BLACK BEAR

Study I, Job 9

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

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2012
Boise, Idaho
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STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories
STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

STATEWIDE

Abstract

Hunters are required to report black bears harvested within 10 days of kill. Hunters killed 2,248 black bears during 2011, a 10% decrease from 2010. Hunters killed 1,202 in the spring and 1,046 in the fall. Females comprised 37% of the harvest. Of all the regions, most bears (728, 32%) were killed in the Clearwater Region, in north-central Idaho. In the Clearwater region, 7 game management units have extra bear tags, allow nonresident hunters to purchase reduced price bear tags ($31.75 vs. $186.00), and encourage increased harvest by outfitters. Bear densities are highest in the moist forests of northern Idaho and decrease heading south toward the drier continental and desert climates. The fewest number of bears was harvested in the Southeast Region (13). Bear baiting is allowed across most of the state, and 38% of bears were harvested using this technique. Still hunting and stalking accounted for 30% of the harvest, incidental harvest accounted for 14%, and hound hunting for 14%. Percentage of adult males in the harvest is monitored to determine trend over time.

There were 30,304 resident and 2,704 nonresident black bear tags sold in 2011. Bear baiting permits are required by anyone hunting over bait; 2,179 baiting permits were sold in 2011. Likewise, hunting with hounds requires a permit and nonresident permits are restricted to 70 statewide with additional nonresident permits available in a few game management units. In 2011, 2,861 resident and 102 nonresident hound-hunting permits were sold.

Over the last few years, monitoring efforts included a non-invasive mark-recapture project using DNA hair-snags by the Southwest Region and Washington State University (WSU). Also in recent years, an additional non-invasive mark-recapture project was conducted in the Panhandle Region. Bear numbers and density estimates for these project areas will be determined and the efficacy of this method is being evaluated. Scent station surveys were not operated because we are evaluating non-invasive mark-recapture methods that potentially provide density estimates...
Figure 1. Twenty-two Data Analysis Units (DAU) for black bear management in Idaho.
STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in Panhandle Region during 2011 was 509 bears, 11% below the previous 3-year average of 570. Female harvest (208) was nearly unchanged from the previous 3-year average of 205. Male harvest (299) was 18% lower than the previous 3-year average of 363. Forty-one percent of the harvest was female, and 29% of aged male bears were age class 5 or older. Both indicators are consistent with a population managed under a moderate harvest regime. The 2011 huckleberry crop was “normal” but patchy.

The objective for Data Analysis Unit (DAU) 1A is for light harvest and current indicators demonstrate light to moderate harvest. DAUs 1L and 2B are managed for moderate harvest, with DAU 1L demonstrating moderate harvest, and DAU 2B demonstrating light harvest. DAUs 1B and 1C are managed for heavy harvest, with DAU 1B meeting heavy harvest indicators, and DAU 1C meeting light to moderate harvest indicators.

AREA 1

Management Direction

The Idaho Department of Fish & Game (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 GMU 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 1L and 2B are managed for moderate harvest objectives, while DAU 1B and 1C are managed under heavy harvest objectives.
DAU 1A (GMU 1)

Abstract

Reported harvest of black bear in DAU 1A was 149 during 2011, approximately 2% below the 2008-2010 average. The harvest composition has changed little during the past 10 years. The percentage of females in the harvest for the most recent 3 years is 36% and the percentage of males in age classes 5+ is 42%.

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 likely contains some of the highest-quality black bear habitat in Idaho.

Special Projects

Department Research Biologist John Beecham studied black bears in the Priest Lake portion of the Selkirk Mountains 1979 – 1981. Additional work was conducted in GMUs 4 (DAU 1C), and 6 (DAU 1L). The primary focuses of this work were basic bear ecology and developing bear management techniques. Trapping was conducted early June through mid-August of all 3 years, yielding 314 captures. This information is contained in annual Pittman-Robertson reports, and is summarized in Beecham and Rohlman (1994). Don Young, working with Dr. Beecham, completed a Master’s Thesis, studying habitat use and food habitats of 4 female and 5 male black bears in this area (Young 1984). During 2001, regional personnel re-trapped Beecham’s study area (84 captures) to compare catch per unit effort and age/sex composition of trapped bears (IDFG unpublished data).

Grid-based bear DNA sampling was conducted in portions of the Selkirk and Purcell Ranges 2003 – 2006. This cooperative effort between the Department, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Idaho Department of Transportation, and University of Idaho included 3 primary projects: development of bear population methods, modeling relative
abundance of black bears, and examining the strength of Highway 95 as a barrier to black bear gene flow (a surrogate for grizzly bear gene flow).

GPS-based radio-telemetry of black bears was conducted to model bear crossing areas of Highway 95 in the Purcell Mountains 2004-2006. Locations of 25 black bears, obtained at 20-minute intervals during the study, further defined black bear ecology in northern Idaho, and indicated bears crossed highway 95 in forested areas away from human development. Models developed on 20-minute to 6-hour datasets provided consistent results, while those developed on datasets based on 1 day or longer intervals between locations lacked precision and consistency (Lewis 2007).

For other published literature on these projects see Cushman et al. (2006), Schwartz et al. (2006) and McCall (2009).

**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-one percent of the 2011 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunter’s specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Table 2).

Forty-eight percent of the harvest occurred in the spring in 2011, consistent with most years. Spring harvest averaged 47% in the previous 3 years. Most (89%) black bears in DAU 1A were killed with rifles (Table 3). The remaining harvest was accomplished largely with archery equipment (7%). The first 16 days of the fall bear season in DAU 1A is archery-only.

**Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2009-2011 harvest was composed of 36% females on average, higher than the target of <30% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 42% of the 2009-2011 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Table 5).

**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 35% females in the harvest is close to management objective and appears relatively stable since 1994. Within the male harvest, bears age 5 years and older easily meet management objectives and are likewise stable since 1994. 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 98 during 2011, a 22% drop from the 2008-2010 average of 126 bears (Table 1). Most of the drop occurred during the spring season. Spring 2011 was very late and limited access in many areas. Management objectives for a heavy harvest regime are being met in this DAU for male age structure (<25% age 5+) but the percent of females in the harvest (39%) is slightly lower than the desired >40%.

Management Direction

To address depredation concerns in this relatively highly-populated area, 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, particularly in GMU 2, which consists largely of second-growth coniferous forest under private ownership. GMU 3 is typified by publicly owned coniferous forest with high road densities in close proximity to Coeur d’Alene. GMU 5 is similar to GMU 2 in the northern third, but the remainder consists largely of open agricultural land with stringers of coniferous forest. Much of GMU 5 is within the boundaries of the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation.

Harvest Characteristics

During 2011, harvest using bait was the most predominant method (50%), followed by the use of hounds (17%) and incidental kills (16%) (Table 2). Seventy-three percent of the black bears harvested in DAU 1B were taken with a rifle (Table 3). In 2011, only 13% of the harvest occurred in the spring, lower than the long term average. Late spring weather affected access and subsequent harvest in this DAU.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2009-2011 harvest was 39%. Twenty-one percent of males were ≥5 years old for 2009-2011, within management objectives of less than 25%. This is easily 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

Female harvest was slightly less than the management criterion and male harvest was within the range for 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 148 during 2011, a 6% increase over the previous 3-year average. (Table 1) This DAU has historically met criteria for moderate harvest, but was targeted for heavy harvest in the 1999-2010 bear plan. Harvest criteria indicate this population remains under moderate harvest levels.

Management Direction

To test the validity of the black bear harvest indicators, DAU 1C will be managed to achieve the heavy harvest targets of <25% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and >40% females in the total harvest. To date, the harvest indicators have not been met.

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.

Special Projects

Department Research Biologist John Beecham studied black bears in the central portion of the Coeur d’Alene Mountains 1978 and 1983. Additional work was conducted in GMUs 1 (DAU 1A) and 6 (DAU 1L). The primary focuses of this work were basic bear ecology and developing bear management techniques. Trapping was conducted early June through mid-August, yielding 99 captures. This information is contained in annual Pittman-Robertson reports, and is summarized in Beecham and Rohlman (1994).

During 1999, regional personnel re-trapped Beecham’s study area (80 captures) to compare catch per unit effort and age/sex composition of trapped bears (IDFG unpublished data). Two additional studies were also conducted centered on this same study area.

A graduate project was conducted 2006-2008, utilizing GPS collars to examine habitat use of black bears relative to road densities characteristics and other habitat disturbances (IDFG unpublished data). Locations were obtained at 20-minute intervals for 10-25 collars each year. An effort was undertaken during 2008 to help assess the efficacy of DNA sampling to detect the
radio-collared bears (IDFG unpublished data). During this study, 163 bears were identified, of which 11 were GPS-collared. Including live trapping and DNA sampling, 191 bears (108 female, 83 male) were identified using the study area during summer 2008.

**Harvest Characteristics**

Thirty percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2011, nearly unchanged from the 2008-2010 average of 31%. The primary method used to kill bears in DAU 1C during 2010 was baiting (29%), followed closely still/stalking (24%). The use of hounds (20%) and incidental kills (19%) made up most of the remaining harvest. Seventy-six percent of the black bears harvested in DAU 1C were taken with a rifle and archery made up 19% of the harvest. Archery appears to be increasing in this DAU.

**Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The percentage of females in the 2009-2011 harvest was 37%, lower than the 40%+ objective. The percentage of males 5+ years old was 31%, well above the desired age criterion of <25%. This criterion has not been achieved in the previous 10 years.

**Dog-training Seasons**

The 2011 dog-training season in DAU 1C was 1 June-31 July (Appendix A).

**Management Implications**

Hunting seasons were altered twice since the 1999-2010 black bear plan was initiated, in an attempt to change the population composition with more liberal seasons. During 2000, the fall hunting season was opened 30 August rather than 15 September as it was during 1999. During 2004, two weeks were added to the spring season, closing 31 May rather than 15 May. No response has been seen in management indicators. Management indicators have changed little since 1994.

**DAU 1L (GMU 6)**

**Abstract**

Harvest of black bears in DAU 1L was 74 in 2011, 4% above the 2008-2010 average. Fifty-one percent of the harvest occurred during spring (Table 1), a relatively high percentage relative to other DAUs in this year, especially considering the late spring. Females made up 36% of the 3-year harvest average and are within the objectives established for this DAU. The 3-year average for the percentage of males ≥5 years was 26%, within the management objectives for this DAU.
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 has been allowed within this DAU since 2000.

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.

Recent season changes include the addition of bait and a 30 August opener instead of a 15 September opener (both during 2000), and a two week addition to spring hunting during 2004 (closing 31 May rather than 15 May). For 2012-2013, the spring season will be extended until June 30 and a second bear tag may be used in this DAU.

Special Projects

Department Research Biologist John Beecham studied black bears in the Marble Creek drainage of the St. Joe Mountains during 1982. Additional work was conducted in GMU 1 (DAU 1A) during 1978 and 1983, and in GMU 4 (DAU 1C). The primary focuses of this work were basic bear ecology and developing bear management techniques. Trapping was conducted early June through mid-August, yielding 25 captures. This information is contained in annual Pittman-Robertson reports, and is summarized in Beecham and Rohlman (1994).

During 2000, regional personnel re-trapped Beecham’s study area (39 captures) to compare catch per unit effort and age/sex composition of trapped bears (IDFG unpublished data).

Harvest Characteristics

The 2011 harvest of 74 bears is 4% above the previous 3-year average of 71. Fifty-one percent of the harvest occurred during spring, consistent with the 2010 harvest but an increase from earlier years. Spotting/stalking is the primary method used to hunt bears in this DAU, with 41% of the 2011 harvest taken in this manner (Table 2). Baiting has been allowed since fall 2000, with 23% of the 2011 harvest. The use of hounds accounted for 20% of the harvest. Incidental kills (11%) represent a decreasing trend. Nearly all black bears taken in this DAU are taken with a rifle (91%, Table 3).
Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty-six percent of the 2009-2011 harvest was female bears, reflective of a moderate harvest regime. The percent of males ≥5 years was 26%, also indicative of moderate harvest.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2011 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 40 bears during 2011, 7% below the 2008-2010 average. Spring harvest is predominant in this DAU (63% of the 2011 harvest). 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. 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.
Harvest Characteristics

The 2011 harvest of 40 bears was near the previous 3 year average. Sixty-three percent of the 2011 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Table 1).

Fifty-eight percent of the 2011 harvest was taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Of the remaining harvest, 28% was taken still/stalking and 15% was taken incidentally to other types of hunting.

Most of the black bears harvested in this DAU are taken with a rifle (70%), but the archery harvest now makes up a significant portion of the harvest (20%) (Table 3).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2009-2011 harvest was 28%, below the objective of 30-40%. Female harvest was up substantially from previous years, but a small sample size makes this metric highly variable. Males ≥ 5+ made up 37% of the 3-year harvest average, above the objective of 25-35%. This DAU is slated for moderate harvest but harvest indicators are in the light category.

Dog-training Seasons

The 2011 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. Seasons have been extended in this DAU and a second bear tag can be used in this DAU in the 2012-2013 season. A predator management plan is currently being written for this DAU.

LITERATURE CITED


Table 1. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Panhandle Region, 2001-present.

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*a* Includes only black bear with both known age and sex.
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**3-year avg.**

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**Desired levels**

|       | 30-40 | 25-35     |

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<td>40</td>
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</table>

**3-year avg.**

|       | 52    | 28        | 37         |

**Desired levels**

|       | 30-40 | 25-35     |
STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Reported 2011 harvest for the Clearwater Region was 726 black bears. This compares to 826 bears harvested in 2010 and is lower than the previous 3-year average of 768. Total harvest by DAU in 2011 was 99 in DAU 1D, 80 in DAU 1E, 140 in DAU 1F, 286 in DAU 2A, and 121 in DAU 3A.

Black Bear Management Plan harvest criteria call for heavy harvest in all DAU’s except DAU 3A, which is set for moderate harvest. Heavy harvest objectives were only met for DAU 1D and only for percent females. Harvest objectives were not achieved for the other Clearwater DAU’s.

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 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 (80% in DAU 2A and 69% in DAU 3A based on a 3-year average) and with hunting over bait being the predominant method of take (73% and 59%, respectively) based on 2011 data. For the rest of the region (DAU’s 1D, 1E, and 1F), spring harvest accounted for 37%, 46%, and 44% of the total harvest, respectively, based on the most recent 3-year average. The most common method of take in DAU 1D was hounds (41%) followed by incidental (34%), while the most common method of take for DAU 1E was still/stalk (34%), followed by bait (33%). For DAU 1F the most common method of take was baiting (41%), followed by still/stalk (25%).

No bait station surveys have been conducted in the Clearwater region since 2007. This technique has been largely abandoned on a statewide basis due to concerns over its ability to accurately monitor population trends.
Abstract

DAU 1D had historically been one of the most over-harvested DAUs in the region based on Black Bear Management Plan criteria. 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 total 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 of the 2011 harvest occurred in the fall (64%) by hound hunters (41%), incidental harvest (34%), and still/stalk hunters (23%); compared to 2010 when fall harvest accounted for 62% of the total harvest by hound hunters (40%), incidental harvest (38%), and still/stalk hunters (19%). High road densities have allowed hunters to access most of the available black bear habitat.

Management Direction

DAU 1D has historically exhibited signs of high black bear harvest. This DAU likely 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 GMUs. 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. For 2010, the general spring and fall season was 47 and 63 days, respectively. Black bear baiting is not allowed.

**Population Surveys**

Bait station surveys have not been conducted in DAU 1D since 1996 (Table 1). This technique has been largely abandoned on a statewide basis due to concerns about its ability to accurately monitor population trends.

**Harvest Characteristics**

During 2011, 99 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, compared to 126 black bears harvested in 2010 and the previous 3-year average of 115 black bears (Table 2). Females accounted for 43% of the harvest in 2011 (Table 4). Most black bears (64%) 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 2009-2011 indicate that criteria were not met (Table 4).

The predominant method of harvest in 2011 was hound hunting, which accounted for 41% of the total harvest, followed by incidental harvest at 34% and still-hunting at 23% (Table 5). This represents a shift from 1990-1992, when baiting was the most common method used. Regarding weapon types, rifles were used to harvest 85% of black bears followed by archery at 11% (Table 6).

**Depredations**

No black bear depredations were reported in DAU 1D in 2011 (Table 7).

**Dog-training Seasons**

An 8-week dog-training season (from 1 June-31 July) was offered in DAU 1D during 2011 (Appendix A).

**Management Implications**

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. Based on current management criteria, black bears have been harvested at the heavy level in DAU 1D. Percent females (44%) met the objective of >40% for the 2009-2011 seasons; percent males ≥5 years old (25%) did not meet the objective of <25%.

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 80 black bears during 2011, compared to 83 black bears harvested during 2010, and a 3-year average of 80. Females accounted for 34% of the 2011 harvest. Most black bears were harvested in the fall (51%) with still/stalk 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 (closed), but to maintain harvest levels. In addition, there is a lack of evenly dispersed, quality black bear habitat leading to the potential for over-harvest in portions of these isolated and/or fragmented habitats.

Background

DAU 1E is located in the western portion 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 crops 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. Some of the largest black bears in the region are typically harvested in these GMUs. Past 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, and is concurrent with increasing harvest rates.

The climate in this DAU ranges from hot and arid along the river breaks, to cooler and moister at the higher elevations. The 2011 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2010 was 31 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were last conducted in 2007 for DAU 1E in GMU 11. 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%. Bait station surveys were discontinued in 2008.


Harvest Characteristics

There were 80 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2011. This compares to a previous 3-year average of 80 bears harvested. Forty-nine percent and 51% were taken in the spring and fall, respectively (Table 2). The current 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1E is to be managed for harvest at the “heavy” level; harvest criteria did not meet objective for the 2009-2011 seasons (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 the rifle which accounted for 84% of the harvest (Table 6).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. Five depredation complaints were recorded during 2011 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season has been offered in DAU 1E (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Much of the land in GMUs 8, 11, 11A, and 13 is either agricultural or river breaks, resulting in black bear habitats being 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 (2009-2011) harvest was 39% female and might 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 140 black bears during 2011, compared to 180 in 2010, and a previous 3-year average of 160. A little over half of the black bears (51%) harvested were taken during the fall. The most frequent harvest methods were bait (41%), still/stalk hunting (25%), hounds (20%), and incidental (14%). The most frequent weapon types used were rifle (90%) and archery (7%). The 2009-2011 harvest criteria indicated that percent females (34%) did not meet the target criteria of >40%. The percent males ≥5 years old (32%), exceeded the target of <25%. A portion of the DAU in GMU 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 previous Black Bear Management Plan (1992-2000) adopted a decrease in season length, more restrictions on use of 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 current 2000-2010 Black Bear Management plan calls for maintaining heavy harvest levels, whereas current harvest is at the moderate level. A portion of GMU 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 GMU.

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 61 days in GMUs 14, 15, and 18 and 31 days for training in GMU 16. (Appendix A). Spring general season in 2010 was 47 days in GMUs 14, 15, and 18 and 77 days in GMU 16. Fall general season in DAU 1F was 63 days long for the 2011 season.

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 GMUs 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). Bait station surveys have not been conducted since 2004.

Harvest Characteristics

There were 140 black bears harvested in DAU 1F during 2011 with 51% being taken during the fall season (Table 2). Management objectives under the new plan allow for heavy harvest of females with management objective of >40% (Tables 3 and 4). Harvest management criteria were not met for the 2009-2011 harvest period. The most frequent methods of harvest were bait (41%), still/stalk hunting (25%), followed by hounds (20%), and incidental (14%) (Table 5). Rifle was the most frequent (90%) weapon type used to harvest a bear in 2011 (Table 6).

Depredations

One depredation complaint was recorded for this DAU in 2011 (Table 7).
Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 1 June-31 July in DAU 1F, except for GMU 16 where the season ran from 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, however baiting is becoming more popular. In recent years, harvest has increased to levels above what occurred prior to the regulation changes. The closure of the northern portion of GMU 15 had an impact on overall harvest. Harvest levels there have returned to, and exceeded, previous peak levels observed in 1998.

AREA 2

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

Abstract

In 2011, a total of 286 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 307 in 2010, and a previous 3-year average of 281. Thirty-one percent of the harvest consisted of females. Seventy-eight percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season. Baiting accounted for 73% of the harvest and rifle was the most commonly used weapon type (76%).

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 GMUs receiving higher harvest pressures (e.g., GMU 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 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 possibly kept black bear populations below achievable levels.

**Population Surveys**

Intensive bait station surveys were conducted between 1997 and 2007 (Table 1). Fifty-nine transects and 290 sites were sampled with a visitation rate of 20.7% in 2007. This hit rate represented a decrease of 8% from 2006 and was 22% lower than the previous 3-year average of 27.2. In general, sites on closed roads and trails received higher visitation rates than those on open roads. Bait station surveys have not been conducted since 2007. This technique has been largely abandoned due to concerns over its ability to accurately monitor population trends.

**Harvest Characteristics**

In 2011, a total of 286 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 307 in 2010, and a previous 3-year average of 281. Seventy-eight percent of these black bears were harvested during spring season (Table 2). Thirty-one percent of all black bears harvested were females. Age criteria set under the current management plan allow for increased harvest since plan goals identify this DAU to be harvested at the “heavy” range. Harvest values were below management criteria, falling within the “moderate” range for the 2009-2011 harvest period (Table 4).

Hunting over bait accounted for 73% of the harvest in DAU 2A in 2011, followed by still/stalk at 16% (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used accounting for 76% of the harvest (Table 6).

**Depredations**

A record 12 depredation complaints were recorded during fall 1998, an indication of a poor huckleberry crop in DAU 2A. There were no depredation complaints in DAU 2A in 2011 (Table 7).

**Dog-training Seasons**

Dog-training season occurred from 1-31 July during 2011 (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 moderate in the male component with 25% ≥5 years old for 2009-2011 average, not quite meeting the desired objective <25%. The adult female segment remains secure in the roadless segments of the DAU, with percent females harvested (31%) below the desired objective of >40%.
DAU 2A has potential for high black bear numbers because of the quality habitat. Harvest was reduced dramatically from 1993-1996 under the previous 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 typically occurs in the spring (78% in 2011).

**AREA 3**

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

**Abstract**

During 2011, a total of 121 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A, compared to the 2010 harvest of 130, and the previous 3-year average (2009-2011) of 131. Twenty-nine percent of the harvest consisted of females. This DAU consistently met the previous (1992-2000) management criteria objectives; the level of harvest relative to current (2000-2010) criteria have also suggested a lightly harvested population. Fifty-nine percent of the black bears taken were harvested over bait.

**Management Direction**

This DAU probably serves as a reservoir of black bears for surrounding GMUs 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 with a 2 bear bag limit (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 aspects and 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 2011, 121 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A compared to 130 in 2010 and the previous 3-year average of 131. 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 area overlap program resulted in a substantial increase in hunter participation in this predominantly wilderness DAU and the corresponding increase in harvest. Of the 121 bears harvested in 2011, 29% were females. Spring harvest accounted for 70% of the total harvest. Harvest criteria in the current (2000-2010) plan indicate light harvest levels when compared to the desired moderate harvest levels. Forty-seven percent of the males harvested during the 2009-2011 reporting period were ≥ 5 years old compared to the desired objective of 25-35 percent ≥ 5 years old (Tables 3 and 4). Most of the black bears harvested in 2011 were taken over bait (59%) followed by still/stalk (35%) (Table 5). Rifle was the most common weapon used (88%) to harvest a bear during the 2011 season (Table 6).

The black bear population data for DAU 3A suggest that a small proportion of the overall population is 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 2011 (Table 7).

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season was offered in DAU 3A during 2011 (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 in this DAU are healthy and have consistently fallen below moderate harvest levels, especially the percent males ≥ 5 years old. 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.

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<th>Survey dates</th>
<th>Total transects available</th>
<th>Total transects sampled</th>
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* Transects conducted using bacon baits instead of sardines and leaving out 20 days.

* No bait station surveys were conducted since 2007.
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\(^a\) Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknowns).

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Statewide Black Bear 2012
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Table 7. Black bear depredation complaints, Clearwater Region, 1998-present.

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STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories
STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

Five hundred and seventy-seven black bears of known sex were reported harvested in the Southwest Region in 2011. Of those, 527 black bears were reported harvested in Area 1, and 50 were reported harvested in DAU 3B of Southwest Region.

Reported harvest in Area 1 was 144, 120, and 263 black bears for DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K, respectively, during 2011 hunting seasons. The reported harvest in Area 1 was nearly the same in 2011 as that reported in 2010. Data indicate percent females and percent males ≥5 years-of-age in the harvest criteria are being met in all 3 DAUs. Baiting methods comprised most of the harvest in DAU 1G and 1K in 2011. Still hunting (stalking) and hound hunting methods contributed to the majority of black bear harvest in DAU 1H. Data for DAU 1G indicate harvest criteria are stable. Data for DAU 1H indicate a steady increase in harvest over the past ten years. 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.

Since 2009, the Southwest Region and Washington State University have been cooperatively working on a project to document black bear population dynamics in GMU 39. Both DNA hair-snare grid and mark-recapture were employed in 2011, and camera mark-recapture was added as a method in 2012. In February 2012, 10 female bear dens were visited to assess productivity. Six of the dens had females with young, 2 had barren females, and in 2, productivity could not be ascertained.

Harvest criteria are being met in DAU 3B with current harvest levels. Harvest methods in DAU 3B were well distributed between still hunting (stalking), baiting, and incidental take. Season changes were incorporated into the 2000-2010 Black Bear 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 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 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 initiated in fall 1998 just prior to implementation of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan, and were continued into the 2011 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 of known sex black bears in DAU 1G increased 8% in 2011 compared to 2010 reported harvest (Table 3). The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in fall than spring in 2011. Age data indicate 2-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Percent female in the harvest criteria was within acceptable limits (Table 5). Hunting over bait was the preponderant method of take of black bears in DAU 1G in 2011 (Table 6). The rifle is the most common weapon used for harvesting black bear in DAU 1G (Table 7).

Depredations

Black bear nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1G. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations have also occurred in this DAU. No livestock depredations were reported in DAU 1G in 2011 (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 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 may 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 for a moderate harvest level. 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 2011 harvest season reflected the tenth year of monitoring this change. Younger bears have become more preponderant in the harvest. The 2011 season framework appeared to maintain a stable bear population in DAU 1G. Since harvest parameters appeared stable, the spring season was increased by one week to 7 June to allow more hunting opportunity beginning in 2013. The new season framework should be monitored through the 2015 season to 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 Management Plan and took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria were the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males ≥5 years old. Bait station survey trends were also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates were categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1H has been 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 2011 (Appendix A).

**Population Surveys**

No population surveys were conducted during the reporting period.

**Harvest Characteristics**

Reported harvest in 2011 was 30% nearly the same as that reported for 2010 (Table 3). More bears were harvested in the fall than in the spring season in 2011. Age data indicate 2-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Percent female in the 2011 harvest was slightly higher than that reported in 2010 (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 nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1H. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations do occur
in this DAU. One confirmed livestock depredation was reported in 2011 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 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 may 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 for the DAU is to continue to maintain the percentage of males ≥ 5 years of age in the harvest at or above 35%; maintain percent females in the harvest at or below 30%; and to maintain a 30% or higher hunter success rate (3-yr average success rate is 37%). In light of the increase in hunter success in DAU, fall permits were increased from 75 to 100 in both hunt areas (22 and 32) beginning with the 2011 season. 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 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.
The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan maintained those objectives. New, simpler criteria were developed in the new Plan and took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria were the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males ≥5 years old. Bait station survey trends and other population data were also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates were categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Table 1). DAU 1K objectives were to manage 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 2011 framework (Appendix A).

**Population Surveys**

From 2009-2011, the Southwest Region assisted in a cooperative effort with Washington State University (WSU) to assess potential impacts of marine-derived nutrient loss in central Idaho. The initial study design by WSU was to monitor the movements of bears around the treatment sites to determine nutrient movement through the system as determined by nitrogen isotope measurements in hair samples. In addition, the Region wanted to obtain information on habitat selection, female reproductive success, body condition, cub body condition, harvest rates; and to acquire a mark recapture estimate to compare with the DNA efforts. This project was conducted in the North Fork Boise River drainage on the Boise National Forest in GMU 39. In June and July 2010, the Southwest region initiated the trapping effort, in coordination with WSU, to place radio collars on females for monitoring within the study area. At the end of 2011, the Department took over the study and focused more on monitoring black bear population dynamics, female reproductive ecology and denning ecology in the area.

To estimate density, a non-invasive DNA hair-snare grid, consisting of 48 cells (6.25 km²) was operated in 2009. DNA analysis of the samples determined the number and sex of individuals. The hair samples were also analyzed for carbon and nitrogen isotopes. WSU identified 45 individual bears, including 24 females and 21 males from 102 hair samples collected from the grid in 2009. Of those 45 individuals, 25 had enough hair to conduct isotope analysis. In 2010, WSU identified 73 individuals, including 39 females and 34 males. In 2011, 15 individuals were identified, including 7 females and 8 males. These samples have not been analyzed for isotopic signatures. Population estimates will be determined using the program CAPWIRE, MARK and DENSTIY.
WSU analyzed the isotopic signatures of 44 historic black bear samples. Historic samples were collected from specimens of bears living in and around the study area between 1890 and 1930. In addition, WSU collected samples of fish carcasses and known bear food items to determine isotopic signatures and minimize the chance that local food items could have signatures that skew the results. Food samples collected within the study area showed normal terrestrial isotopic signatures (Table 9). WSU analyzed present-day bear hair, historic bear bone, and food sources for carbon and nitrogen isotopes following methods summarized in Fry et al. (1992). All bone and food samples were freeze-dried and ground. Bone samples were supplied by the Smithsonian.

Live trapping was initiated within the DNA hair grid area in GMU 39 in the Boise River drainage, with the intent of capturing females to identify home range size and totally fill in the DNA grid with radio collared females. Of the 15 bears captured during 2010, 7 were female and 8 were male. Female bear dens were visited during March 2011 to identify reproductive success, measure body condition, and to refit collars. Of the 6 female dens visited, only 1 had successfully produced cubs. All 6 of these bears had been in estrus when captured. Body condition averaged 1.5-2 on a scale of 5, with 5 being the best body condition. Live trapping in 2011 resulted in 21 bears captured; 8 female and 13 male. In March of 2012, 10 female dens were visited. Two were inaccessible and 2 females did not breed. In 6 of those dens the females had young. Four bears each had 1 cub. One bear had 2 cubs. One bear had a pair of yearlings. Body condition was higher than the previous year averaging 3-3.5. In February and March of 2013, 14 dens were visited, 11 still had bears in the dens, 10 female and one male. Of the three without bears, one was female and two were male. One bear had 2 cubs. One bear had a pair of yearlings. One bear was supposed to have yearling that weren’t present. Body condition was lower than the previous year averaging 1.9 (vs 3.3 form 2011) and ranging from 1.5 to 3. Out of 8 females at reproductive age and weight only one had cubs. Last year 6 out of 8 females of breeding age and weight reproduced. Three of the 14 bears had already emerged from their den by the last week in March and were unable to be surveyed. This included one adult male and 2 adult females. For one female, evidence of cub tracks was found along with the female in the denning area. The ages of denned bears ranged from 3 to older than 15. We are currently evaluating denning characteristics and reproductive rates data from 2011-2013.

In the summer of 2012, the Southwest region decided to test camera trapping as another mark-recapture technique to estimate black bear population size. Progress has been made with other carnivore species to estimate population size with unmarked or indistinguishable individuals. Carbone et al. 2001, found correlation between the photographic rate of captured tigers (Panthers tigris) and mark-resight population estimates; indicating that photographic rate can be used to estimate a population size comparable to mark-resight without having to identify individuals. Thesis work by Pitman (2010) found similar results with pumas (Puma concolor). This technique will be evaluated along with live trapping and hair snaring for cost, ease, and dependability of results. This research should provide an analysis for selecting the most effective mark-recapture technique for population estimation. This will hopefully provide alternative and cost effective options for wildlife managers across the state.
Due to the lack of recaptures of the 2010 and 2011 live trapping, the Southwest region focused the 2012 live trapping efforts to a localized portion of the study area, where camera traps could also be effectively deployed. In June and July, trapping took place in 16 of the 48 grid cells around the Crooked River drainage. Bears captured were marked with uniquely numbered cattle tags and cloth or radio collars for identification and monitoring. Of the 18 bears captured, 7 were recaptured, 7 were females and 11 were males. Of those, 4 females and 4 males were radio-collared with GPS collars and 2 females and 1 male were marked with VHF collars. As of May a total of 15 bears are currently radio-collared on the study area. After the 2012 live trapping, 16 digital trail cameras were deployed and monitored. The cameras were placed in a 4x4 cell array; making the study area 100km². Cameras were placed on trees in view of a lure station and close enough to identify tags. Cameras were monitored for one month during summer and two months during fall. We are currently evaluating the photographic data and building capture history matrices for abundance evaluation. When the trail cameras were collected, 6 marked bears and 37 unmarked were observed for 1,244 trap nights.

During the winter and spring of 2013-2014, GPS collars will be downloaded from bear dens to evaluate the movement data within the study area. Bear movement data can allow us to modify capture histories. MARK (NOREMARK) and DENSITY will be used to determine population density. We will use this new technique to determine if the photographic rate of unmarked bears produces population estimates similar to the mark-resight estimates of GPS radio-collared marked bears. Those results then will be compared with the live trapping and genetic capture.

All of the live trapping data and the DNA hair samples from 2007 to current are currently being formatted and run through mark-recapture software programs to obtain population abundance estimates. Preliminary CAPWIRE modeling generated the following hair snare estimates of density:

- GMU 39 (heavily hunted) study area in 2007, 2009, and 2010 was approximately 0.62, 0.86, 0.97 bears/sq. mile respectively
- GMU 32A (lightly hunted) study area in 2008 was approximately 1.03 bear/sq. mile
- GMU 34 study area in 2009 was approximately 0.59 bear/sq. mile
- During 2009, in GMU 33, and 2011, in GMU 39, accurate estimates were not obtained from CAPWIRE due to the lack of sufficient hair samples and recaptures

All of the mark-recapture data will be analyzed by spring of 2014 and final project reports to follow that summer.

**Harvest Characteristics**

Reported harvest decreased 6% in 2011 when compared to 2010 totals in DAU 1K (Table 3). Hunters harvested more bears in spring than fall in 2011. Age data indicated 2-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Criteria for percent females in the harvest were within acceptable levels (Table 5). Hunting over bait was the most frequently used method to kill black bears in DAU 1K in 2011 (Table 6). Rifle was the most reported weapon of choice in DAU 1K (Table 7).
Depredations

Black bear nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1K. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices and/or outdoor placement of domestic pet food or wild birdseed. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations also occur in this DAU. No livestock depredations were recorded in DAU 1K in 2011 (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 Management Plan identifies 3 harvest-level targets for black bear populations: light, moderate, and heavy. Light harvest strategies were implemented to maintain thriving and possibly increasing black bear populations in which a hunter could expect to encounter numerous and older age class bears, and have an elevated chance of harvesting one. Moderate harvest strategies were designed to provide maximum hunter opportunity yet maintain a viable self-sustaining and static black bear population. A heavy harvest criterion was employed where objectives were to reduce a black bear population. Areas of heavy harvest may not be sustainable over the long term unless habitat between adjacent populations allows for connectivity and dispersal.

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 (Table 5). This increase was also apparent in the 1999 harvest. The Commission further expanded season lengths for the spring 2002 black bear season and thus harvest has been sustained over the last decade at higher levels. Major fluctuations in annual harvest seem to be closely correlated to food availability (e.g. 2007 drought and food shortage). Harvest criteria for percent female bears and percent males ≥5 years old in DAU 1K continues to be maintained at the level desired in 2011 (Table 5). Harvest data need to continue to be monitored closely to determine any new trends in the data.

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 was 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 GMUs 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 Species Management Plan (Appendix A).

**Population Surveys**

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

**Harvest Characteristics**

Reported harvest in 2011 was 9% higher than that reported in 2011 (Table 3). Black bear harvest in DAU 3B was greater in the spring than fall season. Age data indicate 2 and 5-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group (Table 4). Percent females in the harvest was higher in 2011 than that reported in 2010 (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 2011 (Table 8).

**Management Implications**

Historical harvest in DAU 3B was usually low 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 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 concerns of black bear predation on elk calves in the Middle Fork Elk Zone. Harvest criteria remain
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.

**Literature Cited**


Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.

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Table 2. Bait station (pork fat and anise oil) survey results from DAU 1G, 2003-2007.

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Table 3. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Southwest Region, 1999-present.

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<sup>b</sup> Number of male black bears that were aged (excluding unknowns).

<sup>c</sup> Total number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknowns).
Table 6. Method of black bear harvest, Southwest Region, 1999-present.

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Table 8. Black bear depredation complaints, Southwest Region, 1999-present.

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Table 9. Average isotopic signatures of bear foods in the North Fork Boise River drainage.

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$^a$ Values were taken from Jacoby et al. 1999. These values are from northern Idaho.
STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories
STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Sixty-two black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2011 which is 24% higher than the 10-year average of 50 bears taken in DAU 4A. A relatively high proportion of bears were harvested using bait (50%). Most black bears were taken by rifle (71%), but bows (26%), and handguns (3%) were also used. Staff responded to 58 complaints involving black bears including 3 depredation complaints.

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 GMUs in DAU 4A are on the southern edge of black bear range in Idaho and black bear densities are relatively low. Harvest in this DAU generally comprises less than 5% of the annual statewide black bear harvest. Urban development in the Big Wood Valley (GMUs 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 GMUs 45, 48, and 49 in the 1970s. However, year-round seasons remained in GMU 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.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were conducted in DAU 4A from 2003 to 2008, but were ended due to the labor intensity of these efforts relative to the amount of data they provided.
**Harvest Characteristics**

The 2011 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2010. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A).

Sixty-two black bears were harvested in 2011, 11% greater than the 3-year average and 50% greater than the 10-year average for this DAU. Sixty-three percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season; a trend relatively consistent over the past 5 years (Table 1).

The three year average for sex and age ratios remain consistent with harvest criteria established in the 2000-2010 management plan (Table 3). Thirty-seven percent of males harvested in 2011 were ≥5 years old while females made up 36% of the total harvest.

Baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 31%, 12%, 9%, and 8% of the total hunter harvest of black bears in DAU 4A, respectively (Table 4). One hunter (2%) used a combination of bait and hounds while 1 hunter (2%) reported harvesting a black bear by other means.

Rifles accounted for 71% of the harvest in 2011, bows 26%, and handguns 3% (Table 5).

Most of the black bear complaints reported to the Department involve nuisance black bears in the Big Wood River Valley. In 2011, approximately 3 depredation complaints and 55 nuisance bear complaints were received for this DAU (Table 6).

Wildlife Service’s personnel handle depredations on livestock. From 1995-2011, we received mortality reports on 25 black bears dispatched by Wildlife Services for this DAU, but no lethal removal occurred during this reporting period.

**Dog-training Season**

A standard dog-training season of 1 June-31 July was implemented in 2003 and remained in place through 2011.

**Management Implications**

Though it appears somewhat cyclical, black bear harvest in DAU 4A has increased steadily over the past 20 years with roughly 3 times as many bears being harvested now compared to the mid-1980s. It is possible this is indicative of population increases in DAU 4A. However, interpreting these data is difficult as interest in black bear hunting may influence harvest statistics. Despite increasing harvest, the data suggest black bear harvest has been moderate (3-year running average of 36% females and 30% males ≥5 years old in the harvest) and remains consistent with objectives for this DAU.
Though black bear depredation problems remain at tolerable levels, complaints from residents in the Big Wood River Valley and conflicts with campers along the South Fork Boise River have, generally, risen over the past 15 years. Bears destroying apiaries has been a rare occurrence in this DAU. However, we have received 2 complaints in the past two years with one complaint involving multiple bears.
Table 1. Black bear harvest by season and sex, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

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<sup>a</sup> Some bears may not have been aged; therefore, totals in this column may differ from totals reported elsewhere in this report.
Table 3. 2000-2010 Black Bear Plan management values and criteria, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAU</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>n(^a)</th>
<th>% Females(^b)</th>
<th>% Males (\geq 5)</th>
<th># Males (\geq 5)</th>
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\(^a\) Number of black bears that were aged (excluding unknown).

\(^b\) Number of black bears that were sexed (excluding unknown).
Table 4. Method of black bear harvest, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAU</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bait</th>
<th>Hounds</th>
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^a Includes the number of black bears that were harvested using a combination of bait and hounds.
Table 5. Weapon type used to harvest black bear, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

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<th>DAU</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Muzzleloader</th>
<th>Handgun</th>
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Table 6. Black bear depredation and nuisance complaints, Magic Valley Region, 1994-present.

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<th>DAU</th>
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<th>Nuisance</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>2011</td>
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</table>

<sup>a</sup> Number of black bears killed by Wildlife Services for depredations on livestock.
STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories
STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

UPPER SNAKE REGION

Abstract

Black bear harvest increased markedly in all 3 Upper Snake/Southeast Region DAUs from the mid-1990s through the early-2000s, and has remained relatively stable since. 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. The Upper Snake bear harvest was 183 during the 2011 season.

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. For the 3-year running average (2008-2010), DAU 4B and 4D were within management criteria while DAU 4C harvest was below the female criteria and above the male criteria, indicating a light harvest.

Climatic Conditions

Overall, climatic conditions were very favorable throughout this reporting period. The summer of 2010 was average. The winter of 2011-2012 was mild, with milder than average snow pack and crusting.
Depredations

There were 2 confirmed black bear depredations in the Upper Snake Region during the reporting period (Table 7).

Two orphaned black bear cubs were captured and transported to a rehabilitation center during this reporting period.

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 2009-2011 was 46 bears. In 2011, 45 black bears were reported harvested (Table 2).

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 GMUs 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 anise-oil scent were wired to a tree every mile and greater than 100 yards off the transect. GMU 50 had 7 routes with 35 stations, GMU 51 had 4 routes with 20 stations, GMU 58 had 3 routes with 15 stations, GMU 59 had 3 routes with 15 stations, and GMU 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 GMU 50, 1 in GMU 51, 5 in GMU 58, 1 in GMU 59, and 1 in GMU 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.
During summer of 2009, the USFWS placed hair snares and motion-sensitive cameras at 70 sites in GMUs 58, 59, and 59A to investigate the presence of grizzly bears and document other wildlife uses (Servheen et al. 2010). The investigators found black bear hair at 47 of 70 hair snare sites. They documented 78 black bears during the total 917 camera nights the motion-sensitive cameras were deployed and functioning properly. They estimated that an average of 2.17 bears were at each visited site. They also documented 6 sows with twin cubs and 2 sows with single cubs.

**Harvest Characteristics**

Fourty-five black bears were checked from DAU 4B in 2011 (Table 2). This was slightly above the current 3-year average for 2009-2011 of 46. 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 2008-2010 period was slightly above the desired female harvest criteria (39% females) and within the male harvest criteria (34% males ≥ 5 years old).

Harvest for the 2009-2011 period was within the desired female harvest criteria (39% females) and within the male harvest criteria (34% males ≥ 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 2011. Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

**Dog-training Seasons**

The 2011 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in DAU 4B.

**Management Implications**

DAU 4B is to be managed to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range. Harvest for 2009-2011 was within the desired range for the female harvest criteria and within the male harvest criteria, suggesting harvest was moderate.

**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 10 years has exceeded 30 bears. Harvest objectives for DAU 4C have been set to maintain harvest levels
consistent with the “moderate” level of harvest. Average harvest over 2009-2011 was below this level for percent females and above 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 GMUs 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

Historically, a relatively small number of black bears (<30) were checked from this DAU annually. However, the most recent 3-year average of 54 bears from DAU 4C exceeds the ≥30-bear criteria set forth in the Black Bear Management Plan (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). The majority of bears were harvested during the fall season in 2005, 2006, and 2007, but the 2008 harvest was again fairly evenly split between the seasons.
For the 2009 and 2010 seasons, spring harvest exceeded fall harvest. Age distribution of black bear checked from DAU 4C is presented in Table 3. Harvest for the 2009-2011 period was above the desired level for males ≥5 years old (36%) and below the desired level for percent females (27%), indicating a light harvest (Table 4).

Still/stalk and incidental hunting combined dominate 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 bait was the single most used method of take during the 2011 season (bait and hounds are allowed in GMU 60 and that portion of GMU 61 west of Howard Creek). Rifle is the most popular weapon for hunting in this DAU followed by archery (Table 6).

**Dog-training Season**

The 2011 dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in the portion of DAU 4C open to dog training (that portion of GMU 61 west of Howard Creek in Clark County).

**Management Implications**

The objectives for DAU 4C are to maintain “moderate” harvest levels. Harvest for the 2008-2010 seasons was above objective for males ≥5 years and below the desired level for percent females, indicating a light harvest. This population is 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. That change has increased the number of spring bears taken from an average of 14 during 1994-2002 to an average of 24 during 2003-2010.

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

**Abstract**

With the exception of a low harvest in 2008 (50 bears), black bear harvest in DAU 4D has more than doubled in the 2000s, compared to 1994-1999. The 2011 harvest of 74 bears is lower than the 2009-2011 average for this DAU of 82 bears. Harvest objectives for DAU 4D have been set to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” level of harvest. Harvest over 2009-2011 was within this level for the female and males harvest criteria.

**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 GMUs 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. GMU 64 had 1 route with 5 stations, GMU 65 had 1 route with 5 stations, GMU 67 had 5 routes with 25 stations, GMU 66 had 5 routes with 25 stations, and GMUs 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 74 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2011 (Table 2). Harvest increased annually from 1998-2004, appeared to level off during 2005-2006, rose again for 2007, dropped substantially for 2008, and came back to around the average for 2009 and 2010. The average annual harvest for the 2009-2011 seasons was 82. Harvest values for the 2009-2011 seasons were 36% of male harvest ≥5 years old and 33% of the harvest was female, indicating a moderate harvest (Table 4).

Baiting and hound hunting were the most popular method of harvest followed by incidental hunting, and then still/stalk (Table 5). The majority of bears harvested in this DAU were taken with a rifle, followed by archery (Table 6).

Dog-training Season

The 2011 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. The Idaho Fish and Game commission restored one week of opportunity during the 2011 season setting process. This change won’t take effect until the
spring 2012 bear season. Current levels suggest the population is being harvested at a moderate level.

DAU 5 (GMUs 60A, 63, 63A)

Management Direction

Historically, the Department did not offer an open season in Area 5 because black bear numbers were low and too sparse to justify a hunting season. However, bear sightings in this Area, and reports of problem bears, have increased over the last few years. Due to this, the Department opened a general black bear hunting season in the Area in 2008. There are no specific harvest expectations in this Area and the primary purpose of the season is to allow the harvest of black bears around human habitation and livestock operations.

Background

Area 5 GMUs are comprised of urban-suburban, irrigated farmland, and drier, desert-like areas. Habitat quality is marginal and few black bears occur in Area 5. Prior to the 2008 hunting season, Area 5 GMUs had no black bear hunting seasons.

Population Surveys

No black bear population surveys are conducted in Area 5.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2011 season in Area 5 ran from 30 August-31 October and 15 April-30 June. No bears were harvested in this Area during the 2011 season.

Dog-training Season

The 2011 dog-training season ran from 1 July-31 July in Area 5.

Management Implications

The Department did not plan to offer an open season in Area 5 during the 2000-2010 planning period, but an increase in reported black bear activity in this area suggested an open season would likely be useful in reducing bear-human conflicts. The expectation is that bear harvest in this Area will remain low. If the harvest trend increases over time the harvest season should be re-evaluated and specific management objectives should be identified for Area 5.

LITERATURE CITED

Table 1. Bait station survey results, Upper Snake and Southeast Regions, 1992-2004.

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

<sup>b</sup> 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.

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*a One bear of unknown sex.
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Desired levels: 30-40, 25-35

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|     | 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 |
|     | 2008 | 66 | 21 | 46 | 24 |
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|     | 2011 | 64 | 34 | 42 | 17 |</p>
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\(^a\) 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.

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\textsuperscript{a} Total includes one harvest in which the method was unspecified.

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\(^a\) 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.

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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.
d There were 5 depredations on sheep in 2008 that USDA Wildlife Services were unable to confirm as black bear.
STATEWIDE REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Black Bear Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

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 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 206, 184, 236 and 194 bears were harvested, respectively. Approximately 41% of the harvest has occurred during extended seasons over the last 3 years. In 2011, female harvest for bait and hound hunters was 40% across all 3 DAUs, whereas female harvest for incidental and spot-stalk hunters was 49%. Long-term percent females in the harvest indicates there was not much selectivity for bear gender among harvest methods.

Climate

Rainfall during summer months in 2011 was above average, with some cool, moist weather during spring and early summer. Vegetative growth appeared well above average. Winter conditions were relatively mild, with normal to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, at least at mid to lower elevations. Snow-pack (as measured at higher elevations) was approximately 97% of average by late winter. Onset of spring weather and associated plant phenology was earlier than normal in 2012. Water-year precipitation through June 2012 has been approximately 97% of average at lower elevations (Salmon weather station). Spring and early summer conditions in 2012 were warm and drier than average.
AREA 1
DAU 11 (GMUs 34, 35, 36)

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 11 is to maintain a heavy harvest rate of <25% males ≥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. This area typically receives high snowfall and endures cold winter temperatures. 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).

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest in 2011 was 32 less than the 20-year high in 2007 and similar to the previous the 3-year average (39) (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. The percent of males ≥5 years old (44% in 2011) increasingly moved away from goal levels from 2001 through 2009, except for drops toward the goal of <25% in 2005 and 2010 (Table 4). With the exception of 2008 and 2010, female harvest has not reached the management goal of >40% in the past 10 years. Use of bait accounted for 49% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2011 (Table 5). Approximately 38% of bears were taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting.

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. During 2011, there were no depredation complaints (Table 7).
Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate (<25% males ≥5 years old and >40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggested a light to moderate 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 GMU 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 48% over the last 3 years. Currently, harvest indicator criteria suggests a light harvest rate.

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 ≥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.

GMUs 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 GMUs is primarily associated with valley bottoms or patented mining claims.

Population Surveys

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

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 2011 (83) dropped to the third lowest total since seasons were extended in 2000 (Table 2).

Male age composition of DAU 1J black bear harvest indicates a lighter harvest rate than specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (3-yr ave. = 51% ≥5 years). However, the 3-year average for percent females in the harvest is within the management goal of 30-40% (Table 4). In 2011, bait and hound hunters accounted for 54% of the harvest and still hunter and incidental take comprised 46% of the harvest.

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 dumpsites 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 to 23 (Table 7). After a near-record 21 complaints received in 2010 there were no complaints during 2011 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). During the 1990s harvest indicator criteria for percent males ≥5 years old and percent females suggest a light harvest rate. Accordingly, fall 1999 season opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years, and the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 15 to 30 June, creating a total of 31 additional days to hunt black bears. Extended season dates accounted for a consistent 16% of harvest during 2001-2003. Harvest during extended season dates accounted for 35% of total harvest over the last 3 years. The proportion of females in the harvest has slowly trended upward over the last 10 years and has slightly exceeded 40% during 2 of the last 3 seasons. Conversely, the proportion of older males remains well above the desired level and actually increased in 2011, indicating availability of additional male harvest opportunity.

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

Game management 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

Prior to the extended season, 25-39 black bears were harvested in DAU 4E (Table 2). In 2010, a record high 89 black bears were harvested, which is 24 more than the previous 3-year average (Table 2). Harvest in 2011(74) was the second highest in recent history. The 3-year average for male age composition of DAU 1J black bear met the goals specified in the 2000-2010 management plan; however, percent females in the harvest were higher than desired in 6 of the past 8 years (Table 4). In 2011, bait and hound hunters accounted for 59% of the harvest and still hunter and incidental take comprised 38% of the harvest.

Depredations

Except for 1994 and 2007, unusually dry years, DAU 4E experiences relatively few depredation problems (Table 7). There were 5 depredation complaints in 2011.

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). 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 over time and contributed 46% of total harvest from 2009 to 2011. Harvest levels for this DAU suggest harvest maybe higher than goal levels, particular with regard to female take. In response to excessive female harvest, the spring season was reduced by 15 days (closing date moved from 30 Jun to 15 Jun), beginning with the 2013 spring season.
Table 1. Harvest criteria for black bear in Idaho.

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\textsuperscript{a} Number of black bears for which sex was determined (excluding unknown).

\textsuperscript{b} Number of black bears for which age was estimated (excluding unknown).
Table 5. Method of black bear harvest, Salmon Region, 1994-present.

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APPENDIX A

IDAHO

2011 SEASON

BLACK BEAR RULES
Idaho
Big Game Seasons and Rules
2011

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn
August 2011 - February 2012

Black Bears, Mountain Lions
August 2011 - July 2012

Including Controlled Hunts for
Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, and Black Bears
2011 Fall / 2012 Spring Black Bear Hunting Seasons

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

Black Bear
Straight Face Profile
No Hump

Round Front Track

Grizzly Bear
Dish Face Profile
Hump

Straight Front Track

Fish and Game’s headquarters office is not equipped to check in bears. In the Boise area, these animals can be checked at the Fish and Game regional office in Nampa, (3101 S. Powerline Road, 208-465-8465) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by appointment at the Garden City facility, 109 W. 44th St., 208-227-7099.

Dump Grounds: No person may hunt or pursue a black bear at any time within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump ground or sanitary landfill.

Special Tags
Second tags: Second tags for black bears may be used only in Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27 and that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River. Nonresident black bear tags for use in these units are available for $31.75.

Nonresident Deer or Elk tags: A nonresident deer or elk tag may be used to tag a black bear or mountain lion, see page 77 for details.

Bait
Bait is any substance placed to attract game animals.
Bait may be used to hunt black bear but only under the following conditions:

Time: No bait or bait containers may be placed for the purpose of attracting or taking black bears before the opening of black bear take season, except in Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, and 27, where bait may be placed up to 7 days before the take season.

• All bait containers and materials must be removed, and all excavations filled, no later than 7 days after the close of spring, fall, or dog training season.

Location: No bait site may be located within 200 feet of any water (lake, pond, reservoir, or year-round free-flowing stream or spring), or within 200 yards of any maintained trail or any road.

• No bait site may be located within 1/2 mile of any designated campground or picnic area, administrative site, or dwelling.

Bait: No parts of animals or fish that are currently classified as game animals or game fish in Idaho may be used as bait. This includes game animals and fish that come from the wild and commercial domestic sources (i.e., pen raised game birds/animals or hatchery raised game fish).

• The skin must be removed from any mammal parts or carcasses used as bait.

• No person shall use salt in any form (liquid or solid) for bait.
Containers: No bait may be contained within paper, plastic, glass, metal, wood, or other non-biodegradable materials, except that a single metal container with a maximum size of 55 gallons may be used if securely attached at the bait site.

- No bait may be contained in any excavated hole greater than 4 feet in diameter.

Establishment of Bait Sites: Any structures constructed at bait sites and all materials must be removed by the permit holder within 7 days after the close of the spring and fall black bear seasons.

- All bait sites must be visibly marked at the nearest tree or on the bait container using a tag supplied by Fish and Game.

Baiting Permits: All persons placing bait must possess a baiting permit issued by Fish and Game. Baiting permits are issued by mail or in person from Fish and Game regional and sub-regional offices beginning March 1 of each year.

- Baiting permits will be valid in the calendar year for which they are issued.

- A hunter may possess only one Fish and Game baiting permit each year and may maintain up to three bait sites, except the number of bait sites maintained by outfitters may be specified by the land management agency in the outfitter’s operating plan.

- Bait site tags are valid for spring and fall seasons in the calendar year for which they are issued.

- No person may hunt over an unlawful bait site.

- Guides and clients of outfitters are not required to obtain a baiting permit, but they must have a copy of the outfitter’s permit in their possession while hunting over a bait site.

- Possession of a Fish and Game baiting permit does not exempt the permit holder from any restrictions placed on users of federal, state, or private lands.

Hound Hunting

See the section on hound hunting rules on Page 68.

Bear Identification

To prevent mistaken identity, bear hunters are encouraged to learn to identify black bears and tell them from grizzly bears in the wild. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks bear identification training program is available at: http://fwptt.gov/education/hunter/bearID/default.html. This link is provided for educational purposes only.

Grizzly bears may be found in 3 areas of Idaho: the Panhandle in big game units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 6, 7 and 9; the Bitterroot Mountains along the Idaho/Montana border in big game units 10, 12 and 17; and Southeast Idaho in the Yellowstone Ecosystem in big game units 60, 61, 62, 62A, 64, 65, and 67.

For safety tips while hunting in grizzly bear country, taking the bear identification training program, and reporting grizzly bear observations, please visit the Fish and Game grizzly bear webpage at: https://fishandgame.idaho.gov
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Take Season</th>
<th>Dogs Prohibited</th>
<th>Dog Training</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Sep 14 (Archery only) Sep 15 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31</td>
<td>Jan 1 - Dec 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Bait and dogs prohibited. <em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 3, 5</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 4A, 6</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30</td>
<td>Jun 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td><em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 9</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Oct 10 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Jul 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td><em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10, 12</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Oct 10 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Jul 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used. <em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30</td>
<td>Jun 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td>Second bear tag may be used North of Selway River Remainder of unit: 1 bear tag</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30</td>
<td>Jul 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, <em>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Unit 17</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16A, 17, 19, 20</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Sep 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20A</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Sep 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Second bear tag may be used</td>
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<td>22, 31, 32, 32A</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>May 23 - Jul 31</td>
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(continued)
### Fall 2011 / Spring 2012 Black Bear Seasons
**(Females with young are protected!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Take Season</th>
<th>Dogs Prohibited</th>
<th>Dog Training</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26, 27</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Sep 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Jul 1 - Jul 31</td>
<td>Second bear tag may be used</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 15</td>
<td>Oct 5 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Jun 16 - Jul 31</td>
<td>That portion of Unit 33 within the Middle Fork of the Payette River drainage downstream from but excluding Powder House Gutch drainage is closed during dog training season.</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Oct 1 - Oct 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Oct 1 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Jun 16 - Jul 31 west of Howard Creek in Clark County only.</td>
<td>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</td>
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<tr>
<td>62, 62A</td>
<td>Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Jun 30</td>
<td>Jan 1 - Dec 31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Bait and dogs prohibited. Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</td>
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### Fall 2011 Black Bear Controlled Hunts
**(215 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hunt No.</th>
<th>Controlled Hunt Areas</th>
<th>Tags</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8501</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sep 15 - Oct 9</td>
<td>Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 60. Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8502</td>
<td>22* (see pg 60)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Sep 1 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Bait prohibited. Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 60.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 73-76. (continued)
### Spring 2012 Black Bear Controlled Hunts
(150 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)

<table>
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<th>Hunt No.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8001</td>
<td>22* (see pg 60)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Apr 1 - May 22</td>
<td>Bait and dogs prohibited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8002</td>
<td>32* (see pg 60)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Apr 1 - May 22</td>
<td>Bait and dogs prohibited, Motor Vehicle Rule Applies, See Page 70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. Controlled hunt tag holders must have a hound-hunter permit to use dogs in this hunt. Any dogs used must be under the control of the tag holder.

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

---

### Black Bear Controlled Hunt Area Descriptions

**Hunt Area 1** — That portion of Unit 1 within the following boundary: Beginning at the Idaho/Washington state line where it intersects the Pend Oreille River, then northward along the Idaho/Washington state line to the Lamb Creek drainage, then southeasterly along the northern edge of the Lamb Creek divide to Priest Lake, then along the southern shore of Priest Lake to the Soldier Creek drainage, then easterly along the northern edge of the Soldier Creek drainage to the Selkirk Divide; then southerly along the Selkirk Divide to Baldy Mountain, then easterly along Little Sand Creek to the Pend Oreille River, then westerly along the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River to the point of beginning, and that portion of Unit 1 within the following boundary: Beginning at the confluence of the Moyie River and the Kootenai River, then west and north on the Kootenai River to the Copeland Bridge, then east on County Road 45 to the junction with State Highway 1, then south on State Highway 1 to the intersection with State Highway 95, then north and east on State Highway 95 to where State Highway 95 crosses the Moyie River, then south on the Moyie River to the point of beginning.

**Hunt Area 22** — All of Units 22 and 31.

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