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Cal Groen, Director

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Progress Report



BLACK BEAR

Study I, Job 9

July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

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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-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</u>		

STATEWIDE

Abstract

Mandatory reporting of harvested black bears is required within 10 days of kill. Hunters checked 2,660 black bears across the state, 1,418 in the spring and 1,242 in the fall. Females comprised 36% of the harvest. Of all the regions, most bears (816, 31%) were killed in the Clearwater Region of north-central Idaho. There, 3 units have extra bear tags, allow nonresident hunters to purchase reduced-price bear tags (\$31.75 vs. \$151.75), and encourage increased harvest by outfitters. There were 683 bears harvested in the Panhandle, 539 in the Southwest Region, 59 in Magic Valley, 243 in the Upper Snake, and 265 in the Salmon Region. Bear densities are highest in the moist forest of northern Idaho and decrease heading south toward the drier continental and desert climates. The fewest bears harvested in any region were harvested in the Southeast Region where 16 bears were reported. Bear baiting is allowed across most of the state and 38% of bears were harvested using this technique. Still hunting and stalking accounted for 29% of the harvest, incidental was 17%, hound hunting 14%, and other techniques rounded off the final 2%. Adult males are monitored to determine proportion of the harvest and change from year to year to determine trends. Populations in Idaho appear to be relatively stable with some changes in harvest ages occurring annually due to fluctuation in food availability and resultant conflicts with older and younger animals, as well as pulses in cohorts due to food availability.

There were 32,535 resident and 4,316 nonresident black bear tags sold in 2007. Bear baiting permits are required by anyone hunting over bait; 2,398 baiting permits were sold last year. Likewise, hunting with hounds requires a permit, and nonresident permits are restricted to 75 statewide and a few units with additional permits. In 2007, 2,943 resident and 119 nonresident hound hunting permits were sold.

Black bear scent stations are used in 2 regions to help determine population trends. The Clearwater and Magic Valley regions continued conducting these trend counts this year and combined monitored 420 stations for bear activity. Additional monitoring efforts included conducting a non-invasive mark-recapture project using hair-snags and DNA at 120 grid cells in GMU 39 on the Boise National Forest. Eight-hundred (800) bear hair samples were sent to lab for genetic analysis with intent of being able to use a mark-recapture model to estimate bear numbers and density within the study area.

Personnel in the Southwest Region also captured and radio-marked 3 black bears within the DNA mark-recapture study area with GPS collars to assess movements during the study and appropriateness of selected grid cell size. Additionally, in the McCall Subregion personnel captured, tagged, DNA sampled, and released 48 bears in GMU 32A to ascertain sex and age structure of the population. Male:female sex ratio was 50:50. Age ratio calculations are pending lab tooth age analysis.

Black bear research was conducted in GMU 4 in the Panhandle Region in cooperation with the University of Montana and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Rocky Mountain Research Station to determine black bear habitat use and development of black bear population monitoring techniques.

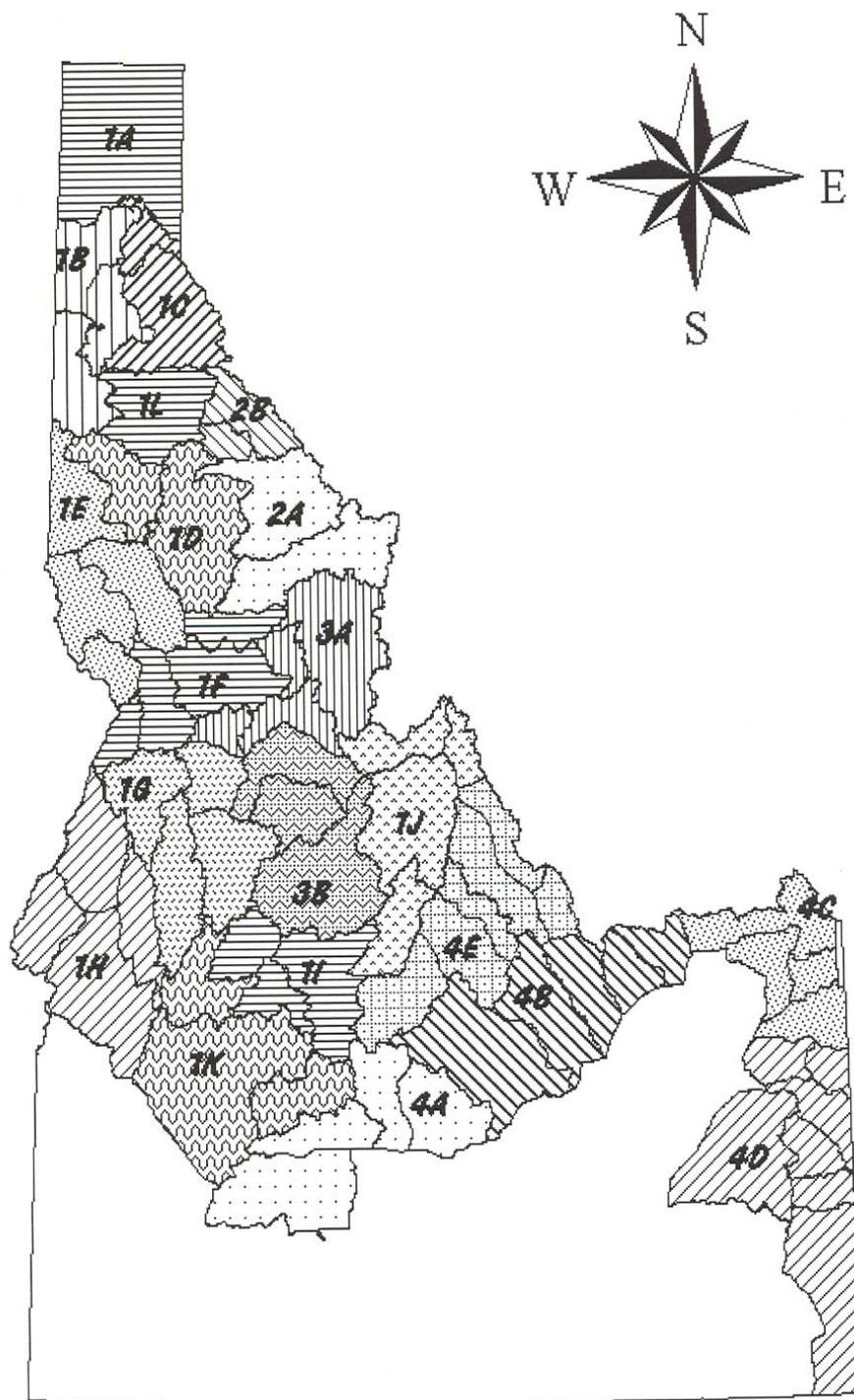


Figure 1. Twenty-one Data Analysis Units for black bear management in Idaho.

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JOB:	<u>9</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
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PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in Panhandle Region during 2007 was 683 bears. Female harvest (243) was slightly higher than the 2004-2006 average of 219. Male harvest (436) was slightly higher than the 2004-2006 average of 401. Four recorded kills had no information as to sex of the bear. At the time this report was written, no data relevant to the age of harvested bears was available for the 2007 harvest season.

Age data for the 2007 harvest season are needed to determine complete DAU status relative to objectives. An analysis of 2006 harvest and 3-year averages indicates that DAUs 1A, 1B, and 1L are within management criteria for the percentage of females in the harvest. DAUs 1C and 2B are under harvest objectives relative to the proportion of females in the harvest. No data has been kept for the past few years to document black bear depredation complaints in the Panhandle Region.

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.

The 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 206 during 2007 (Table 1), which was very similar to 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 30% desired for this DAU. The percentage of harvested males ≥ 5 years-of-age relative to the objective of $>35\%$ cannot be determined until the 2007 harvest age data becomes available, but has typically been within management criteria objectives.

Management Direction

DAU 1A will be managed to maintain the light harvest targets of $<30\%$ females in the harvest and $>35\%$ of the males ≥ 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-seven percent of the 2007 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunters specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Table 2).

Nearly all (89%) of black bears in DAU 1A were killed with rifles (Table 3). The remaining harvest was accomplished with archery equipment and 1 bear was taken with a hand-gun.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2007 harvest was composed of 34% females, just slightly higher than the target of $<30\%$ females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates that the objective of $>35\%$ of the harvested male bears be at least 5 years-of-age is seldom not attained (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, bears age 5 years and older typically meet 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 151 during 2007 (Table 1), the second highest harvest on record for this DAU and well above the previous 3-year average of 131. 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. Although no data has been recorded in the past few years, 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 2007, approximately equal numbers of bears were taken in the DAU via still-hunting/stalking (32%) and over bait (34%). Fourteen percent of bears from this DAU were taken with the use of hounds (Table 2). Seventy-seven percent of the black bears harvested in DAU 1B were taken with a rifle (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2007 harvest was 41% and the 3-year average was 43%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years old has typically been within management objectives of less than 25%. 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 167 during 2007, more in line with the typical annual harvest as compared to the high harvest of 200 bears in 2005. 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, although criteria for heavy harvest has never been met.

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 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

Still hunting/stalking and the use of bait accounted for most of the bear harvest in this DAU in 2007. Still hunting/stalking accounted for 34% of the bears taken. Twenty-eight percent of the bears harvested were taken with the use of bait, with most of the remainder split evenly between use of hounds and incidental harvest (Table 2). Over 75% of the black bears killed in DAU 1C were taken with rifles (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2007 harvest was 38%, bringing the 3-year average to 32%. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years is not available for 2007 at this time, but the age structure of this population is typically older than desired by objective.

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 96 during 2007. The 2007 harvest was more in line with recent years excluding 2005. Females made up 35% of the harvest and are within the objectives established for this DAU. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years is not available for 2007 at this time, but this DAU has been within objectives in recent years. 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, increased to 119 in 2005 and then dropped down to 81 in 2006

(Table 1). The 2007 harvest of 96 bears is very near the 3-year average of 101. Spotting/stalking is the primary method used to hunt bears in this DAU, with 38% of the 2007 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 fall 2000, with 19% of the 2007 harvest taken with the aid of bait. Nearly all black bears taken in this DAU are taken with a rifle (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty-five percent of the 2007 harvest was female bears, reflective of a moderate harvest regime. The percentage of males ≥ 5 years is not available for 2007 at this time, but has been within objectives in recent years.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2007 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 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 60 during 2007, 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 Black Bear Plan, the Department targeted a moderate harvest objective to allow for additional hunting opportunities. The male age structure of DAU 2B has met the criteria for moderate harvest in only 2 years since 1997.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2007 harvest of 57 bears was within the range seen during the past 10 years. Eighty-five percent of the 2007 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.

Seventy-two percent of the 2007 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 percentage of females in the harvest (objective 30-40%) for this DAU has only been met 4 times in the past 13 years, indicating a population that is under-harvested relative to objective (Table 5). The percentage of males ≥ 5 years is not available for 2007 at this time, but has historically been above objectives, again indicating a population that is under-utilized.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2007 dog-training season in this DAU was 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

The proportion of females and adult males in the harvest indicates that this population is lightly harvested.

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
2006	63	21	0	84	83	55	0	139	146	76	1	223
2007	78	20	0	98	60	50	1	111	138	70	1	209
3-yr. avg.	70	22	0	93	61	46	1	107	131	68	1	200
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
2006	21	14	0	35	45	44	0	89	66	58	0	124
2007	23	13	0	36	66	49	0	115	89	62	0	151
3-yr. avg.	26	13	0	40	52	45	0	97	78	58	0	136
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

Table 1. Continued.

DAU	Spring				Fall				Entire season				
	Year	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
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	
2006	40	16	0	56	64	30	0	94	104	46	0	150	
2007	52	24	1	77	51	39	0	90	103	63	1	167	
3-yr. avg.	54	24	1	79	57	36	0	93	111	60	1	172	
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	
2006	25	11	0	36	34	18	0	52	59	29	0	88	
2007	27	11	0	38	35	23	0	58	62	34	0	96	
3-yr. avg.	31	13	0	43	34	24	0	58	65	36	0	101	
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	
2006	31	11	0	42	9	3	0	12	40	14	0	54	
2007	39	12	0	51	7	2	0	9	46	14	0	60	
3-yr. avg.	35	12	0	47	8	3	0	11	43	15	0	57	

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
2006	0	9	189	22	3	223
2007	0	2	181	16	10	209
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	22	48	12	7	134
2006	44	20	35	20	5	124
2007	52	21	48	27	3	151
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

Table 2. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2004	30	30	37	37	2	136
2005	54	26	86	30	4	200
2006	45	27	47	29	2	150
2007	46	26	56	34	5	167
1L						
1994	1	13	18	14	3	49
1995	0	10	19	18	16	63
1996	0	10	26	26	0	62
1997	0	11	37	27	5	80
1998	0	23	45	28	1	97
1999	0	21	41	22	0	84
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
2006	11	19	40	16	2	88
2007	18	18	36	24	0	96
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
2006	35	5	7	5	2	54
2007	43	3	9	5	0	60

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
2006	191	25	1	1	5	223
2007	185	23	0	1	0	209
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
2006	104	16	0	1	3	124
2007	116	27	1	6	1	151
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
2004	115	14	2	4	1	136
2005	171	23	1	3	2	200
2006	127	19	1	2	1	150
2007	126	30	1	2	1	167
1L						
1994	43	3	0	1	2	49
1995	56	3	0	4	0	63
1996	59	2	0	1	0	62
1997	74	3	0	2	1	80
1998	92	4	0	2	1	99
1999	80	2	0	2	0	84
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
2006	83	4	0	1	0	88
2007	89	6	0	1	0	96
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
2006	42	10	1	1	0	54
2007	45	11	3	0	1	60

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
2006	M	22	15	14	24	14	15	0	0	0	15	119
	F	8	4	5	8	5	7	2	3	0	18	60
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age ^a											Total
Year	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
2002	M	14	23	9	4	0	6	1	2	0	3	62	
	F	6	11	6	8	3	2	1	5	1	9	52	
2003	M	14	16	20	7	6	4	4	1	1	2	75	
	F	5	15	11	2	7	5	4	4	1	11	65	
2004	M	9	16	18	13	2	2	1	2	0	1	64	
	F	6	10	9	4	2	0	1	0	4	11	47	
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	
2006	M	13	16	16	8	4	1	2	1	1	2	64	
	F	7	7	7	5	2	3	1	7	3	9	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	
2006	M	13	21	7	21	10	10	2	0	3	7	94	
	F	5	5	4	5	3	3	1	1	1	7	35	
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	

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age ^a										Total
Year	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1998	M	0	5	3	6	0	4	0	1	0	3	22
	F	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
1999	M	0	7	15	4	8	2	3	1	3	6	49
	F	0	2	9	1	5	0	4	1	1	7	30
2000	M	0	6	1	7	4	5	1	2	0	3	29
	F	1	3	2	4	0	1	0	1	0	2	14
2001	M	8	4	5	4	5	3	6	2	1	3	41
	F	1	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	0	6	20
2002	M	9	30	3	12	2	9	1	6	4	3	79
	F	5	11	4	3	4	4	1	5	1	6	44
2003	M	11	14	15	3	2	2	4	2	3	3	59
	F	4	5	5	2	3	1	5	2	0	6	33
2004	M	8	11	5	7	4	2	3	1	1	5	47
	F	2	4	3	6	1	4	2	3	0	4	29
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
2006	M	10	12	7	9	4	5	0	1	0	5	53
	F	1	6	0	3	5	4	0	2	0	5	26
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
2006	M	3	7	6	6	5	9	0	1	0	3	40
	F	1	1	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	4	14

^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
2006	223	34	37	44
2007	209	34		
3-year avg.	200	34		
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
2006	124	47	17	11
2007	151	41		
3-year avg.	136	43		
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

Table 5. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i>	% Females	% Males ≥5	# Males ≥5
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
2005	200	26	31	37
2006	150	31	34	32
2007	167	38		
3-year avg.	172	32		
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
2006	88	33	28	15
2007	96	35		
3-year avg.	101	36		
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
2006	54	26	45	18

Table 5. Continued.

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i>	% Females	% Males ≥ 5	# Males ≥ 5
2007	60	23		
3-year avg.	57	26		
Desired levels		30-40	25-35	

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

Year ^a	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

^a No data available after 2004.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</u>		

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Reported harvest for 2007 for the Clearwater Region was 814 black bears. This total represents an 8% increase from 2006 and was 2% higher than the previous 3-year average of 799 black bears. Total harvest by DAU in 2007 was 150 in DAU 1D, 62 in DAU 1E, 147 in DAU 1F, 319 in DAU 2A, and 136 in DAU 3A.

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

Concerns over elk calf recruitment rates in DAUs 2A and 3A 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 (82% in DAU 2A, 68% in DAU 3A) and with hunting over bait being the predominant method (2007 data). For the rest of the region (DAUs 1D, 1E, and 1F), 44% of the 2007 harvest occurred during the spring season and only 23% occurred over bait, with the use of hounds as the predominant method of harvest in 1E and 1D.

Bait station surveys were conducted in DAU's 1E and 2A during the reporting period with visitation rates of 20 and 21%, 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 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 2007 occurred in the fall (51%) by hound hunters (53%), incidental harvest (23%), and still hunters (21%). 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 (43) which slightly exceeds the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for the 2005-2007 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 2007, 150 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, an increase of 4% from the previous 3-year average from 2004-2006 (Table 2). Thirty-four percent of the black bears harvested were females in 2007 (Table 3). Most black bears (51%) 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 2005-2007 indicate that criteria were met. However, 34% of the 2007 harvest and 41% of the 2005-2007 harvest consisted of females which again slightly exceeded the target level and is possibly indicative of dispersing younger females (Table 4).

The method of harvest most preferred by hunters in 2007 was hound hunting, which accounted for 53% of the total harvest, followed by incidental harvest at 23% and still hunting at 21% (Table 5). This represents a shift from 1990-1992, when baiting was the most common method used. Weapon type used most frequently was rifle (87%) followed by archery at 9% (Table 6).

Depredations

One black bear depredation was reported in DAU 1D in 2007 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

An 8-week dog-training season from 1 June-31 July was offered in DAU 1D during 2007 (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) again slightly exceeded the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for 2005-2007. Under guidance of the previous (1992-2000) Black Bear Management Plan, black bear harvest in DAU 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 62 black bears during 2007, which is nearly identical to the previous 3-year average of 63.7. Fifty percent of this total was females. Fifty-one percent of the harvest occurred in the fall, with still hunting being the most common method employed (34%).

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 2007 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2007 was 31 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were conducted in 2007 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 June and July 2007. A 20% visitation rate was observed (Table 1) which was a 55% decrease over that observed in 2006 (44%) and was 38% lower than the previous 3-year average of 32%.

Harvest Characteristics

There were 62 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2007. This total is nearly identical to the previous 3-year average of 63.7. Forty-seven and 53% were taken in the spring and fall, respectively (Table 2). Harvest criteria were within the moderate range as desired based upon plan goals, although percent females (43) again slightly exceeded the objective of $\leq 40\%$ for 2005-2007. (Table 4). The most frequent method of harvest was still stalk, accounting for 34% of the harvest (Table 5). Weapon type most frequently used was rifle which accounted for 87% of the harvest (Table 6).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. Four depredation complaints were recorded during 2007 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season was offered in DAU 1E in 2007 (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. The 3-year (2005-2007) harvest was 43% 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 147 black bears during 2007, an 11% increase over the previous 3-year average. More than half of the black bears (63%) harvested were taken during the fall, a change from pre-1993, when spring harvest predominated. The most frequent harvest methods were bait (36%), hounds (20%), and still hunting (18%). Rifle (88%) and archery (7%) were the most common weapon types used. The 2005-2007 harvest criteria indicated that percent females (38%) in the harvest exceeded the target criteria of $\leq 35\%$, while % males ≥ 5 years old was met at 28%. 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 roadless 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 the 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 2007 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 147 black bears harvested in DAU 1F in 2007 with 63% being taken during the fall season (Table 2). Females comprised 37% of the harvest. Management objectives under the new plan indicate moderate harvest although percent females (38%) exceeded the criteria of $\leq 35\%$ (Tables 3 and 4). The most frequent methods of harvest were bait at 36%, followed by hounds (20%) and still hunting (18%) (Table 5). Rifle was the most frequent (88%) weapon type used to harvest a bear in 2007 (Table 6).

Depredations

Four depredation complaints were recorded for this DAU in 2007 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 16 May-31 July 2007 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 in recent years, the high-quality black bear habitat in this DAU should allow black bear populations to be maintained at desired levels in reserve and roadless 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 2007, 319 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, an increase of 18% from 2006, and also 6% higher than the previous 3-year average of 300. Thirty-seven percent of the harvest consisted of females. Eighty-two percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season. Bait hunting accounted for 81% of the harvest with rifle (69%) being the most common weapon 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 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 (Table 1). Fifty-nine transects and 290 sites were sampled with a visitation rate of 20.7% in 2007. This hit rate represents a decrease of 8% from 2006 and is 22% lower than the previous 3-year average of 27.2. In general, sites on closed roads and trails have received higher visitation rates than those on open roads.

Harvest Characteristics

In 2007, 319 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, an increase of 18% from 2006, and also 6% higher than the previous 3-year average of 300. Eighty-two percent of these black bears were harvested during spring season (Table 2). Of the black bears harvested, 37% 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 have indicated harvest levels that were light to moderate (Table 4).

Hunting over bait accounted for 81% of the harvest in DAU 2A, followed by still/stalk at 8% (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used accounting for 69% of the harvest and was followed by archery at 25% (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 8 years since, with none in 2004, 2005, or 2006, and only one in 2007 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

A 1-month dog-training season occurred during 2007 from 1-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 2A receives moderate hunting pressure. The DAU is characterized by roadless habitats, public land, healthy black bear populations, and liberal hunting season frameworks. Harvest is light to moderate in the male component and 31% were ≥ 5 years old for 2005-2007. The adult female segment remains secure in the roadless 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 2007, 136 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A. This total represents a 12% decline from the previous year's harvest of 154 bears in 2006. Thirty-two percent of the harvest consisted of females. This DAU consistently met the old (1992-2000) management criteria objectives, and new (2000-2010) criteria have also suggested a lightly harvested population. Sixty-five 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 2007, 136 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3A (Table 2). This total represents a 12% decline from the previous year's harvest of 154 bears in 2006. It should also 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 prior to 2003 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 136 bears harvested in 2007, 32% were females. Only 32% of the black bears were harvested during fall. Harvest criteria in the new (2000-2010) plan indicate light harvest levels. Fifty-two percent of the males harvested during the 2005-2007 reporting period were ≥ 5 years old (Tables 3 and 4). Most of the black bears harvested in 2007 (65%) were taken over bait (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used (85%) to harvest a bear in the 2007 season (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 2007 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season was offered in DAU 3A during 2007 (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 have consistently fallen 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
2006 ^a	10, 12	June-July	64	64	319	61	19.1	3.7
	11	June-July	16	16	80	35	43.8	9.2
2007 ^a	10, 12	June-July	64	59	290	60	20.7	3.9
	11	June-July	16	16	80	16	20.0	7.4

^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, 1998-present.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
1D												
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
2006	32	26	0	58	41	42	0	83	73	68	0	141
2007	42	30	2	74	55	21	0	76	97	51	2	150
3-yr. avg.	37	26	1	63	47	33	0	80	84	58	1	143
1E												
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
2006	16	13	0	29	20	14	0	34	36	27	0	63
2007	16	13	0	29	15	18	0	33	31	31	0	62
3-yr. avg.	18	11	0	29	18	16	0	35	36	27	0	63
1F												
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
2006	40	22	0	62	47	27	0	74	87	49	0	136
2007	34	20	0	54	59	34	0	93	93	54	0	147
3-yr. avg.	37	22	0	59	51	33	0	84	88	55	0	143
2A												
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

Table 2. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
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
2006	157	63	1	221	25	13	0	38	182	76	1	259
2007	163	99	0	262	37	20	0	57	200	119	0	319
3-yr. avg.	163	90	0	253	28	15	0	42	191	104	0	295
3A												
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
2006	83	48	0	131	14	9	0	23	97	57	0	154
2007	67	25	0	92	26	18	0	44	93	43	0	136
3-yr. avg.	71	36	0	107	21	13	0	34	93	49	0	142

Table 3. Age distribution of black bear, Clearwater Region, 1998-present.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1D													
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
2006	M	0	18	13	4	11	5	8	0	1	3	5	68
	F	0	10	14	10	9	3	5	0	1	3	9	64
2007	M	1	13	30	14	11	7	3	3	3	3	5	93
	F	0	6	7	13	5	4	1	3	0	2	5	46
1E													
1998	M	2	6	13	5	5	2	4	2	2	0	3	44
	F	1	2	7	2	5	0	2	1	0	1	3	24
1999	M	0	9	6	8	3	3	1	3	0	1	5	39
	F	0	3	2	6	5	3	1	1	2	0	3	26
2000	M	0	8	14	6	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	40
	F	0	0	3	3	5	0	2	0	2	0	6	21
2001	M	0	7	10	9	3	3	1	0	2	2	2	39
	F	0	4	4	5	2	2	0	3	0	0	4	24
2002	M	0	10	12	6	3	2	4	2	2	3	5	49
	F	0	1	7	5	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	25
2003	M	1	9	8	4	5	4	2	0	2	0	3	38
	F	0	4	2	6	1	2	0	1	1	2	7	26
2004	M	1	7	12	6	7	3	4	1	1	0	0	42
	F	0	4	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	19
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
2006	M	0	7	0	13	6	3	3	2	0	0	2	27
	F	0	5	9	5	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	36
2007	M	1	5	13	1	3	3	1	0	2	0	1	28
	F	1	6	6	2	5	3	0	0	1	1	3	30
1F													
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2006	M	0	13	15	5	16	6	4	4	4	3	5	41
	F	0	5	4	8	4	3	5	2	3	2	5	75
2007	M	1	12	26	13	8	5	8	11	1	1	3	51
	F	1	3	14	3	6	4	1	2	2	4	11	89
2A													
1998	M	0	8	24	39	28	15	11	5	8	4	21	163
	F	1	5	6	15	9	7	4	7	2	4	25	85
1999	M	1	3	14	21	20	31	13	13	8	8	19	151
	F	0	2	9	7	14	10	10	12	5	4	23	96
2000	M	0	0	9	15	0	16	15	9	6	5	18	93
	F	0	0	2	7	13	11	4	2	0	0	8	47
2001	M	0	23	7	11	23	28	13	23	10	5	25	168
	F	0	9	1	12	4	7	8	7	6	8	33	95
2002	M	0	4	101	5	7	10	9	12	11	5	10	174
	F	0	3	28	5	5	2	6	8	4	0	10	71
2003	M	1	22	41	80	6	9	6	4	9	4	22	204
	F	0	7	8	41	4	7	8	6	3	6	22	112
2004	M	0	9	42	31	43	3	6	5	12	5	18	174
	F	1	5	14	14	32	0	5	5	8	6	23	113
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
2006	M	0	8	48	20	34	11	11	2	3	3	10	60
	F	0	1	7	6	17	4	4	1	1	0	19	150
2007	M	0	18	35	43	20	25	5	10	0	2	16	94
	F	0	8	9	21	9	11	6	9	0	3	18	174
3A													
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
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
2006	M	0	6	15	7	16	12	13	2	4	3	16	51
	F	0	2	3	8	11	5	2	1	3	1	15	94
2007	M	0	7	13	12	9	5	2	8	1	4	19	38
	F	0	3	6	7	4	4	5	1	1	0	7	80

Table 4. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Clearwater Region, 1998-present.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ^b ≥5	# Males ^b ≥5
1D				
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	139	40	25	20
2006	141	48	32	22
2007	150	34	26	24
3-year avg.	143	40	28	22
Desired levels		≤40	≥20	
1E				
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	65	35	26	10
2006	63	43	28	10
2007	62	50	23	7
3-year avg.	63	43	26	9
Desired levels		≤40	≥20	
1F				
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
2005	145	42	31	24
2006	136	36	35	26
2007	147	37	33	29
3-year avg.	143	38	33	26
Desired levels		≤35	≥20	

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ^b ≥5	# Males ^b ≥5
2A				
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	307	38	33	61
2006	260	29	27	40
2007	319	37	33	58
3-year avg.	295	35	31	53
Desired levels		≤40	≥25	
3A				
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	135	35	55	46
2006	154	37	53	50
2007	136	32	49	39
3-year avg.	142	35	52	45
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, 1998-present.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1D						
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
2006	3	83	22	32	1	141
2007	1	80	32	35	2	150
1E						
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
2006	15	7	26	14	1	63
2007	19	8	21	11	3	62
1F						
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
2006	56	30	29	21	0	136
2007	53	30	26	34	4	147
2A						
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

Table 5. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2005	236	13	40	11	7	307
2006	184	13	43	13	5	258
2007	259	11	26	21	2	319
3A						
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
2006	104	5	31	11	3	154
2007	89	1	31	10	5	136

Table 6. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Clearwater Region, 1998-present.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
1D						
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
2006	118	13	1	4	5	141
2007	131	13	0	5	1	150
1E						
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
2006	51	7	1	2	2	63
2007	54	7	0	0	1	62
1F						
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
2006	111	23	0	2	0	136
2007	129	10	3	1	4	147
2A						
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

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
2005	224	69	6	6	2	307
2006	191	54	4	3	7	259
2007	221	79	6	8	5	319
3A						
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
2006	136	9	3	4	2	154
2007	116	12	1	5	2	136

Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Clearwater Region, 1998-present.

Year	DAU					Total
	1D	1E	1F	2A	3A	
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
2006	2	9	1	0	0	12
2007	1	4	4	1	0	10

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</u>		

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

Five hundred thirty-nine black bears were reported harvested in Area 1 of Southwest Region in 2007. A mark-recapture study was implemented in DAU 1H in June 2007 to assess bear population characteristics. Forty-eight bears were captured; 24 were males and 24 were females. Age results are pending. A DNA mark-recapture project was initiated in summer 2007 to estimate population size of black bears in GMU 39. A total of 1,000 hair samples were collected from 232 visited trap sites over a 3-month period (4 rounds). Following visual screening, 800 hair samples were sent for DNA analysis. Results are expected in fall 2008. Reported harvest was 169, 83, and 287 black bears for DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K, respectively, during 2007 hunting seasons. The reported harvest in Area 1 in 2007 was 21% higher than that reported in 2006. 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 harvest in DAU 1K in 2007. 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.

Fifty-four black bears were reported harvested in DAU 3B in 2007. 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 characteristic 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 are categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1G is 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 2007 framework (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

No population surveys were conducted in this area during the reporting period. Previous bait station survey results are summarized in Table 2.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest in DAU 1G increased 29% in 2007 when compared to 2006 reported harvest (Table 3). The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in fall than spring in 2007. Age data indicate yearling male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Criteria for percent females in the harvest was within acceptable limits (Table 5). There was adequate distribution of harvest among user groups in DAU 1G in 2007 (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. One livestock depredation was reported in DAU 1G in 2007 (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 2007 harvest season reflected the seventh year of monitoring this change. Younger bears have become more preponderant in the harvest. The 29% increase in the harvest in 2007 was in part due to an extreme soft mast failure that increased bear vulnerability to hunters. The current season framework should be monitored through the 2008 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 2007 (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

A mark-recapture study was implemented in the Little Weiser and Middle Fork Weiser River drainages to assess population characteristics. Forty-eight bears were foot-snared, ear-tagged, DNA-sampled, and released. Sex ratio was 50 males:50 females. Age data is pending lab analysis. A hair-snare grid was developed for implementation in July 2008.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest in 2007 was very similar to that reported for 2006 (Table 3). More bears were harvested in the fall season than in the spring season. Age data indicate 2-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Percent female in the 2007 harvest was similar to that reported in 2006 (Table 5). 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 livestock depredation was recorded in 2007 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 28% in 2007). It may turn out that the controlled hunt area is too small to protect the wider ranging adult male black bear, and a harvest rate of 30% or greater females may be the norm for a lightly-hunted population under these conditions. 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 2007 framework (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

A DNA mark-recapture project was initiated in summer 2007 to estimate population size of black bears in GMU 39. The study area was divided into sampling units in which barbed wire enclosures were set around small bait or scent lures to capture hair samples from visiting bears. DNA extracted from bear hair samples is 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 enables estimation of the bear population within the study area. Previous attempts to estimate population size of black bears in GMU 39 by DNA analysis indicated few recaptures of bears and resulted in very high variation in the estimates. Consequently, study methodology was revised to allow more intensive sampling over a smaller area and improve precision of the estimates. In June 2007, approximately 108 16 km² sampling units were established in that portion of Unit 39 north of the Middle Fork Boise River and south and east of State Highway 21. A total of 1,000 hair samples were collected from 232 visited trap sites over a 3-month period (4 rounds). Following visual screening, 800 hair samples were sent for DNA analysis. Results are expected in fall 2008.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest increased 8% in 2007 when compared to 2006 totals in DAU 1K (Table 3). Hunters harvested more bears in spring than fall in 2007. Age data indicate 3-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Criteria for percent females in the harvest are within acceptable levels (Table 5). Baiting was the most frequently used method to kill black bears in DAU 1K in 2007 (Table 6). Rifle was the most reported weapon of choice in DAU 1K (Table 7).

Depredations

Black bear depredations occur annually in Southwest Region. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations do occur. No depredations were recorded in DAU 1K in 2007 (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 in 2007 was very similar to that reported in 2006 (Table 3). Black bear harvest in DAU 3B was greater in the fall than spring season. Age data indicate 3-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Percent females in the harvest was similar to that reported in 2006 (Table 5). Still hunting was the primary method of harvest 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 2007 (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 nonresident 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
2007	1	7/10-8/6	92	66	330	108	33	5.3

Table 3. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Southwest Region, 1997-present.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1G									
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	41	12	53	57	39	96	98	51	149
2004	34	15	49	55	33	88	89	48	137
2005	35	17	52	61	29	90	96	46	142
2006	40	8	48	58	25	83	98	33	131
2007	34	23	57	69	43	112	103	66	169
3-yr. avg.	36	16	52	63	32	95	99	48	147
1H									
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	6	24	23	28	51	41	34	75
2004	17	14	31	33	18	51	50	32	82
2005	30	8	38	23	26	49	53	34	87
2006	26	18	44	20	25	45	46	43	89
2007	17	18	35	27	21	48	44	39	83
3-yr. avg.	24	15	39	23	24	47	47	39	86
1K									
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	55	26	81	76	65	141	130	91	221
2001	66	30	96	65	42	107	131	72	203
2002	104	35	139	77	56	133	181	91	272
2003	87	59	146	47	29	76	134	88	222
2004	105	44	149	59	45	104	164	89	253
2005	109	54	163	48	37	85	157	91	248
2006	86	38	124	71	32	103	157	70	227
2007	109	61	170	72	45	117	181	106	287
3-yr. avg.	101	51	152	64	38	102	165	89	254

Table 3. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
3B									
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	17	7	24	28	14	42
2006	13	7	20	22	9	31	35	16	51
2007	12	4	16	25	13	38	37	17	54
3-yr. avg.	12	6	18	21	10	31	33	16	49

Table 4. Age distribution of black bear, Southwest Region, 1997-present.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
1G														
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	7	98
	F	1	8	8	7	4	7	2	1	1	1	8	3	51
2004	M	3	10	21	14	12	5	6	0	3	2	8	5	89
	F	1	0	7	8	5	5	0	2	2	3	9	6	48
2005	M	0	13	14	16	11	15	1	7	2	1	15	1	96
	F	0	3	3	7	6	8	4	2	2	2	8	1	46
2006	M	0	8	13	18	21	10	6	4	3	1	9	5	98
	F	0	2	3	3	8	4	1	1	3	1	4	3	33
2007	M	2	16	14	14	7	10	4	5	2	10	10	9	103
	F	0	11	9	7	4	7	3	3	5	2	10	5	66
1H														
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	4	34
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
2006	M	0	5	7	7	7	2	3	2	2	0	7	4	46
	F	0	3	8	5	3	4	8	2	2	2	6	0	43

Table 4. Continued.

DAU	Year	Sex	Age										Unknown	Total	
			Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			10+
2007	M		0	5	8	6	7	5	0	2	1	2	4	4	44
	F		0	2	4	4	6	2	2	1	1	4	9	4	39
1K															
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	12	181
	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		2	5	26	2	10	4	2	6	6	1	14	11	89
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
2006	M		1	14	52	18	21	5	9	6	3	6	15	7	157
	F		0	4	17	6	15	4	5	0	2	1	12	4	70
2007	M		1	39	25	40	12	22	5	6	3	3	14	11	181
	F		1	17	9	17	7	13	2	3	3	2	15	17	106
3B															
1997	M		0	1	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	13
	F		0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	11
1998	M		0	0	1	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	3	5	18
	F		0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	4	0	11
1999	M		0	2	1	3	1	3	4	1	0	0	4	2	21
	F		0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	5	4	15
2000	M		1	0	9	4	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	26
	F		0	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	14
2001	M		0	2	6	7	1	4	1	1	2	4	2	4	34
	F		0	3	0	5	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	17
2002	M		0	1	7	4	11	5	2	0	5	0	9	3	47
	F		0	0	1	4	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	4	22
2003	M		0	4	2	4	1	8	1	1	1	0	9	5	36
	F		0	3	0	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	5	0	17
2004	M		0	4	8	4	2	6	9	1	4	1	4	1	44
	F		0	0	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	6	5	21
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
2006	M		0	2	9	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	9	1	35
	F		0	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	5	0	16

Table 4. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
2007	M	0	4	0	8	3	1	1	1	3	4	6	6	37
	F	0	0	1	4	1	2	1	2	0	0	4	2	17

Table 5. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values, criteria, and median ages, Southwest Region, 1997-present.

DAU	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	Median age			% Males ≥5	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
Year			Males	Females	Total			
1G								
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	129
2003	149	34	3	4	3	34	97	139
2004	137	35	3	5	4	30	90	126
2005	142	32	4	5	4	44	95	140
2006	131	25	4	4	4	35	98	123
2007	169	39	4	4	4	44	103	155
3-year avg.	147	33	4	4	4	40	99	139
Desired levels		30-40	≥4	≥6	≥5	25-35		
1H								
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	76	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
2006	89	48	4	5	4	38	46	85
2007	83	47	4	5	4	35	44	75
3-year avg.	86	45	4	5	4	38	48	80
Desired levels		≤30	≥4	≥6	≥5	≥35		
1K								
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	272	34	3	4	4	34	180	250
2003	222	40	3	5	4	44	134	195
2004	253	35	3	4	3	25	164	226
2005	248	37	3	5	4	38	157	238
2006	227	31	3	4	3	29	157	216
2007	287	37	3	4	3	31	181	259

Table 5. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	%	Median age			%	# Males	<i>n</i> ^b
			Females	Males	Females			
3-year avg.	254	35	3	4	3	33	165	238
Desired levels		30-40	≥4	≥6	≥5	25-35		
3B								
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
2006	51	31	5	7	6	53	35	50
2007	54	31	5	5	5	52	37	46
3-year avg.	48	32	5	6	6	52	33	44
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, 1997-present.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
1G						
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	29	4	13	2	83	131
2002	36	29	39	36	2	142
2003	42	32	40	35	0	149
2004	38	16	49	33	1	137
2005	45	31	32	32	2	142
2006	41	16	32	40	2	131
2007	70	18	38	36	7	169
1H						
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	41	3	0	75
2004	0	23	54	5	0	82
2005	0	29	53	3	2	87
2006	0	23	62	4	0	89
2007	0	27	51	3	2	83
1K						
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	47	7	253
2005	104	42	53	41	8	248
2006	89	34	64	31	9	227
2007	125	33	87	33	9	287
3B						
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

Table 6. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hound	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
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	6	2	23	10	1	42
2006	5	1	31	13	1	51
2007	7	4	21	21	1	54

Table 7. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Southwest Region, 1997-present.

DAU							
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total	
1G							
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	121	16	3	9	0	149	
2004	100	25	5	5	2	137	
2005	103	26	2	8	3	142	
2006	89	31	1	7	3	131	
2007	104	45	4	10	6	169	
1H							
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	62	5	0	8	0	75	
2004	69	6	2	3	2	82	
2005	80	4	0	2	1	87	
2006	82	4	1	2	0	89	
2007	72	7	0	2	2	83	
1K							
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	191	44	7	8	3	253	
2005	186	48	3	7	4	248	
2006	172	37	8	7	3	227	
2007	223	45	8	11	0	287	
3B							
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	

Table 7. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Handgun	Other	Total
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	40	1	0	0	1	42
2006	47	1	0	3	0	51
2007	51	1	0	0	2	54

Table 8. Black bear depredation complaints, Southwest Region, 1997-present.

Year	DAU				Total
	1G	1H	1K	3B	
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
2006	1	5	2	0	8
2007	1	1	0	0	2

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</u>		

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Fifty-nine black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2007, 27% more than the 2004-2006 mean of 46 black bears. The 2007 hunter harvest of 59 bears was 65% greater than the 10-year average of 36 bears taken in DAU 4A. Baiting, hound hunting, incidental, and still-hunting accounted for 44%, 17%, 9%, and 31%, respectively, of the black bears harvested. Most black bears were taken by rifle (75%), while 10 bears (17%) were killed with archery equipment, 4 bears (7%) were killed with a handgun, and 1 bear (2%) was killed with a shotgun. The Department recorded 2 bears killed in response to depredation complaints during this reporting period, which brings the total number of bears harvested during 2007 to 61.

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 River 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 continued in DAU 4A in 2007. Twenty transects were sampled in July 2007 with 7 transects in Unit 44, 2 in Unit 45, 6 in Unit 48, and 5 in Unit 49. Of the 100 bait sites surveyed, bears visited 13 during the 21-day survey period (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

The 2007 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2006. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A).

Fifty-nine black bears were harvested in 2007, which is 27% greater than the 3-year average and 65% greater than the 10-year average for this DAU. Seventy-one percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. The spring harvest of 42 bears represents the highest spring harvest recorded for the previous 10 years (Table 2).

Thirty-four percent of male bears taken in 2007 were ≥ 5 years old (Table 3). Total harvest (hunter harvest and depredation kill) of black bears in DAU 4A in 2007 was adequate for the third year in a row to allow application of harvest criteria established in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 4).

Still and incidental hunting accounted for 39% of the total hunter harvest of all black bears harvested in this DAU in 2007. Twenty-six (44%) of 59 hunter-harvested black bears were taken over bait in 2007. Hound hunting comprised 3% of the harvest for 2007. Eight hunters (14%) reported harvesting a black bear with a combination of bait and hounds (Table 5).

Rifles accounted for 75% of the harvest in 2007, while bows accounted for 17%, handguns accounted for 7%, and 2% were harvested with a shotgun (Table 6).

Most of the depredation complaints reported to the Department involved nuisance black bears in the Big Wood River Valley. In 2007, we received 63 complaints for this DAU (Table 7).

Wildlife Services personnel handle depredations on livestock. From 1995-2007, we received mortality reports on 25 black bears dispatched by Wildlife Services for this DAU (Table 7). In 2007, Wildlife Services personnel reported dispatching 2 black bears.

Dog-training Season

A standard dog-training season of 1 June-31 July was implemented in 2003 and remained in place through 2007.

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 31% females and 27%

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 2005-2007 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 2007.

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
2006	44, 45, 48, 49	7/10-8/1	20	20	100	9	9	4.7
2007	44, 45, 48, 49	7/8-7/31	20	20	100	13	13	5.5

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

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
4A									
1994	12	5	17	7	6	13	19	11	30
1995	8	2	10	7	1	8	15	3	18
1996	7	3	10	1	2	3	8	5	13
1997	8	5	13	9	5	14	17	10	27
1998	8	5	13	9	2	11	17	7	24
1999	9	4	13	3	6	9	12	10	22
2000	10	1	11	18	13	31	28	14	42
2001	9	4	13	15	9	24	24	13	37
2002	10	2	12	15	9	24	25	11	36
2003	12	7	19	9	2	11	21	9	30
2004	22	7	29	14	10	24	36	17	53
2005	19	5	24	17	10	27	36	15	51
2006	12	2	14	12	9	24	24	11	35
2007	28	14	42	11	6	17	39	20	59
3-yr. avg.	18	5	22	14	10	24	32	14	46

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
2006	M	0	3	4	2	8	2	2	1	0	0	2	24
	F	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	11
2007	M	0	8	4	11	3	4	3	1	0	1	4	39
	F	0	3	2	5	2	2	0	0	3	0	2	19

^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
2006	35	31	20	7
2007	60	34	66	13
3-yr. average	46	31	35	12
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, 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
2006	12	3	11	7	2	35
2007	26	2	18	5	8 ^a	59

^a Number of black bears that were harvested using a combination of bait and hounds.

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
2006	28	7	0	0	0	35
2007	44	10	0	4	1	59

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
	2006	0	17	17
	2007	2	63	65

^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-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</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 in DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D was the highest ever recorded, to that point, since implementation of the present DAU framework. 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 have been 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 and in 2006 harvest dropped to 140. In 2007, bear harvest in DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D once again reached an all-time high. A total of 243 bears were harvested, which was an increase of 74% over the 2006 harvest. This increased harvest was likely a result of the extremely dry conditions in the region during the 2007 season (see Climatic Conditions below).

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 had 3-year average annual harvests of 41, 59, and 78 known-age black bears, respectively, for the 2005-2007 period. Three-year average values for percent males ≥ 5 years old were 36, 25, and 21 for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D, respectively. Three-year average values for percent females in the harvest were 28, 29, and 37 for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D, respectively. DAU 4B was below the female criteria and slightly above the male criteria, suggesting a light harvest. DAU 4C harvest was slightly below the percent female criteria and within the male criteria, indicating a light to moderate harvest. DAU 4D was within the percent female criteria and below the male criteria, suggesting a moderate to heavy harvest.

Climatic Conditions

Spring and summer weather conditions during 2007 were warm and very dry, resulting in little green vegetation and a poor mast crop. Winter 2007-2008 precipitation was high and temperatures were highly variable with some very cold temperatures. Spring 2008 was quite moist, with significant snow pack at higher elevations throughout the spring 2008 reporting period and good green-up throughout the rest of the region.

Depredations

There was 1 depredation reported in DAU 4C in 2007, and none in DAUs 4B or 4D (Table 7). The one depredation involved a cow that USDA Wildlife Services personnel said could have been a grizzly bear kill. Nuisance bear complaints were significantly higher during the 2007 portion of the reporting period, compared with the 2008 portion, likely due to dry weather conditions and the limited mast crop in 2007. Department personnel dealt with numerous black bear nuisance situations through public education, hazing, capture and relocation, and transportation of orphaned cubs to rehabilitation facilities; however, the total number of nuisance complaints is not available. The district conservation officers in the region fielded approximately 70 calls concerning nuisance black bears in the fall-winter of 2007, compared to approximately 3 during spring-summer 2008.

A total of 9 orphaned black bear cubs (7 singles, 1 pair) were captured during fall-winter 2007 and transported to wildlife rehabilitation centers in Idaho. Three cubs were relocated from DAU 4B, 3 from DAU 4C, and 3 from Area 5. All of these cubs were captured near human habitations or towns.

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 had also been 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 2005-2007 was 42 bears. In 2007, 58 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 have discontinued this survey for that reason.

Harvest Characteristics

Fifty-eight black bears were checked from DAU 4B in 2007 (Table 2). This was above the current 3-year average for 2005-2007 of 42. The age distribution of checked black bears from DAU 4B is presented in Table 3.

Harvest management criteria (Table 4) did not technically apply in this DAU in the past due to low average annual harvest. Since 2000, harvest levels have surpassed the minimum of 30 bears. Harvest for the 2005-2007 period was below the desired level for percent of the total harvest being female (28%) and slightly above the male harvest criteria (36% \geq 5 years old).

Bait and hound hunters have historically accounted for the majority of the harvest for this DAU (Table 5). This trend continued in 2007. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

Dog-training Seasons

The 2007 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in DAU 4B.

Management Implications

Current management criteria specified in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan have been in effect for 5 years. DAU 4B is to be managed to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range.

Harvest for 2005-2007 was below the desired level for percent of the total harvest being female and slightly above the male harvest criteria, suggesting harvest was below 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 9 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 2005-2007 was slightly below this level for percent females and within the desired level for percent males ≥ 5 years-of-age.

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 have discontinued this survey for that reason.

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 64 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). However, the majority of bears were harvested during the fall season in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Age distribution of black bear checked from DAU 4C is presented in Table 3. Harvest for the 2005-2007 period was within the desired level for males ≥ 5 years old (25%) and slightly below the desired level for percent females (29%), indicating a light to moderate harvest (Table 4).

Incidental hunting dominates the method of take from this DAU (Table 5). This is due to restrictions on use of bait and hounds to protect grizzly bears in much of the DAU. However, the number of bears harvested over bait has grown and it was the second most common method of take during 2007. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

Dog-training Season

The 2007 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in the portion of DAU 4C open to dog training (that portion of Unit 61 west of Howard Creek in Clark County).

Management Implications

The objectives for DAU 4C are to maintain “moderate” harvest levels. Harvest for the 2005-2007 period is within the target for males ≥ 5 years and slightly below the desired level for percent females, indicating a light to moderate 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.

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 97 black bears were harvested in 2007. This represents an increase over the 2005-2007 average annual harvest of 83 bears. Bear harvest has increased substantially over the past 10 years. Reasons for the increase are not well understood. The low harvest in 2006 is due to a late spring leaving much of

the National Forest land closed to vehicle traffic. Harvest objectives for DAU 4D have been set to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” level of harvest. Harvest over 2005-2007 was within this level for percent females and below the desired level for percent males ≥ 5 years-of-age.

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. None of these 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 have discontinued this survey for that reason.

Harvest Characteristics

A total of 97 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2007 (Table 2). This is the highest black bear harvest in this DAU during the past 14 years. Harvest increased annually from 1998-2004, appeared to level off during 2005-2006, and then rose again for 2007. The average annual harvest for the 2005-2007 period was 83. Most of the bears harvested in 2007 in DAU 4D fell in the 1- to -5-year-old age range or were 10+ years old (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 2005-2007 period were 21% of male harvest ≥ 5 years old and 37% of the harvest was female, indicating a moderate to heavy harvest (Table 4).

A large percentage of the black bears harvested in this DAU are taken by baiting, followed by hound and incidental hunting (Table 5). The majority of bears harvested in this DAU were taken with a rifle, followed by archery (Table 6).

Dog-training Season

The 2007 dog-training season ran from 1 June-31 July in DAU 4D.

Management Implications

Management objectives in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan indicate that this population should be harvested at a moderate level. Harvest opportunity was shortened by 2 weeks for the 2005 season because harvest data suggested the population was being harvested at a moderate to heavy level. Current levels suggest the population is still being harvested at a moderate to heavy level, although percent males ≥ 5 years old in the harvest improved slightly from 2006 to 2007. We will continue to monitor and use these levels to guide management direction for 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.

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, 1992-2004.

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
2006	24	3	0	27	4	2	0	6	28	5	0	33
2007	24	19	0	43	9	6	0	15	33	25	0	58
3 yr. avg.	22	10	0	32	7	3	0	10	29	13	0	42
4C												
1994	6	3	0	9	12	5	0	17	18	8	0	26
1995	8	7	0	15	10	4	0	14	18	11	0	29
1996	12	2	0	14	7	8	0	15	19	10	0	29
1997	12	1	0	13	6	4	0	10	18	5	0	23
1998	4	1	0	5	6	3	0	9	10	4	0	14
1999	14	3	0	17	10	5	0	15	24	8	0	32
2000	8	6	0	14	19	5	0	24	27	11	0	38
2001	13	3	0	16	18	6	1	25	31	9	1	41
2002	12	11	0	23	40	7	0	47	52	18	0	70
2003	11	6	0	17	14	9	0	23	25	15	0	40
2004	20	9	0	29	13	7	0	20	33	16	0	49
2005	18	7	0	25	28	8	0	36	46	15	0	61
2006	8	3	0	11	23	11	0	34	31	14	0	45
2007	18	5	0	23	46	18	1	65	64	23	1	88
3 yr. avg.	15	5	0	20	31	12	0	44	46	17	0	64
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

Table 2. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring				Fall				Entire season			
	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total	M	F	U	Total
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
2006	15	1	0	16	25	21	0	46	40	22	0	62
2007	24	16	0	40	35	22	0	57	59	38	0	97
3 yr. avg.	21	10	0	31	30	21	1	52	51	31	1	83

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

DAU Year	Sex	Age											Unknown	Total
		Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	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	1	3	6	6	4	1	1	0	0	2	0	24
	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
2005	M	0	3	7	5	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	0	26
	F	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	10
2006	M	0	1	11	3	2	1	4	2	3	0	1	0	28
	F	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
2007	M	0	5	6	7	2	3	1	2	0	1	3	0	30
	F	0	4	3	3	2	1	4	0	1	0	6	0	24
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
2001	M	0	6	4	5	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	32
	F	0	1	3	2 ^a	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
2005	M	4	4	10	6	2	3	1	4	0	0	4	0	38
	F	4	4	10	6	2	3	1	4	0	0	4	0	15
2006	M	0	7	8	4	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	28
	F	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	14
2007	M	4	13	12	7	10	5	3	2	3	0	2	0	61
	F	3	3	6 ^a	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	21
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
2005	M	0	7	13	19	1	10	1	0	0	1	2	0	54
	F	0	2	5 ^a	6	4	2	0	1	2	3 ^a	10 ^a	0	35
2006	M	0	3	15	8	4	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	36
	F	0	3	4	5	1	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	21
2007	M	0	10	11	15	9	4	1	1	0	0	5	0	56
	F	0	3	6	8	5	3	1	1	1	2	5	0	35

^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	34	31	33	8
2004	39	29	34	10
2005	36	28	35	9
2006	32	13	39	11
2007	54	44	33	10
3-year avg.	41	28	36	10
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	39	38	42	10
2004	48	33	38	12
2005	53	28	32	12
2006	42	33	18	5
2007	82	25	25	15
3-year avg.	59	29	25	11
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females ^b	% Males ≥5	# Males ≥5
1999	42	33	25	7
2000	53	36	29	10
2001	76	39	20	9
2002	81	41	13	6
2003	89	48	24	11
2004	94	41	30	16
2005	86	37	26	14
2006	57	37	17	6
2007	91	38	20	11
3-year avg.	78	37	21	10
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
2006	13	12	1	6	1	33
2007	16	25	6	8	3	58
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
2006	9	4	18	11	3	45
2007	17	2	15	48	6	88
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

Table 5. Continued.

DAU						
Year	Bait	Hounds	Still	Incidental	Other	Total
2004	44	30	7	14	3	98
2005	29	32	15	15	2	93
2006	16	14	12	18	2	62
2007	36	22	12	22	5	97

^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
2006	18	11	0	4	0	33
2007	39	16	0	3	0	58
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
2006	32	11	0	2	0	45
2007	65	17	1	4	1	88
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
2006	36	18	1	6	1	62
2007	58	34	0	5	0	97

^a One bear taken with unknown weapon.

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

Year	4B		4C		4D		Total	
	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.	Dep.	Nuis.
1994 ^a	0		10		15		25	
1995 ^a	1		11		9		21	
1996	0	2	0	11	0	1	0	14
1997	0	0	2	6	4	0	6	6
1998	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2
1999	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
2000	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2001	2	1	3	0	3	1	8	2
2002	2	0	2	0	4	0	8	0
2003	0	0	1	0	5	0	6	0
2004	1	0	0	8	4	4	5	12
2005 ^b	1		2		4		7	
2006 ^b	1		1		6		8	
2007 ^{b, c}	0		1		0		1	

^a Depredation and nuisance complaints combined.

^b No exact nuisance data is available.

^c There were a significant number of nuisance complaints during fall-winter 2007.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Black Bear Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-32</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, 2007 to June 30, 2008</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, 2005, 2006, and 2007, 248 (largest harvest since 1983), 161, 232, 205, 163, and 265 bears were harvested, respectively. Spring harvest in 2007 increased 31%, and fall harvest increased 34% of 2006 levels. Approximately 30% of the harvest has occurred during extended seasons over the last 4 years. In 2007, female harvest for bait and hound hunters was 38%, whereas female harvest for incidental and spot/stalk hunters was 33%. 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 11 is bordered by the Frank Church Wilderness on the north and includes part of the Sawtooth Wilderness in the south. Virtually all of DAU 11 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. Rainfall during summer months in 2007 was below average, with warm, dry weather during late spring. Vegetative growth appeared average early in the season, but was poor during summer. Winter conditions were generally moderate, with normal to above normal temperatures and precipitation. In general, animals entered winter in average to below average body condition, then encountered an average winter, which should have produced moderate over-winter survival for adults. Snow-pack (as measured at higher elevations) was approximately 115% of average by late winter. Onset of spring weather and associated plant phenology was later than normal in 2008. Water-year precipitation to date has been approximately 100% of average at higher elevations (Snotel sites), but only 55% of normal at low elevations (Salmon weather station). Early and late spring conditions were cool and wet.

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest in 2007 increased substantially (+29) from 2006 and from the 3-year average (+19) (Table 2). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 11 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 2007, except for a drop toward the goal of <25% in 2005 (Table 4). Use of bait to harvest bears decreased from 2000 to 2003, but increased from 2004 to 2006 before decreasing in 2007. Use of bait accounted for 36% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2007 (Table 5). Approximately 51% of bears were taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting. Use of rifles (65%) 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 bear-proof trash containers for the 1994 season in Stanley area campgrounds, which helped alleviate some problems. Since then, depredation complaints have decreased. However, last year with a very dry summer and poor berry crop, there were 27 depredation complaints during the reporting period (Table 7).

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate (<25% males \geq 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggested a light harvest rate during the 1990s. Accordingly, the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 7 to 30 June, creating an additional 24 days to hunt black bears. In addition, the fall 1999 season in Unit 36 opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years. Harvest during extended seasons increased from 18% of total harvest in 2000 to 65% in 2006 then decreased to 45% in 2007.

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 increased to 132 animals in 2004, equal to the record high harvest in 2002, but decreased in 2005 and 2006, to 96 and 71, respectively (Table 2). Harvest in 2007 (127) increased by 79% from that of 2006 and was above the 3-year average of 98 (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). In 2006, harvest using bait and hounds resulted in 39% females, equal to the 39% females for still hunter and incidental harvest, which is comparable to the long-term average. 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 and 2007. Since 1995, complaints have fluctuated widely from 0-23 (Table 7). There were 23 complaints received in 2007 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 to moderate 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 ranged from 23% to 27% over the last 4 years.

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). In 2007, 69 black bears were harvested, which is above the 10-year average (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 4 of the last 5 seasons (Table 4). In 2007, male harvest age structure was within the desired range for the first time in 5 years. Age of harvested males has exceeded the management plan goal the other 4 years. In 2006, harvest using bait and hounds resulted in 28% females compared to 24% females for still hunter and incidental harvest (Table 5). In the last 3 years, approximately 73% of hunters used a rifle to harvest bears (Table 6).

Depredations

Except for 1994 and 2007, unusually dry years, DAU 4E experiences relatively few depredation problems (Table 7). There were 11 depredation complaints in 2007.

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, decreased to 19% in 2005, and increased to 25% in 2006 and 26% in 2007.

LITERATURE CITED

Rice, C. G., J. Rohlman, J. Beecham, and S. Pozzanghera. 2001. Power analysis of bait station surveys in Idaho and Washington. *Ursus* 12:227-236.

Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.

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

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

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1I									
1994	16	7	23	18	16	34	34	23	57
1995	9	6	15	21	9	30	30	15	45
1996	9	4	13	8	3	11	17	7	24
1997	8	4	12	7	3	10	15	7	22
1998	6	2	8	7	2	9	13	4	17
1999	17	2	19	16	4	20	33	6	39
2000	22	5	27	17	4	21	39	9	48
2001	18	10	28	14	4	18	32	14	46
2002	16	8	24	15	5	20	31	13	44
2003	16	9	25	9	3	12	25	12	37
2004	23	8	31	9	5	14	32	13	45
2005	18	9	27	9	6	15	27	15	42
2006	28	4	32	6	2	8	34	6	40
2007	27	13	40	21	8	29	48	21	69
3-yr. avg.	24	9	33	12	5	17	36	14	50
1J									
1994	26	11	37	31	14	45	57	25	82
1995	24	20	44	14	15	29	38	35	73
1996	25	8	33	18	4	22	43	12	55
1997	20	10	30	12	11	23	32	21	53
1998	27	7	34	14	5	19	41	12	53
1999	29	5	34	9	7	16	38	12	50
2000	46	14	60	30	13	43	76	27	103
2001	53	19	72	23	7	30	76	26	102
2002	44	23	67	44	21	65	88	44	132
2003	43	16	59	3	11	14	46	27	73
2004	51	25	76	35	21	56	86	46	132
2005	43	26	69	15	11	27	58	37	96
2006	37	22	59	9	3	12	46	25	71
2007	53	36	89	24	14	38	77	50	127
3-yr. avg.	44	28	72	16	9	25	60	37	98
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

Table 2. Continued.

DAU Year	Spring			Fall			Entire season		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
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
2006	32	14	46	3	3	6	35	17	52
2007	31	20	51	15	3	18	46	23	69
3-yr. avg.	30	20	50	8	4	12	38	24	62

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		
1I														
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	1	0	7	3	3	5	3	4	0	1	2	3	32
	F	0	1	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	13
2005	M	0	0	7	7	3	4	0	1	1	1	1	2	27
	F	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	2	15
2006	M	0	1	2	1	7	0	3	5	0	1	6	8	34
	F	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6
2007	M	0	6	1	13	1	14	0	3	0	2	5	3	48
	F	0	3	0	3	1	4	0	2	3	0	4	1	21
1J														
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

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
1999	M	0	3	1	6	3	4	6	2	4	3	4	2	38
	F	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	12
2000	M	0	6	20	6	16	5	3	5	5	3	3	4	76
	F	0	2	7	2	7	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	27
2001	M	0	8	11	16	9	10	0	5	1	2	9	5	76
	F	0	3	0	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	10	1	26
2002	M	0	10	18	8	13	11	9	2	5	3	8	0	87
	F	0	3	8	4	10	2	5	3	0	1	6	0	42
2003	M	1	4	5	6	5	6	7	4	2	0	6	0	46
	F	0	6	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	10	0	27
2004	M	1	5	24	10	12	6	15	4	0	0	4	5	86
	F	0	3	11	2	12	3	5	1	2	0	6	1	46
2005	M	0	10	3	13	2	7	7	6	4	3	3	0	58
	F	0	2	1	8	3	2	1	2	3	3	10	2	37
2006	M	0	0	6	4	4	1	7	3	4	2	4	10	45
	F	0	0	6	0	7	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	26
2007	M	0	11	5	11	2	11	1	8	3	3	9	13	77
	F	2	5	2	17	2	2	0	2	0	5	7	6	50
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	1	6	6	3	4	0	2	3	5	0	4	1	35
	F	1	1	8	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	7	0	24
2005	M	0	5	5	3	3	5	6	1	1	0	4	1	34
	F	0	2	4	2	3	8	1	1	0	0	10	1	32

Table 3. Continued.

DAU		Age											Unknown	Total
Year	Sex	Cub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
2006	M	0	1	6	1	7	4	5	3	2	1	2	3	35
	F	0	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	17
2007	M	1	7	5	16	2	2	1	1	2	1	4	4	46
	F	0	2	0	6	0	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	23

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

DAU				
Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ≥ 5 ^b	# Males ≥ 5 ^b
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	45	29	52	15
2005	42	36	32	8
2006	40	15	58	15
2007	68	31	53	24
3-year avg.	50	28	49	16
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	52	30
2006	71	35	60	21
2007	127	40	38	24
3-year avg.	98	39	48	25
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

Table 4. Continued.

DAU Year	<i>n</i> ^a	% Females	% Males ≥ 5 ^b	# Males ≥ 5 ^b
1999	39	36	52	13
2000	43	45	14	3
2001	47	34	45	14
2002	72	40	29	12
2003	51	31	43	15
2004	59	41	41	14
2005	66	48	52	17
2006	52	33	53	17
2007	69	33	26	11
3-year avg.	62	39	42	15
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	9	1	45
	2005	28	3	7	4	0	42
	2006	29	3	4	3	1	40
	2007	25	7	24	11	2	69
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	30	2	132
	2005	51	11	14	16	4	96
	2006	44	7	16	3	1	71
	2007	71	0	30	20	6	127
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	19	12	6	12	10	59
	2005	32	15	3	15	1	66
	2006	31	7	4	4	6	52
	2007	37	7	4	17	4	69

^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
1I	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	32	12	0	1	0	45
	2005	23	15	1	0	3	42
	2006	23	14	0	2	1	40
	2007	45	18	2	3	1	69
1J	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
	2006	57	10	2	2	0	71
	2007	97	25	1	2	2	127
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
	2006	40	9	1	1	1	52
	2007	53	13	2	1	0	69

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
2006	0	3	0	3
2007	27	23	11	61

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2007 SEASON
BLACK BEAR RULES

2007 Big Game Seasons

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn

August 2007 - January 2008

Bear, Mountain Lion

August 2007 - July 2008

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



photo courtesy of Todd Corseth

Key Dates to Remember in 2007

- 2008 hunting licenses are on sale from December 1, 2007 — December 31, 2008
- Opening day for general rifle deer season in most units: October 10, 2007
- Opening day for general rifle elk season in most units: October 15, 2007
- Opening day for general rifle elk and deer seasons in most backcountry units: September 15, 2007
- Opening day for pronghorn seasons: Archery, August 15, 2007; Controlled hunts, September 25, 2007
- Controlled hunt application period for deer, elk, pronghorn, and fall black bear: May 1—June 5, 2007
- Controlled hunt application period for spring black bear: January 15 — February 15, 2008



You may refer to these links for laws pertaining to this rule book:

Administrative Procedures Act:
<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa13/13index.htm>
<http://www3.state.id.us/idstat/TOC/36FTOC.html>



RULES

August 2007
through
July 2008

- Controlled Hunt application period: May 1 - June 5.
- Use for all controlled hunts, including 2008 spring bear.
- Apply early for controlled hunts.

See page 22 for application form.

• APPLY FOR A SUPER HUNT TAG

HELP PAY FOR
ACCESS YES!
See page 18.

- **NEW! Check out
Hunt Planner
Maps at our
web site!** [http://
fishandgame.
idaho.gov/ftwis/
huntplanner](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ftwis/huntplanner)



FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008 BLACK BEAR SEASONS (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Sep 14 (Archery Only) Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
2, 3, 5	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 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</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	<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, 28, 36B	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 66</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>
29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jul 1 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 66</i>

(continued)

FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008 BLACK BEAR SEASONS (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
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	
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 - Jun 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 16 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 45, 48, 49, See note 2, Page 66</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 66</i>
60	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	None	<i>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
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, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 1 - Oct 31	Jun 1 - Jul 31	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 66 & 69, See note 2, Page 66, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Units 65 & 67</i>

 FALL 2007 BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNTS (165 Permits) (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Season Dates	Notes
8501	1	15	Sep 15 - Oct 9	<i>Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 66</i>
8502	22* (see pg 66)	75	Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 66</i>
8503	32* (see pg 66)	75	Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 66 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 66</i>

BEAR

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

 SPRING 2008 EITHER SEX BLACK BEAR CONTROLLED HUNTS (150 Permits) (FEMALES WITH YOUNG ARE PROTECTED!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Season Dates	Notes
8001	22* (see pg 66)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	32*(see pg 66)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 2, Page 66</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 14.

* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes partial units, 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.

Submitted by:

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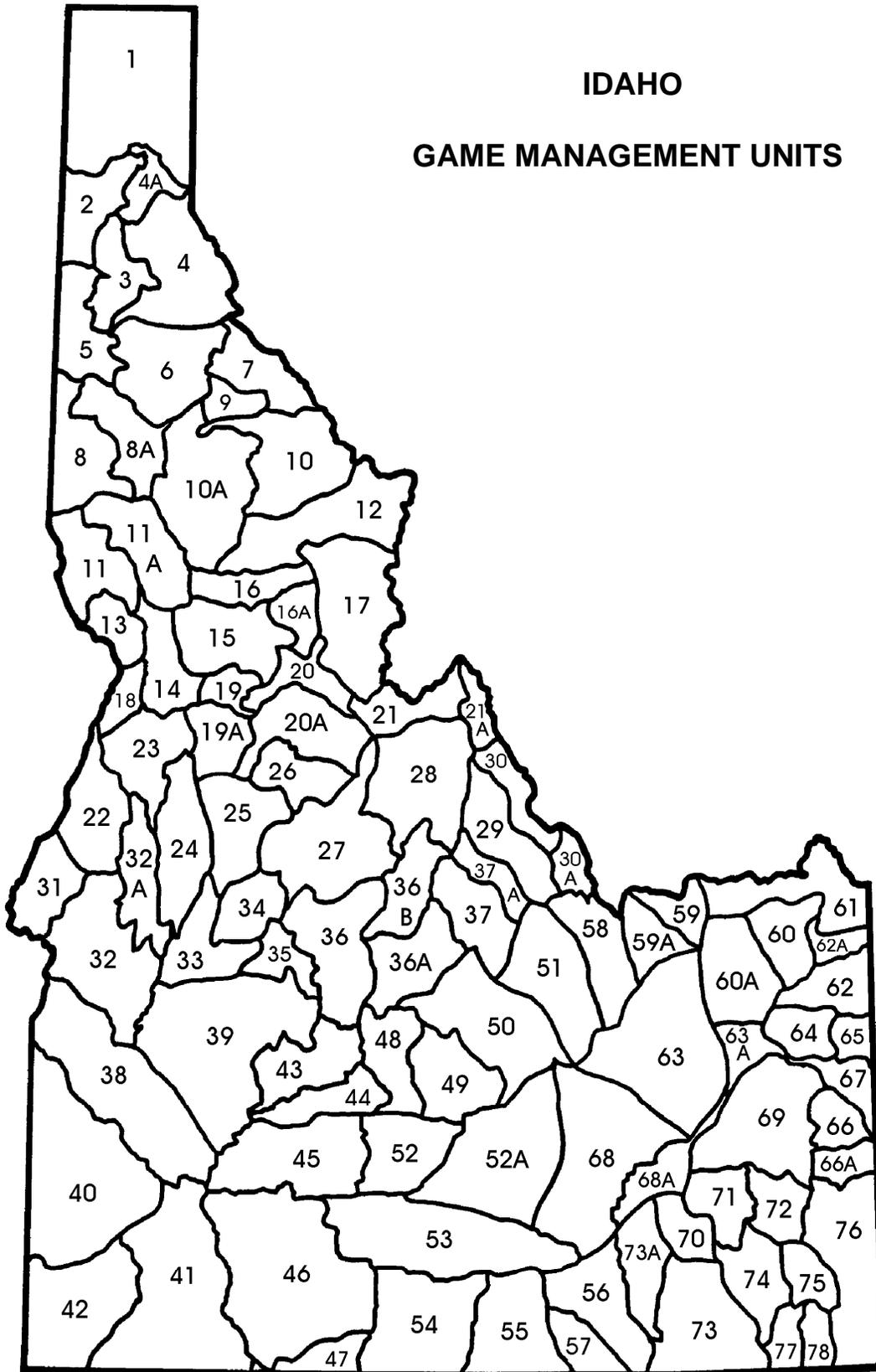
Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Towell
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Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

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Jeff Gould, Chief
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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.

