 40%. The 3-year running average of percent females in the total harvest is 30% (Table 4).

Still and incidental hunting accounted for 45% of the total hunter harvest of all black bears harvested in this DAU in 2005. Thirteen of 51 hunter-harvested black bears were taken over bait in 2005. Hound hunting comprised 29% of the harvest for 2005 (Table 5).

Rifles accounted for 78% while bows and handguns accounted for 22% of the harvest in 2005 (Table 6).

Most of the depredation complaints reported to the Department involved nuisance black bears in the Big Wood River Valley. In 2005, we received 5 complaints from Unit 48 (Table 7).

Wildlife Services personnel handle depredations on livestock. From 1995-2005, we received mortality reports on 22 black bears dispatched by Wildlife Services for this DAU (Table 7). Six livestock depredation complaints were received in 2005 and Wildlife Services personnel reported dispatching 1 black bear.

Dog-training Season

A standard dog-training season of 1 June-31 July was implemented in 2003 and remained in place through 2005.

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 (3-year running average of 30% females and 40% males ≥ 5 years old in the harvest). Black bear numbers are believed to have increased in the region in recent years as reflected in the increased 2004 and 2005 harvest. Black bear

complaints and depredation problems remain at tolerable levels. Nuisance complaints in the Wood River Valley were the only significant depredation problem in 2005.

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	14	5.7
2004	44, 45, 48, 49	7/6-26	20	20	100	5	5	3.6

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
2005	19	5	24	17	10	27	36	15	51
3-yr. avg.	18	6	24	13	7	20	31	14	45

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
2005	M	0	6	4	4	3	8	3	0	0	2	6	36
	F	0	2	3	3	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	15

^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
2005	51	29	53	19
3-yr. average	44	30	30	13
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
2005	13	15	12	11	0	51

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
	2005	40	10	0	1	0	51

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
	2005	1	10	11

^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-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</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 2005, harvest was once again up to 187.

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 38, 50, and 91 black bears, respectively, for the 2003-2005 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. Age data for the 2005 harvest is not yet available.

Climatic Conditions

Spring and summer weather conditions during 2005 were cooler and wetter than normal. Winter precipitation was below normal and temperatures were warmer than normal. Spring 2006 has also seen better precipitation levels.

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 2003-2005 was 38 bears. In 2005, 36 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.

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

Thirty-six black bears were checked from DAU 4B in 2005 (Table 2). This was below the current 3-year average for 2003-2005 of 38. Age data for 2005 harvest is not yet available.

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). Age data for 2005 harvest is not yet available.

Bait and hound hunters have historically accounted for the majority of the harvest for this DAU (Table 5). This trend continued in 2005. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

Depredations and Nuisance

No depredation and nuisance data is available at this time.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2005 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 2002-2004 fell below this level for percent females and 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.

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 were 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). Harvest age data for 2005 is not available at this time.

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

No depredation and nuisance data is available at this time.

Dog-training Season

The 2005 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 90 black bears were harvested in 2005. This represents a leveling out of the growing bear harvest taking place in the area with a 2003-2005 average annual harvest of 91. Bear harvest has increased substantially in the past 10 years. Reasons for the 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.

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 90 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2005 (Table 2). This is the first time in 8 years that a new historical high has not been established or tied. This many indicate that harvest is leveling off. 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 was 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). Harvest age data for 2005 is not available at this time.

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

Depredations and Nuisance

No depredation and nuisance data is available at this time.

Dog-training Season

The 2005 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
2005	18	9	0	27	8	1	0	9	26	10	0	36
3 yr. avg.	18	8	0	26	9	3	0	12	27	11	0	38
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
2005	18	7	0	25	28	8	0	36	46	15	0	61
3 yr. avg.	16	7	0	23	18	8	0	26	35	15	0	50
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
2005	24	14	0	38	31	21	3	55	55	35	0	90
3 yr. avg.	29	19	0	48	23	20	1	44	52	39	1	92

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Upper Snake Region, 1994-2004.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age											Unknown	Total
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
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	33	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
2005	15	11	6	3	1	36
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
2005	11	2	20	22	3	58
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
2005	29	32	15	15	2	93

^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
2005	24	8	0	4	0	36
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
2005	34	20	0	4	0	58
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
2005	50	21	0	21	1	93

^a One bear taken with unknown weapon.

Table 7. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Upper Snake Region, 1994-2004.

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-30</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, 2005 to June 30, 2006</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, 2004, and 2005, 248 (largest harvest since 1983), 161, 232, and 205 bears were harvested, respectively. Spring harvest in 2005 increased 9%, whereas fall harvest was 63% of 2004 levels. Approximately 25% of harvest (54/year) occurred during extended seasons over the last 4 years. In 2005, female harvest for bait and hound hunters was 45%, whereas female harvest for incidental and spot/stalk hunters was 31%. This seems to indicate that there was not much selectivity in harvest methods.

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 of <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. Precipitation during summer and fall 2005 was well below normal, resulting in reduced forage production and perhaps early curing of vegetation. Therefore, animals may have entered winter in fair to poor condition. Winter and early spring precipitation were above normal, yielding average water-year precipitation by the end of May 2006. Vegetative growth generally appeared above average. However, anecdotal evidence suggested that high elevation berry production was below average. Winter conditions were generally normal and snow accumulation at lower elevations near average.

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest in 2005 increased slightly (+2) from 2004 and was similar 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 increasingly moved away from goal levels from 2001 through 2004, but dropped back toward the goal of <25% in 2005 (Table 4). Use of bait to harvest bears decreased from 2000-2003, but increased again in 2004 and 2005. Use of bait accounted for 65% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2005 (Table 5). Approximately 26% of bears are taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting. Use of rifles (53%) 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 5 depredation complaints during the reporting period; most were associated with campgrounds (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 and decreased back to 33% in 2005.

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 of 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%), very similar to the 30 visited stations in 2003. 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 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. Harvest in 2005 decreased by 27% (96) from that of 2004 and was just under the 3-year average (100) (Table 2).

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 2005, harvest using bait and hounds resulted in 44% females compared to 27% females for still hunter and incidental harvest. In most years, 75-85% 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). Thirteen complaints were received in 2005 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 and decreased to 23% in 2005.

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 of 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 66 black bears harvested in 2005 was the second highest harvest since 1983, and an increase of 11% from 2004. 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. Age of harvested males has exceeded the management plan goal the other 4 years. Harvest by hunters using bait and hounds was composed of a lower proportion of females (31%) compared to still or incidental (68%) hunters in 2004. However, in 2005, both groups harvested males and females in equal proportions (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). Three complaints were reported in 2005.

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. Extended season harvest increased to 27% in 2004 and returned to 19% in 2005.

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
II									
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
2005	18	9	27	10	6	16	28	15	43
3-yr. avg.	19	8	27	9	4	13	28	12	40
IJ									
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
2005	43	26	69	16	11	27	61	37	98
3-yr. avg.	46	22	68	18	14	32	64	37	101
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
2005	27	27	54	7	5	12	34	32	66
3-yr. avg.	26	17	43	9	7	16	35	24	59

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
2005	M	0	0	7	7	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	26
	F	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	13
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
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
2005	M	0	11	3	13	2	7	7	6	4	3	3	0	59
	F	0	2	1	8	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	0	26
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
2005	M	0	5	5	3	3	5	6	1	1	0	4	0	33
	F	0	2	4	2	4	8	1	1	0	0	10	0	32

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
1I				
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
2005	43	35	35	9
3-year avg.	40	31	47	12
Desired levels		>40	<25	
1J				
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
2005	96	39	51	30
3-year avg.	100	37	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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ≥5 ^b	# Males ≥5 ^b
2004	59	41	42	14
2005	66	48	52	17
3-year avg.	59	40	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
	2005	28	3	7	4	1	43
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
	2005	51	11	14	16	4	96
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
	2005	32	15	3	15	1	66

^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
2005	23	15	1	0	4	43
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
2005	73	21	0	0	2	96
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
2005	43	18	4	1	0	66

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
2005	5	13	3	21

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2005 SEASON
BLACK BEAR RULES

Big Game Seasons

Deer, Elk, Antelope
January - December 2005

Bear, Mountain Lion
August 2005 - June 2006



**RULES
2005**



Photo courtesy Jerry Hugo

Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Black Bear

- **Controlled Hunt application period:
May 1 - May 31.**
- **Use for all controlled hunts, including
2006 spring bear.**
- **Apply early for controlled hunts to win big buck\$.
See page 20 for application form.**
- **APPLY FOR A SUPER HUNT TAG, HELP PAY FOR ACCESS YES!
See page 62.**



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	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
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	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Oct 9 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>2 bear bag limit, See Lolo Motorway Travel Permit on page 19</i>
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	<i>North of Selway River: 2 bear bag limit Remainder of unit: 1 bear bag limit</i>
16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	<i>2 bear bag limit</i>
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	<i>Bait prohibited, Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 32, 32A, See note 2, Page 55</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 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>2 bear bag limit</i>
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	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 29, 30, 30A, 37A, See note 2, Page 55</i>
33	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>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.</i>

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.

FALL 2005 / SPRING 2006 BLACK BEAR SEASONS
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

BEAR

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	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
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 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	Jun 1 - 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 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
8A, 10A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	Jun 1 - Jul 31	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>2 bear bag limit, See Lolo Motorway Travel Permit on page 10</i>
11	Aug 30 - 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	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
14, 18	Aug 30 - 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 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	May 16 - Jul 31	
16	Aug 30 - 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	<i>2 bear bag limit</i>
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 10 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - Jul 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 32, 32A, See note 2, Page 61</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 1 - Jun 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>2 bear bag limit</i>
28, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 10 - 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	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A, See note 2, Page 61</i>
33	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>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.</i>
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 61</i>
39	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	

(continued)

FALL 2005/ SPRING 2006 BLACK BEAR SEASONS - Continued
(FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)

Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training Season	Notes
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 61</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 61</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	Year-round	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 66 & 69, See note 2, Page 61</i>

FALL 2005 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 61</i>
8502	Sep 1 - Oct 31	22* (see pg 62)	75	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 61</i>
8503	Sep 1 - Oct 31	32* (see pg 62)	75	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 61 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 61</i>

SPRING 2006 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 62)	75	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	Apr 1 - May 22	32*(see pg 62)	75	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 61</i>

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 13.

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

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.

Draw the Hunt of a Lifetime, Help Pay for Access Yes!

Expanding **Access Yes!** to provide more hunting and fishing access on private and public land will require additional funding. Part of the funding will come from selling chances to win "super hunt" tags. You can mail in these applications (or photocopies), purchase applications from license vendors or over the phone at 1-(800) 554-8685 or 1-(800) 824-3729 to be mailed to you, or online (see below). Phone and Internet applications have a processing fee added by the contractor providing the service which is equal to three percent of the purchase plus \$3.50.

One super hunt application = \$4.95, package of six = \$19.95, package of 13 = \$49.95. "Super Hunt Combination" applications = \$19.95 for one, \$99.95 for six and \$199.95 for 13. Drawing dates will be June 15 and August 15. You may apply as many times as you like.

Super Hunt Combo Tag and Super Hunt applications must be received at the Fish and Game headquarters office no later than May 31, 2005 for the first drawing. Applications received after that date will be entered in the second drawing. Applications for the first drawing will not be eligible for the second drawing. **Applications received for the second drawing must be received at the IDFG headquarters office no later than July 30, 2005.** Mail applications to IDFG License Section, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707.

Online there are two ways to get applications: Print the application forms from <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/licenses/apps/> and mail them in with the proper amount of money (don't send cash – personal checks are accepted). You can also pre-pay by using your credit card to pay online at fishandgame.idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/purchase/

BEAR

2005 IDAHO SUPER HUNT APPLICATION

Please print
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ **ZIP** _____
TELEPHONE (_____) _____
DATE OF BIRTH mo. ____ day ____ year ____

Number of Applications Submitted in same envelope:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	=	\$4.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	=	\$19.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	=	\$49.95

Species (a box must be checked):

Deer Elk Antelope Moose

2005 IDAHO SUPER HUNT COMBO TAG APPLICATION

Please print
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ **ZIP** _____
TELEPHONE (_____) _____
DATE OF BIRTH mo. ____ day ____ year ____

Number of Applications Submitted in same envelope:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	=	\$19.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	=	\$99.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	=	\$199.95

USE THIS APPLICATION FOR ALL FOUR SPECIES:
DEER, ELK, ANTELOPE, AND MOOSE

Submitted by:

Jim Hayden
Regional Wildlife Manager

Jay Crenshaw
Regional Wildlife Manager

Jeff Rohlman
Regional Wildlife Manager

Randy Smith
Regional Wildlife Manager

Daryl Meints
Regional Wildlife Manager

Tom Keegan
Regional Wildlife Manager

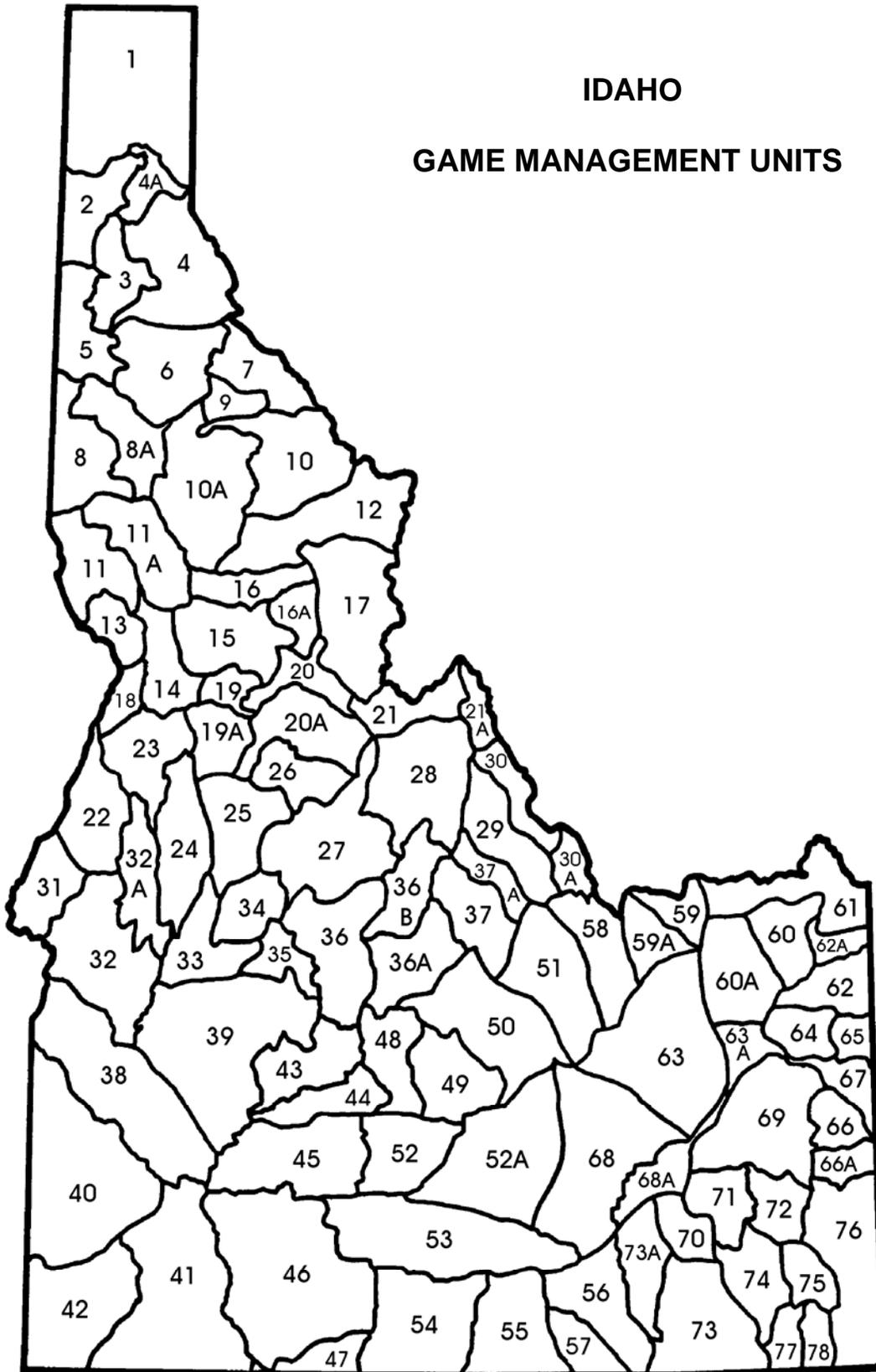
Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Toweill
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.

