

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Virgil Moore, Director**

**Surveys and Inventories**

**2014 Statewide Report**



**BLACK BEAR**

Study I, Job 9

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

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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, 2012 to June 30, 2013

**STATEWIDE**

**Abstract**

Idaho Black Bear Management Plan consists of 22 Data Analysis Units (DAU) made up of various game management units (GMU) (Figure 1). Hunters are required to report black bears harvested within 10 days of kill. Hunters killed 2,214 black bears during 2013, an 11% decrease from 2012. Hunters killed 1,375 in the spring and 836 in the fall. Females comprised 39% of the harvest. Of all the regions, most bears (667, 30%) were killed in the Clearwater Region, in north-central Idaho. In this Region, bear harvest has been encouraged to help reduce predation on Elk. Harvest liberalizations include extra bear tags, allowing nonresident hunters to purchase reduced price bear tags (\$31.75 vs. \$186.00), and encouraging 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 (3). Bear baiting is allowed across most of the state, and 45% of bears were harvested using this technique. Still hunting and stalking accounted for 27% of the harvest, incidental harvest accounted for 11%, and hound hunting for 14%. Percentage of adult males in the harvest is monitored to determine trend over time (Figure 2).

There were 30,608 resident and 3,043 nonresident black bear tags sold in 2012. Bear baiting permits are required by anyone hunting over bait; 2,519 baiting permits were sold in 2012. Likewise, hunting with hounds requires a permit and nonresident permits are restricted to 70 statewide with additional nonresident permits available in a few GMUs. In 2012, 2,858 resident and 97 nonresident hound-hunting permits were sold.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Tags</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>% Change in Harvest from Previous Year</b>
Statewide	33,651	2,479	1,611	862	+10%

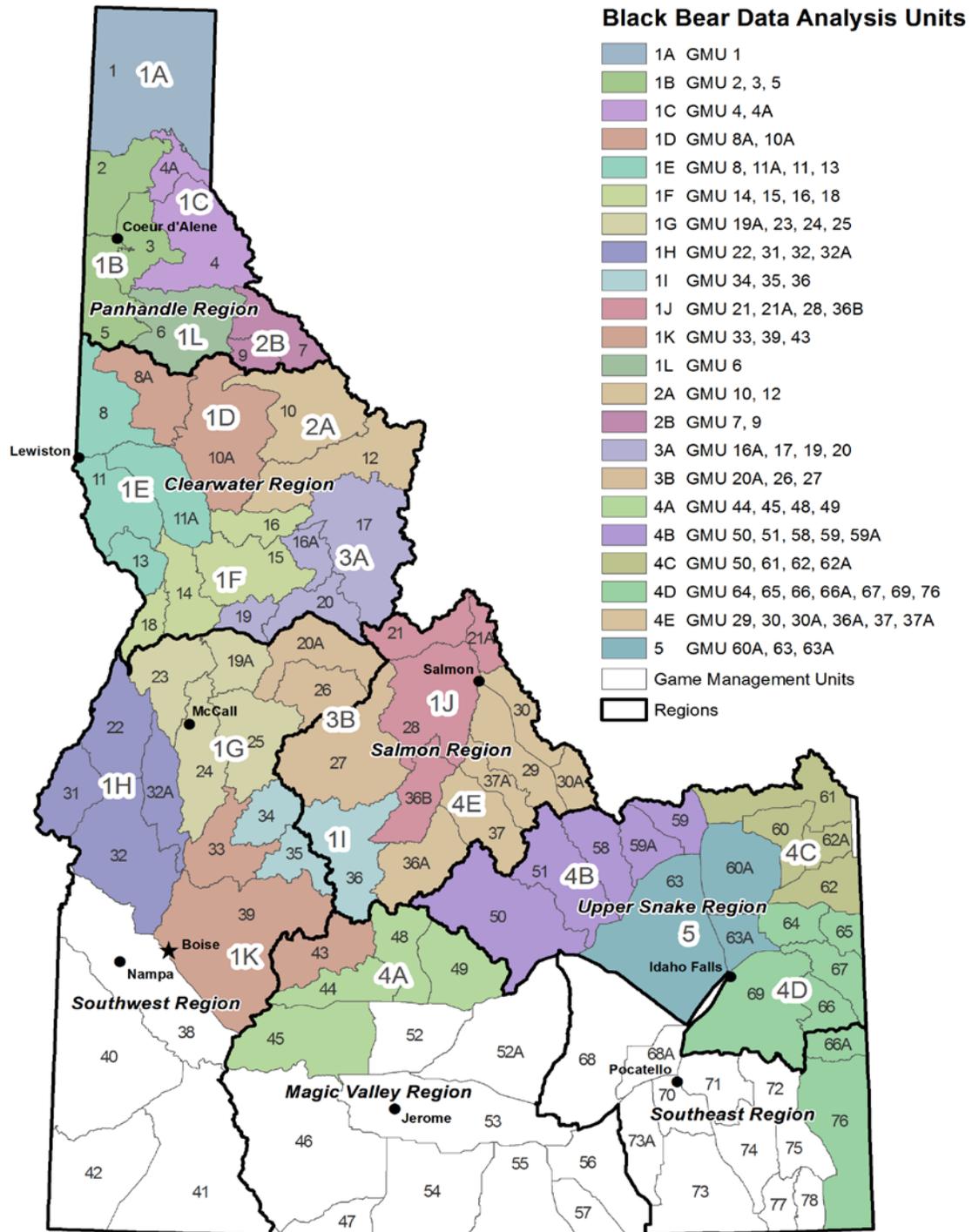


Figure 1. Twenty-two Data Analysis Units (DAU) for black bear management in Idaho.

## Statewide

<b>Square Miles:</b>	<u>3-Year Averages</u>	
57,555	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	4.0
	Percent Females	36%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	34%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2435</b>	<b>2424</b>	<b>2254</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>2163</b>	<b>2142</b>	<b>2494</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>2480</b>	<b>2214</b>
Males	0-4 years	1005	934	881	1023	884	909	1004	858	1029	901
	5+ years	491	529	464	594	441	454	527	500	518	445
	Unknown	71	68	119	78	45	41	84	55	67	54
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>1464</b>	<b>1695</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>1615</b>	<b>1413</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>1400</b>
Females	0-4 years	412	418	377	472	365	355	419	366	433	308
	5+ years	396	409	324	420	381	334	397	419	382	342
	Unknown	55	56	84	57	37	39	56	48	45	161
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>811</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	5	10	5	7	10	10	7	5	6	3
<b>Season</b>	Spring	1421	1408	1199	1419	1109	1128	1358	1202	1463	1375
	Fall	1025	1027	1033	1257	1072	970	1158	1050	1018	836
<b>Method</b>	Bait	817	889	811	1046	774	848	1014	879	1122	972
	Hounds	353	291	258	259	274	204	247	242	256	234
	Incidental	381	342	303	413	328	288	399	311	321	288
	Still/Stalk	736	688	710	763	641	573	675	677	611	572
	Other	38	59	42	69	45	73	58	55	67	62

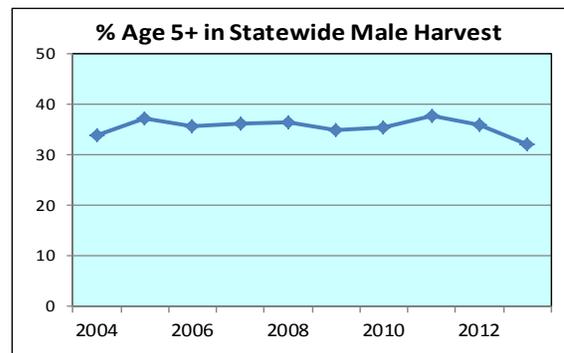
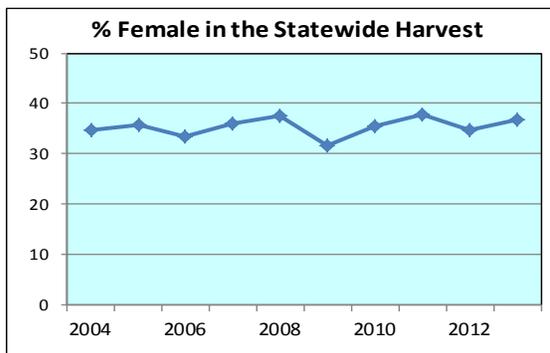
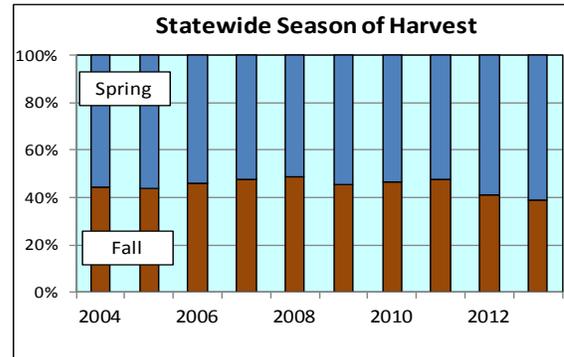
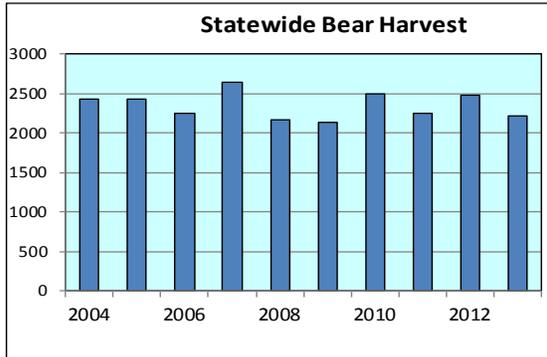


Figure 2. Statewide Black Bear Status and Objectives.

## **PANHANDLE REGION**

### **Abstract**

Reported black bear harvest in Panhandle Region during 2013 was 523 bears, 9% below the previous 3-year average. Female harvest (190) was 7% lower, and male harvest (333) was 11% lower. Thirty-six percent of the harvest was female, and 35% of aged male bears were age class 5 or older. Both indicators are consistent with a population managed under a moderate harvest regime as defined by the 2000-2010 black bear management plan. Harvest increased in DAU, 1L. DAUs 1L and 2B have a longer season that runs through June. In DAU 1L 36% of the harvest occurred during June and in DAU 2B, 44% of the harvest occurred in June. This may simply be an artifact of a cold wet spring that limited access in other areas during the earlier season, but it does warrant watching. The 2013 huckleberry crop was “above average” (Figures 3-7).

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 to moderate harvest. DAUs 1B and 1C are managed for heavy harvest; both DAUs are currently at moderate harvest indicators.

### **AREA 1**

#### **Management Direction**

The Department will offer a variety of hunting opportunities in Area 1. DAUs within the area include all harvest categories as defined in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. The “reservoir concept” is not a major influence affecting Area 1. That is, harvest data likely 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 areas.

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 121 during 2013, approximately 24% below the 2010-2012 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 averaged 33% and the percentage of males in age classes 5+ is 45% (Figure 3).

## **Management Direction**

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

## **Background**

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

In general, dense conifer habitat types characterize this DAU. The climate produces an abundance of huckleberries. Portions of the Selkirk, Cabinet, and Purcell ranges are included in this DAU, with the broad Kootenai River Valley providing the only substantial agricultural area. Overall, DAU 1A 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 GMU 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 habits 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 Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 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 or stalk hunting. Eighty-nine percent of the 2013 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunter's specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Figure 3).

The majority of the harvest occurred during the spring season in 2013; with 61% percent of the harvest in the spring, consistent with many years.

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 33% females on average, slightly higher than the target of <30% females in the harvest. However, in 2012 and 2013 the harvest of females has been the lowest rate in 10 years. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 45% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 3).

### **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. The 3-year average of 33% females in the harvest is higher than the management objective but, as noted, the 2012 and 2013 harvest of females was near target level. This component of the harvest warrants watching. Within the male harvest, bears age 5 years and older easily meet management objectives and have been stable since 1994. There are no known problems with low calf elk or fawn deer ratios in this DAU at this time.



### DAU 1A (GMU 1)

<b>Square Miles:</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	<b>Objective</b>
2,475	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> : 5.7	NA
	Percent Females 33%	<30%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years 45%	>35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>121</b>
Males	0-4 years	70	53	77	59	47	55	53	43	58	44
	5+ years	46	36	44	62	46	28	47	38	41	39
	Unknown	14	19	26	17	1	5	12	8	8	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>84</b>
Females	0-4 years	26	24	26	33	20	17	29	16	17	22
	5+ years	39	22	35	34	28	20	25	36	23	13
	Unknown	3	12	15	3	3	5	13	6	4	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0
Season	Spring	119	96	84	98	70	71	69	70	73	74
	Fall	80	72	140	111	78	59	110	78	78	47
Method	Bait	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
	Hounds	7	3	9	2	6	3	6	7	6	5
	Incidental	22	14	22	16	15	9	16	16	17	5
	Still/Stalk	166	144	190	182	121	115	148	121	116	108
	Other	4	7	3	9	6	2	7	3	12	3

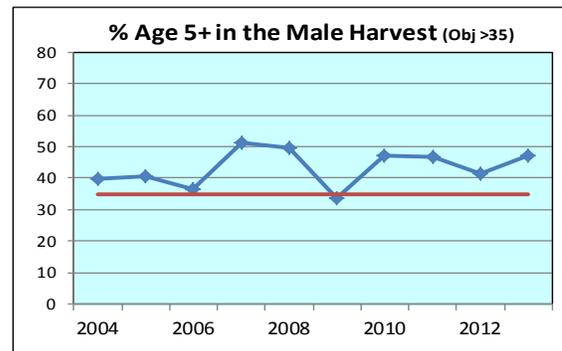
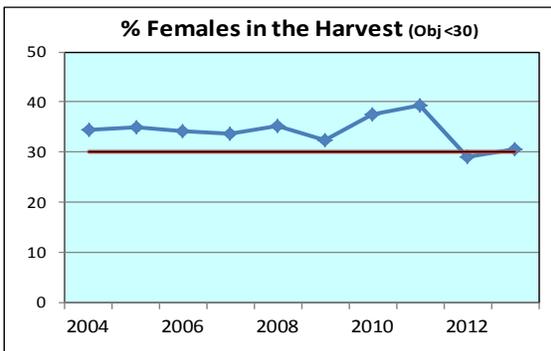
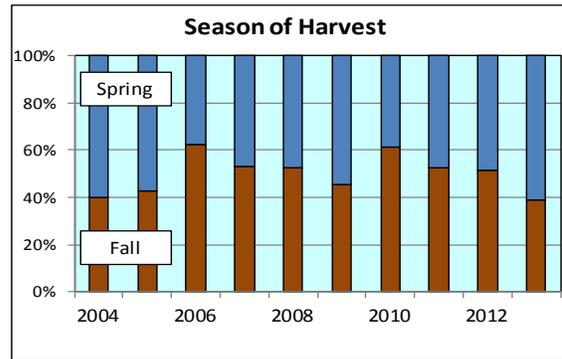
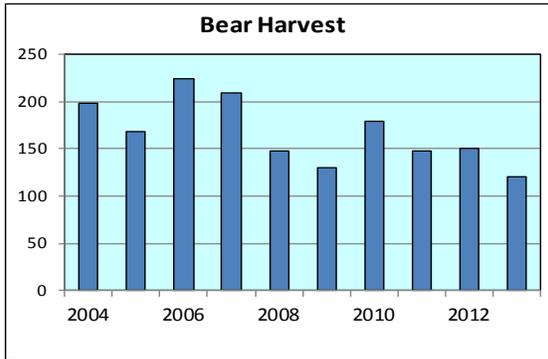


Figure 3. DAU1A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **DAU 1B (GMUs 2, 3, 5)**

### **Abstract**

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1B was 85 during 2013, a 26% decrease over the 2010-2012 average of 115 bears (Figure 4). Males 5+ years of age made up 20% of the harvest over the past 3 years, achieving the management objective for heavy harvest of <25%; the percent of females in the harvest (41%) also meets the desired level of >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 2013, harvest using bait was the most predominant method (52%). Hounds and still/stalk harvest was nearly equal (20% and 19% respectively) while incidental harvest was much lower (7%, Figure 4). In 2013, only 38% of the harvest occurred in the spring.

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The percentage of females in the 2011-2013 harvest was 41%. In 2013, 10% of the males that were harvested were 5+ years old. Historically this DAU has had the youngest age structure in the 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 Implication**

Female harvest (41%) was at the management criteria of >40% and male harvest 5+ years of age averaged 20%, achieving the range for the heavy harvest targets in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. There are no known problems with low calf or fawn ratios in this DAU.

### DAU 1B (GMUs 2, 3, 5)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
1,963	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	5.3	NA
	Percent Females	41%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	20%	<25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>85</b>
Males	0-4 years	55	62	54	67	61	63	52	43	53	44
	5+ years	8	10	11	21	10	12	17	12	17	5
	Unknown	1	7	1	3	1	6	4	3	6	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>49</b>
Females	0-4 years	29	33	27	34	22	30	26	19	30	18
	5+ years	18	19	26	26	30	17	18	18	21	17
	Unknown	5	3	5	2	2	3	3	1	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Season	Spring	46	48	35	36	12	30	30	13	31	32
	Fall	70	86	89	117	114	103	90	84	98	53
Method	Bait	42	45	44	52	40	52	56	49	54	44
	Hounds	26	22	20	21	24	30	17	16	23	17
	Incidental	9	12	20	28	21	9	11	16	18	6
	Still/Stalk	37	48	35	48	35	36	30	10	22	16
	Other	2	7	5	4	6	6	5	5	12	2

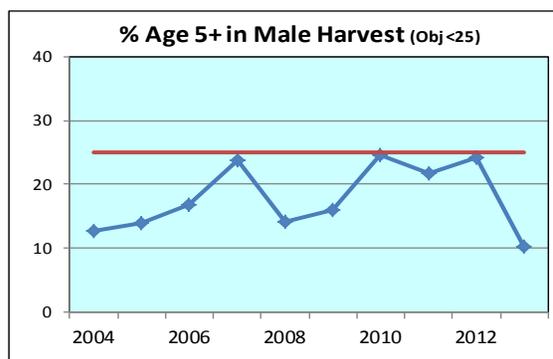
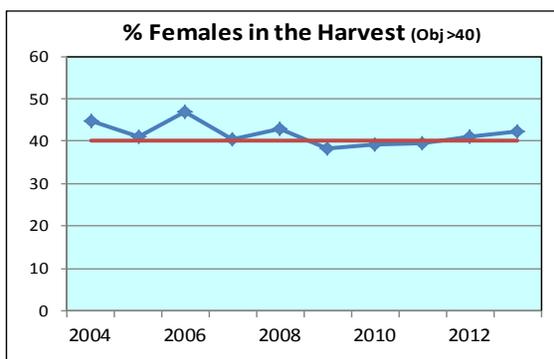
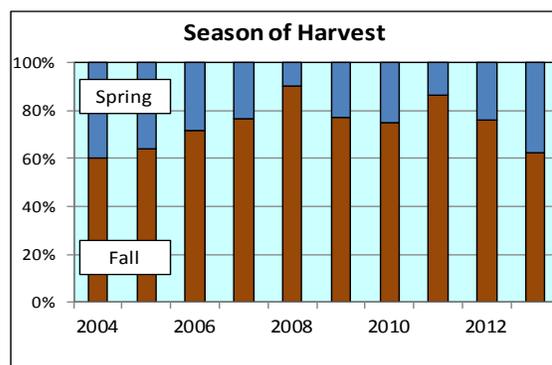
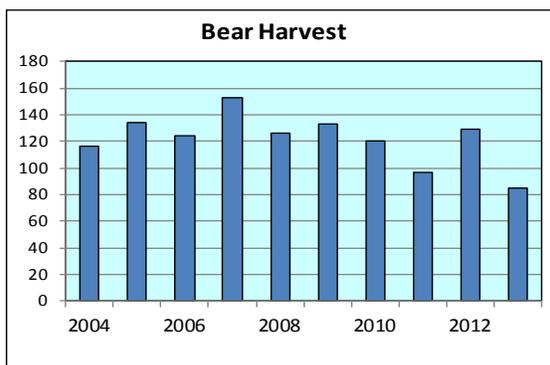


Figure 4. DAU1B Black Bear Status and Objectives

## DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)

### Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 126 during 2013, a 17% decrease from the previous 3-year average (Figure 5). This DAU has historically met criteria for moderate harvest, but was targeted for heavy harvest in the 2000-2010 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. A second bear tag may now be used in the GMU 4 portion of this DAU in an attempt to achieve the heavy harvest criteria. However, the increase in the harvest through the use of a second tag has been minimal in other units using this strategy.

### 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 GMU 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**

Forty-eight percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2013, consistent with previous years. Baiting (35%) and hounds (30%) were the primary method used to kill bears in DAU 1C followed by still/stalk (23%). Incidental kills (8%) made up most of the remaining harvest (Figure 5).

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The percentage of females in the 2011-2013 harvest was 40%, very close to the 40%+ objective. The percentage of males 5+ years old was 31%, above the desired age criterion of <25%. This criterion has not been achieved in the previous 10 years (Figure 5).

### **Dog-training Seasons**

The 2013 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. A second bear tag may now be used in the GMU 4 portion of this DAU in an attempt to achieve the heavy harvest criteria. The increase in the harvest through the use of a second tag has been minimal in other GMUs using this strategy, however, the age structure is declining, an indication that the strategy may be working.

### DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,523	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> : 9.2	NA
	Percent Females 40%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years 31%	<25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>126</b>
Males	0-4 years	67	83	62	52	40	57	61	59	59	41
	5+ years	26	37	32	47	19	33	31	17	24	32
	Unknown	3	7	10	5	4	5	11	4	8	7
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>
Females	0-4 years	17	32	20	27	22	16	19	19	25	17
	5+ years	19	35	16	34	21	21	30	43	27	23
	Unknown	3	4	11	3	1	4	7	6	2	6
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Season	Spring	59	104	57	77	28	47	70	44	64	61
	Fall	77	96	94	92	79	90	89	104	82	65
Method	Bait	30	54	45	47	25	29	55	43	48	44
	Hounds	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
	Incidental	30	26	28	26	16	31	43	26	32	38
	Still/Stalk	37	30	29	34	29	13	16	28	13	10
	Other	2	4	2	4	0	13	2	12	4	5

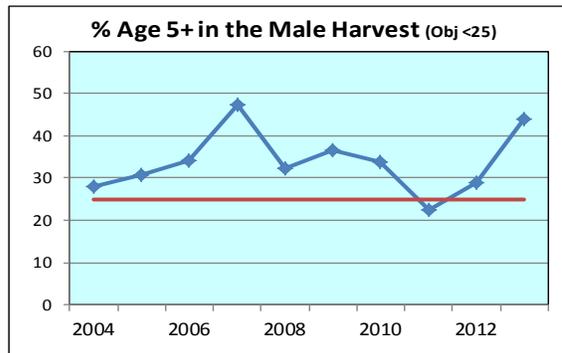
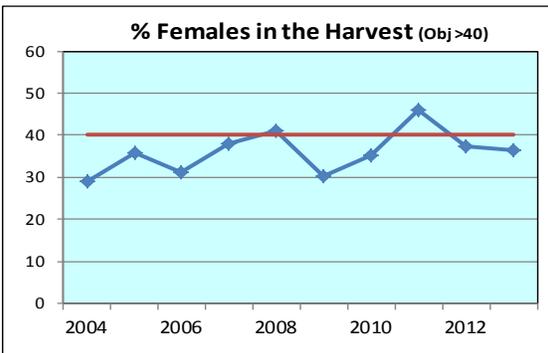
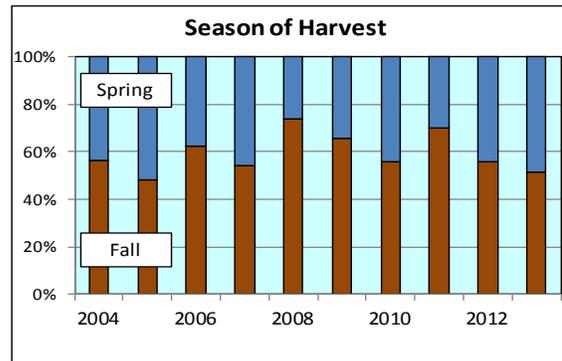
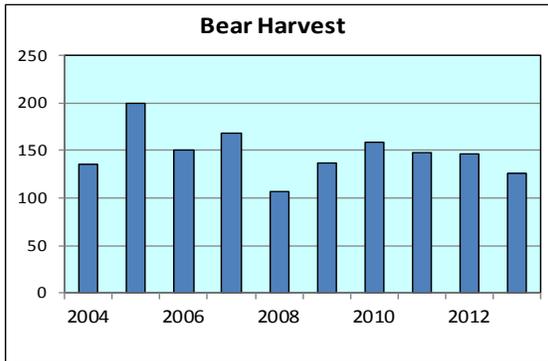


Figure 5. DAU1C Black Bear Status and Objectives

## DAU 1L (GMU 6)

### Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 1L was 136 in 2013, 51% above the 2010-2012 average. Seventy percent of the harvest occurred during spring (Figure 6). Females made up 39% of the 3-year harvest average and are within the objectives established for this DAU. The 3-year average for the percentage of males  $\geq 5$  years was 25%, 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 females and for 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 2012-13, the spring season was 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 4 (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 GMU effort and age/sex composition of trapped bears (IDFG unpublished data).

### Harvest Characteristics

The 2013 harvest of 136 bears is 51% above the previous 3-year average. Seventy percent of the harvest occurred during spring, much higher than previous years. Baiting is now the primary method to harvest a bear; 33% of successful hunters used this method (baiting has been allowed since fall 2000). Spotting/stalking had been the primary method used to hunt bears but is now

third at 23%. The use of hounds accounted for 29% of the harvest, the second most used method (Figure 6).

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

Thirty-nine percent of the 2011-2013 harvest was female bears, reflective of a moderate harvest regime. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years was 25%, within the objective of 25-35% old males in the harvest (Figure 6).

### **Dog-training Seasons**

The 2013 dog-training season in this DAU was 1 June-31 July (Appendix A).

### **Management Implications**

The 51% harvest increase in this GMU may be due to several factors. Baiting is now allowed and represents an increasing percentage of the total harvest. This DAU, which is now open until June 30, may have attracted hunters who normally would hunt elsewhere. The percentage of females harvested is within the moderate harvest level prescribed for this DAU; the older male harvest is also within the management criterion. Low elk calf:cow ratios are present in this DAU, however 2015 aerial composition surveys showed an increase in calf:cow numbers. A predator management plan has been written.



### DAU 1L (GMU 6)

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,053	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	10.3 NA
	Percent Females	39% >35%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	25% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Harvest	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>136</b>	
	Males	0-4 years	30	49	38	43	29	31	34	40	51	51
		5+ years	16	23	15	16	9	17	14	7	18	23
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>79</b>
Females	0-4 years	14	22	10	18	11	9	23	15	17	16	
	5+ years	14	21	16	15	8	13	9	10	24	40	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>57</b>	
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Season	Spring	30	56	36	38	18	30	44	38	44	95	
	Fall	48	63	52	59	44	42	37	36	70	41	
Method	Bait	6	25	11	18	10	16	23	21	41	45	
	Hounds	16	21	19	19	9	14	11	14	22	40	
	Incidental	14	14	16	24	16	9	8	8	11	11	
	Still/Stalk	40	57	40	36	27	29	36	29	33	31	
	Other	2	2	2	0	0	4	3	2	7	9	

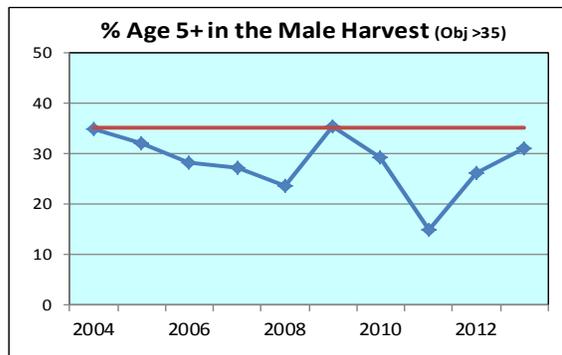
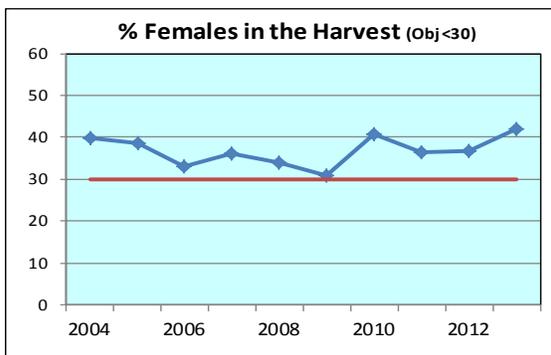
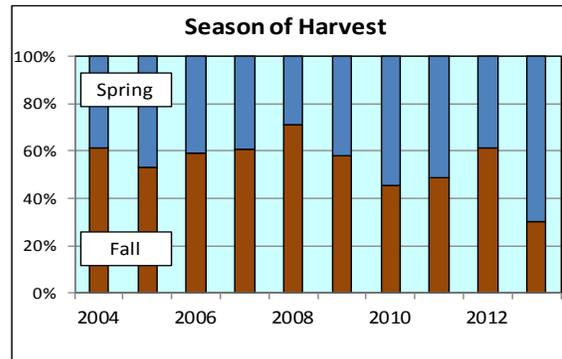
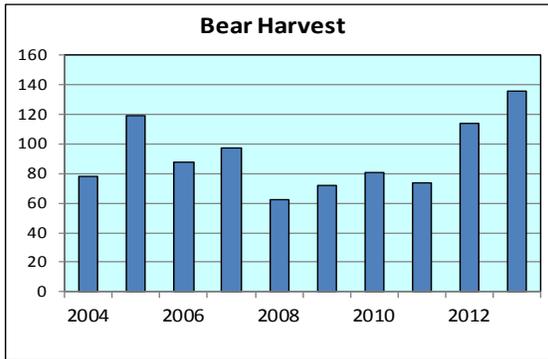


Figure 6. DAU1L Black Bear Status and Objectives

## AREA 2

### DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

#### **Abstract**

Harvest of black bears in DAU 2B was 55 bears during 2013, 4% below the 2010-2012 average. Spring harvest is predominant in this DAU (89% of the 2013 harvest). This DAU is targeted for moderate harvest. Harvest in the past has been in the light category for females, but the percentage of females in the 2013 harvest is now in the moderate category (32%). Male age structure (43% 5+ years old) put this DAU well into the light harvest level (Figure 7).

#### **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. For two years straight the moderate category was achieved for females; it had previously been in the light harvest category. Males remain in the light harvest category.

#### **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 2013 harvest of 55 bears was 4% below the previous 3 year average. Eighty-nine percent of the 2013 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Figure 7).

Seventy-three percent of the 2013 harvest was taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Still/stalking and incidental harvest accounted for 9% and 4% of the remaining harvest, respectively.

#### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The percentage of females in the 2011-2013 harvest was 32%, within 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+ years old made up 43% of the 3-year harvest average, above the objective of 25-35%. This DAU is slated for moderate harvest; female harvest criterion was in this range but male harvest remains in the light category (Figure 7).

## **Dog-training Seasons**

The 2013 dog-training season in this DAU was 1-31 July (Appendix A).

## **Management Implications**

The proportion of females was in the moderate harvest category for the last two years. Adult males in the harvest indicate this population is lightly harvested. Seasons have been extended in this DAU and a second bear tag can be used. A predator management plan has been written for this DAU.

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### DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
765	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	6.8 NA
	Percent Females	32% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	43% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>
	0-4 years	28	24	22	27	18	22	28	14	22	22
	Males										
	5+ years	12	17	18	18	14	13	19	8	19	17
	Unknown	1	1	0	1	0	4	5	1	1	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>
Females	0-4 years	9	4	6	7	8	3	4	7	10	7
	5+ years	6	10	8	6	8	5	11	10	8	7
	Unknown	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	45	47	42	51	38	30	54	25	46	49
	Fall	11	11	12	9	10	17	16	15	15	6
<b>Method</b>	Bait	26	33	35	43	36	27	55	23	43	40
	Hounds	12	7	5	3	0	0	1	0	2	0
	Incidental	4	7	5	5	7	10	5	6	8	2
	Still/Stalk	14	7	7	9	4	9	8	11	8	5
	Other	0	4	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	8

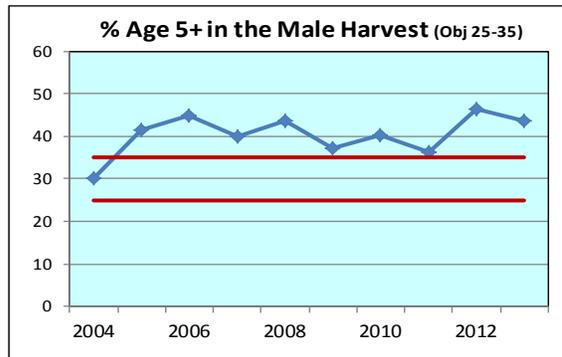
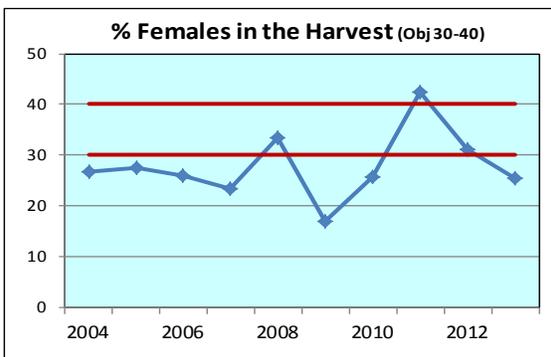
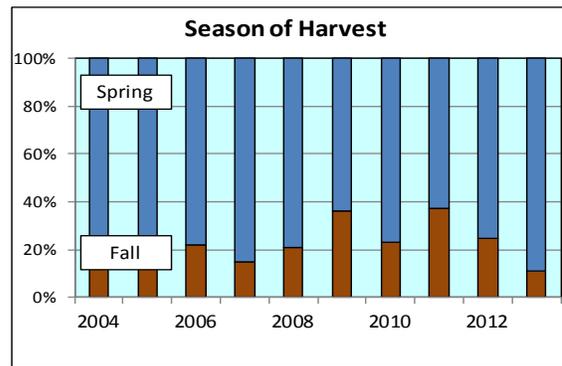
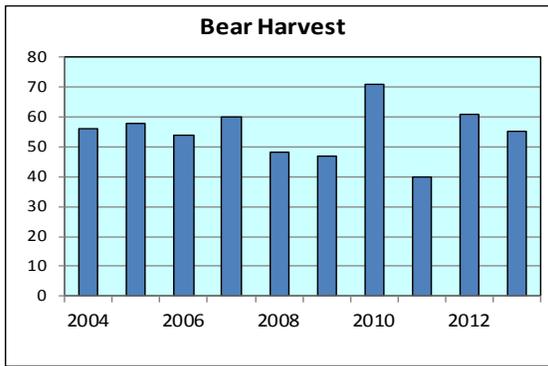


Figure 7. DAU2B Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **CLEARWATER REGION**

### **Abstract**

Reported 2013 harvest for the Clearwater Region was 667 black bears. This compares to 774 bears harvested in 2012 and is below to the previous 3-year average of 722. Total harvest by DAU in 2013 was 85 in DAU 1D, 75 in DAU 1E, 155 in DAU 1F, 249 in DAU 2A, and 103 in DAU 3A (Figures 8-12).

The current (2000-2010) 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 for percent females and for DAU 1E percent males  $\geq 5$  years of age. Harvest objectives were not achieved for the other Clearwater DAU’s. The harvest of male black bears is considered heavy when percent harvest of males  $\geq 5$  years of age is  $< 25$  percent of the total harvest. Adult male black bears are more vulnerable to hunter harvest than females because they are bold (often use open areas) and have larger home ranges, and when harvest is below 25 percent that suggests that hunter effort is “heavy”. Heavy harvest objectives for female black bears is  $> 40$  percent of the total harvest. Because female bears are less vulnerable to hunter harvest due to their behavior, when female harvest exceeds 40 percent the availability of male bears in the population is likely low, consequently resulting in an increased effort and harvest of female bears.

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 (84% in DAU 2A and 78% in DAU 3A based on a 3-year average) and with hunting over bait being the predominant method of take (62% and 60%, respectively) based on 2013 data. For the rest of the region (DAU’s 1D, 1E, and 1F), spring harvest accounted for 42%, 53%, and 51% of the total harvest, respectively, based on the most recent 3-year average. During 2013, the most common method of take in DAU 1D was hounds (44%) followed by incidental (28%), while the most common method of take for DAU 1E was bait (33%), followed by still/stalk (29%). For DAU 1F the most common method of take was bait (51%), followed by still/stalk (24%) in 2013 (Figures 7-11).

### **AREA 1**

#### **DAU 1D (GMUs 8A, 10A)**

##### **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. During 2013, 52% of bear harvest occurred in the spring, while 48% occurred during the fall. The most common method of take was by hound

hunters (44%), followed by incidental take (28%), and still/stalk hunters (24%); harvest in 2012 was comparable by hound hunters (51%), incidental harvest (24%), and still/stalk hunters (20%) (Figure 8). High road densities have allowed hunters to access most of the available black bear habitat. The current (2000-2010) Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1D is to be managed for harvest at the “heavy” level; harvest rates fell within this level for percent females only, percent males  $\geq 5$  years of age fell within the light harvest level.

### **Management Direction**

DAU 1D has historically exhibited signs of high black bear harvest, although recent harvest in 2012 and 2013 has been moderate and light, respectively. This DAU likely receives many dispersers from DAU 2A; therefore, high harvest objectives can persist. 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. In recent years, harvest of female bears has been heavy, while male harvest was moderate in 2012 and light in 2013. This suggests there has been a recent increase in abundance of available male bears  $\geq 5$  years of age. The current harvest strategy of “heavy” will be maintained until harvest data indicates a change in population structure.

### **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. In 2013, 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. This technique has been largely abandoned on a statewide basis due to concerns about its ability to accurately monitor population trends.

### **Harvest Characteristics**

During 2013, 85 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, compared to 115 black bears harvested in 2012 and the 3-year average of 100 black bears. Females accounted for 48% of the harvest in 2013 (Figure 8). Most black bears (52%) were harvested during the spring season. This is

inconsistent with recent harvest trends, yet is characteristic of harvest trends from 1990-1992 (prior to changes designed to reduce harvest) when spring harvest predominated. Age characteristics of bears harvested from 2011-2013 indicate that criteria were not met (Figure 8).

The predominant method of harvest in 2013 was hound hunting, which accounted for 44% of the total harvest, followed by incidental harvest at 28% and still-hunting at 24%. This represents a shift from 1990-1992, when baiting was the most common method used.

### **Depredations**

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1D in 2013.

### **Dog-training Seasons**

An 8-week dog-training season (from 1 June-31 July) was offered in DAU 1D during 2013 (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 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 2011-2013 seasons; percent males  $\geq 5$  years old (33%) 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 1D (GMUs 8A, 10A)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,287	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> : 4.4	NA
	Percent Females 44%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years 33%	<25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Males</b>	0-4 years	58	61	46	71	74	56	45	40	43	27
	5+ years	25	20	22	25	17	12	20	15	24	16
	Unknown	3	2	5	2	1	2	3	1	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Females</b>	0-4 years	30	36	43	30	31	31	31	21	27	24
	5+ years	32	16	21	16	24	17	24	22	17	17
	Unknown	1	4	4	5	4	3	3	0	3	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	70	58	58	74	41	44	48	33	50	44
	Fall	80	81	83	77	110	77	78	66	66	41
<b>Method</b>	Bait	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	1
	Hounds	88	66	83	80	70	49	51	41	59	37
	Incidental	36	34	32	36	53	39	48	34	29	24
	Still/Stalk	23	36	22	32	24	32	24	23	23	20
	Other	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	3	3

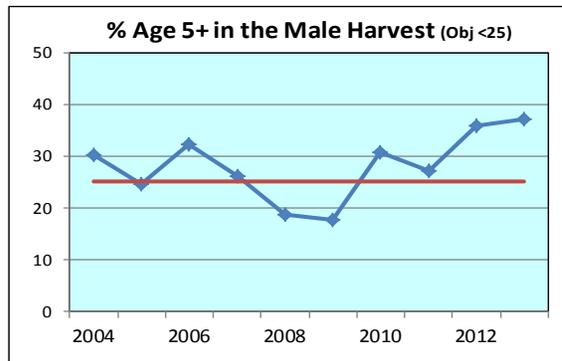
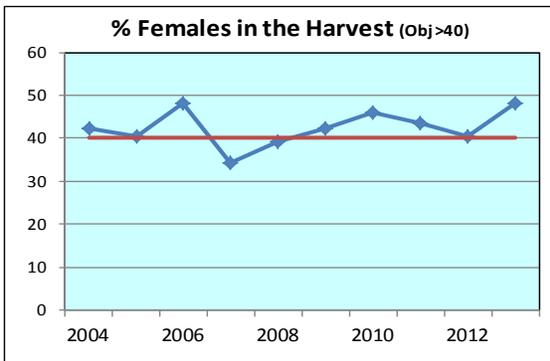
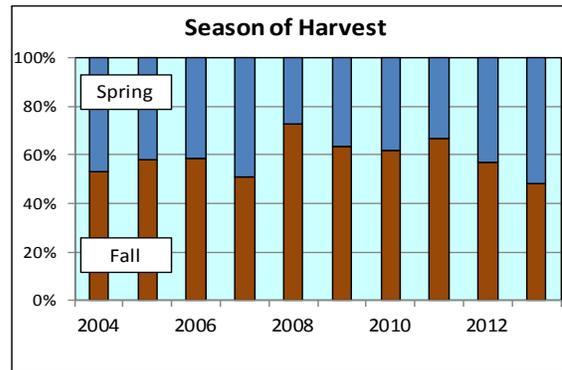
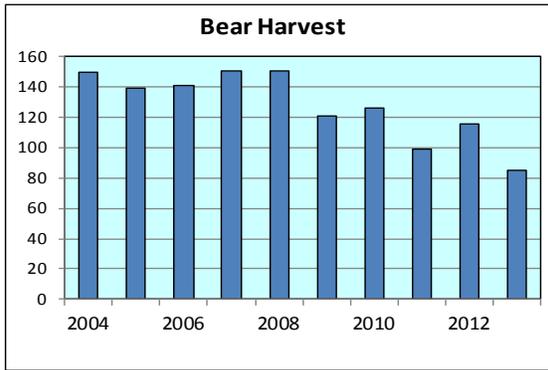


Figure 8. DAU1D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1E harvested a total of 75 black bears during 2013, compared to 88 black bears harvested during 2012, and the previous 3-year average of 81. Females accounted for 33% of the 2013 harvest. Most black bears were harvested in the spring (52%) with still/stalk hunting and baiting being the most common methods employed at 32% (Figure 9).

### 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 abundant 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) indicated 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 with increased moisture levels at the higher elevations. The 2013 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2013 was 31 days.

### Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were discontinued in this DAU in 2008.

### Harvest Characteristics

There were 75 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2013. This compares to a previous 3-year average of 81 bears harvested. Fifty-two percent and 48% were taken in the spring and fall, respectively. 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 2011-2013 seasons for percent female bears in the harvest (34%) while percent males  $\geq 5$  years of age in the harvest (24%) did meet “heavy” objective levels (Figure 9). The most frequent method of harvest was bait and still/stalk hunting, with each accounting for 32% of the harvest.

### **Depredations**

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1E in 2013.

### **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 previous 3-year average (2011-2013) was 34% 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 have been 1-, 2-, and 3-year-old dispersing males.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,698	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :		3.0
	Percent Females		35% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		24% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>75</b>
Males	0-4 years	33	30	26	24	27	34	35	35	39	45
	5+ years	9	10	10	7	13	9	15	17	17	4
	Unknown	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>
Females	0-4 years	14	11	21	20	15	22	20	16	24	14
	5+ years	5	12	6	9	13	10	9	11	8	11
	Unknown	1	0	0	2	3	1	3	0	0	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	29	28	29	29	33	34	38	39	52	39
	Fall	34	37	34	33	40	43	45	41	36	36
<b>Method</b>	Bait	21	16	15	19	18	20	26	26	30	24
	Hounds	11	10	7	8	10	11	16	15	11	14
	Incidental	14	17	14	11	17	22	19	10	15	12
	Still/Stalk	17	21	26	21	27	24	21	27	29	24
	Other	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	3	1

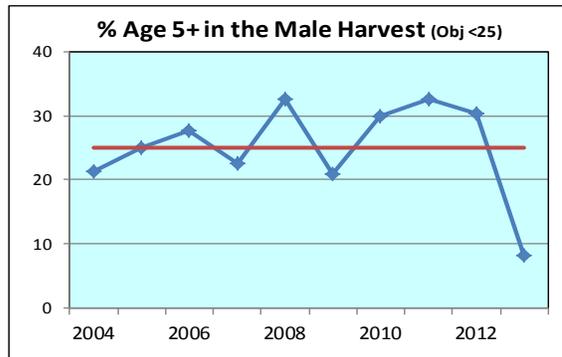
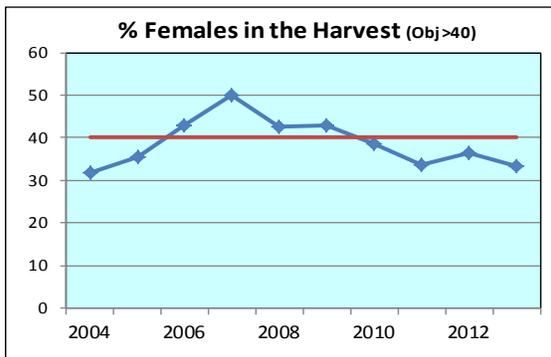
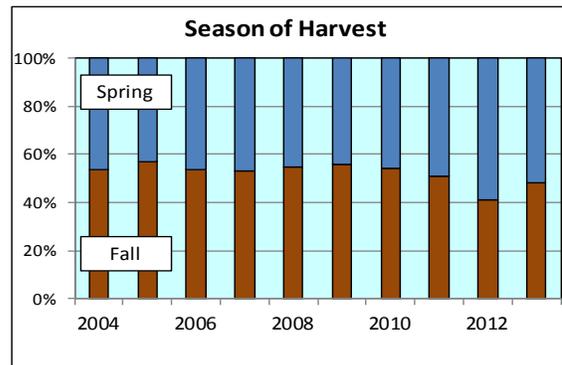
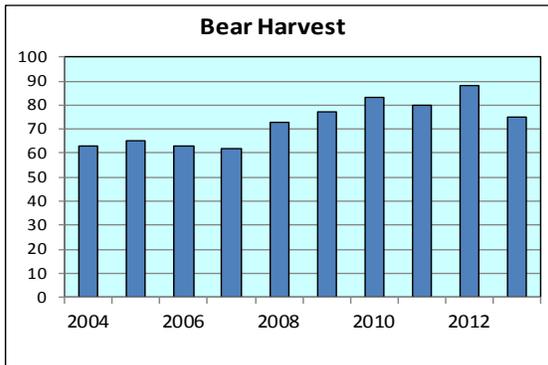


Figure 9. DAU1E Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 155 black bears during 2013, compared to 148 in 2012, and a previous 3-year average of 148. A little over half of the black bears (52%) harvested were taken during the spring. The most frequent harvest methods were bait (44%), hounds (30%), still/stalk hunting (18%), and incidental (7%). The 2011-2013 harvest criteria indicated that percent females (35%) did not meet the target criteria of >40%. Percent males  $\geq 5$  years old (29%) did not meet the harvest objective of <25%, and indicates harvest was moderate during 2013 (Figure 10). A portion of the DAU in GMU 15 was closed to harvest for research purposes for several years, but re-opened 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 2013 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 2013 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 have not been conducted in this DAU since 2004.

### Harvest Characteristics

There were 155 black bears harvested in DAU 1F during 2013 with 52% being taken during the spring season. Management objectives under the new plan allow for heavy harvest of females with management objective of >40%. Harvest management criteria were not met for the 2011-2013 harvest period (Figure 10). The most frequent harvest methods were bait (44%), hounds (30%), still/stalk hunting (18%), and incidental (7%).

## **Depredations**

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1F in 2013.

## **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.

Harvest objectives in this DAU are set at “heavy” for both male and female harvest. The 2011-2013 harvest criteria indicated that percent females (35%) did not meet the objective of >40% and percent males  $\geq 5$  years old (29%) did not meet the objective of <25%. Recent harvest trends indicate that the current harvest target criteria can be sustained and 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. Adult males are typically most vulnerable to harvest because they are bold and have larger home ranges. When percent harvest of adult males is low, over-harvest may be occurring within that population. At higher harvest levels, the proportion of females in the harvest increases, and harvest may result in a population decline if a large area is affected or if there are no reservoir areas nearby to produce dispersing sub-adult black bears.

Baiting is currently the most popular method of harvest, while hounds, still/stalk hunting, and incidental harvest still account for a large proportion of the harvest. 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.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,121	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	7.0 NA
	Percent Females	35% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	29% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>155</b>
Males	0-4 years	54	57	49	65	72	71	78	61	66	72
	5+ years	16	24	26	29	29	31	46	23	27	30
	Unknown	2	3	12	2	1	0	1	2	4	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>103</b>
Females	0-4 years	16	36	21	27	17	34	28	30	24	27
	5+ years	21	21	20	24	21	23	24	22	22	24
	Unknown	3	4	8	3	2	0	2	2	5	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Season	Spring	54	61	62	54	48	52	92	69	79	80
	Fall	58	84	74	96	94	107	88	71	69	75
Method	Bait	29	47	56	53	51	60	80	57	70	68
	Hounds	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Incidental	29	24	30	30	18	26	31	28	38	47
	Still/Stalk	20	25	21	34	22	34	24	19	11	11
	Other	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	1

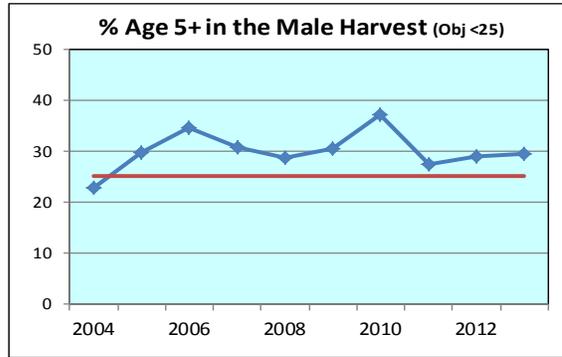
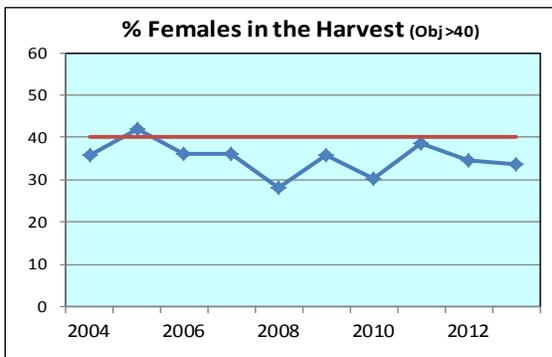
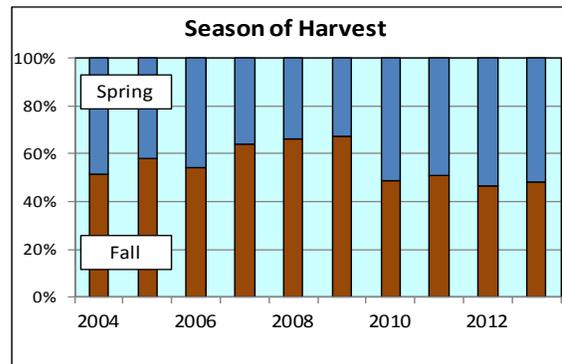
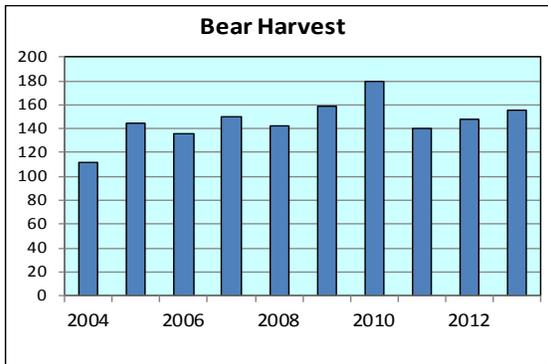


Figure 10. DAU1F Black Bear Status and Objectives

## AREA 2

### DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

#### Abstract

In 2013, a total of 249 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 305 in 2012, and a previous 3-year average of 280. Harvest consisted of 35% female, and 38% male  $\geq 5$  years of age and did not meet the criteria of “heavy” for either sex. Eighty-nine percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season (Figure 11). Baiting and still/stalk hunting accounted for 79% and 14% of the harvest, respectively.

#### 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 adjacent GMUs receiving higher harvest pressures (e.g., GMU 10A). Harvest occurs mainly on major road and river corridors in DAU 2A. Take seasons last 65 days during fall and 90 days during spring with a 31-day dog-training season that runs from July 1-31. (Appendix A). The bag limit was increased to 2 black bears per year to take advantage of an abundant black bear population 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

Bait station surveys have not been conducted in this DAU since 2007.

#### Harvest Characteristics

In 2013, a total of 249 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 305 in 2012, and a previous 3-year average of 280. Eighty-nine percent of these black bears were harvested during spring season. Harvest consisted of 35% female, and 38% male  $\geq 5$  years of age. 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 2011-2013 harvest period (Figure 11). Hunting over bait accounted for 79% of the harvest in DAU 2A in 2013, followed by still/stalk at 14%.

#### 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 2013.

## **Dog-training Seasons**

Dog-training season occurred from July 1-31 during 2013 (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 was moderate in the male component with 33%  $\geq 5$  years old for 2011-2013 average, not meeting the desired objective  $< 25\%$ . Percent female harvest (3-year average = 33%) also did not meet the target criteria of  $> 40\%$  harvested (31%) below the desired objective of  $> 40\%$  (Figure 11).

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 (89% in 2013).

## DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)



<b>Square Miles:</b> 2,373	<u>3-Year Averages</u>		<u>Objective</u>
	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	11.8	NA
	Percent Females	33%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	33%	<25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>249</b>
Males	0-4 years	145	124	110	124	119	123	159	121	151	95
	5+ years	53	63	40	70	34	47	50	72	52	59
	Unknown	6	3	32	6	7	6	5	2	5	6
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>160</b>
Females	0-4 years	73	54	31	55	40	32	52	31	53	37
	5+ years	54	59	30	54	35	42	41	51	41	48
	Unknown	3	4	16	10	3	0	1	8	3	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>88</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Season</b>	Spring	279	275	222	262	194	206	244	222	260	221
	Fall	55	32	38	57	44	44	64	64	45	28
<b>Method</b>	Bait	222	236	186	259	168	181	232	208	261	197
	Hounds	29	13	13	11	12	6	2	11	5	4
	Incidental	29	11	13	21	14	17	17	16	4	8
	Still/Stalk	52	40	43	26	40	37	48	47	32	34
	Other	2	6	5	2	4	9	9	4	3	6

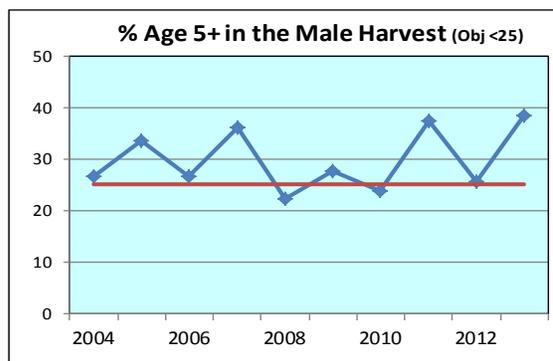
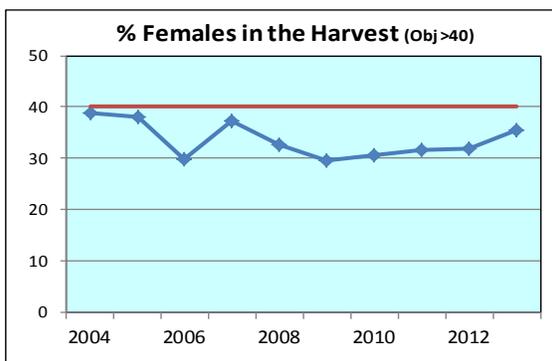
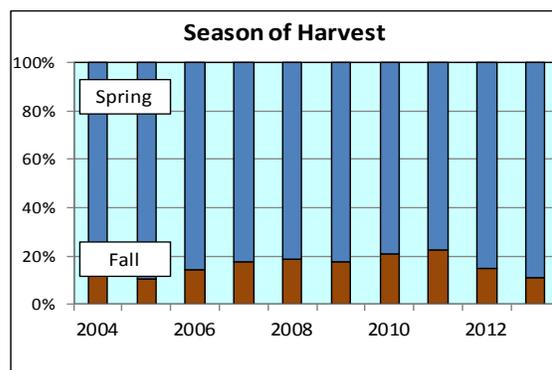
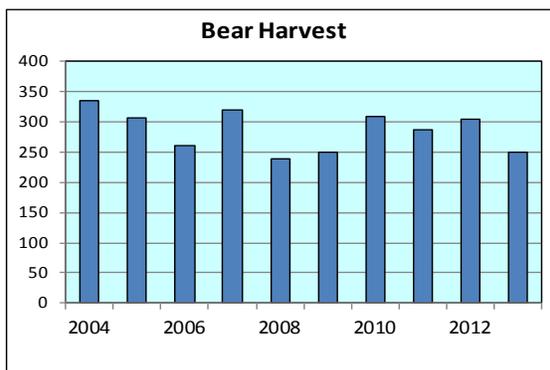


Figure 11. DAU2A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## AREA 3

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

#### Abstract

During 2013, a total of 103 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A, compared to the 2012 harvest of 118, and the previous 3-year average (2011-2013) of 110. Harvest consisted of 32% female and 48% male  $\geq 5$  years of age. The majority of harvest occurred during the spring take season (87%) during 2013 (Figure 12). 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-three 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). The fall take season was 81 days long while the spring take season was 91 days long in 2013. 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.

#### Harvest Characteristics

In 2013, 103 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A compared to 118 in 2012 and the previous 3-year average of 110. 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 103 bears

harvested in 2013, 32% were females and 48% were males  $\geq 5$  years of age. Spring harvest accounted for 87% 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 2011-2013 reporting period were  $\geq 5$  years old compared to the desired objective of 25-35 percent  $\geq 5$  years old (Figure 12). Most of the black bears harvested in 2013 were taken over bait (53%) followed by still/stalk (30%).

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**

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 3A during 2013.

### **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  $\geq 5$  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.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,527	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	4.4 NA
	Percent Females	26% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	47% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>103</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	54	38	44	45	42	53	50	40	51	36
	5+ years	69	46	50	48	39	44	43	43	38	33
	Unknown	8	4	3	0	3	4	1	3	0	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>70</b>
Females	0-4 years	15	24	22	14	14	15	8	14	9	0
	5+ years	29	27	18	23	27	19	24	15	13	0
	Unknown	3	6	3	6	0	2	3	0	1	33
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	155	99	131	92	98	100	84	85	91	81
	Fall	37	36	23	44	30	43	46	36	27	12
<b>Method</b>	Bait	124	73	104	89	90	88	74	73	91	55
	Hounds	6	8	5	1	1	1	2	2	1	4
	Incidental	9	11	11	10	7	11	17	3	4	2
	Still/Stalk	51	42	31	31	27	40	34	42	22	31
	Other	2	1	3	5	3	3	3	1	0	1

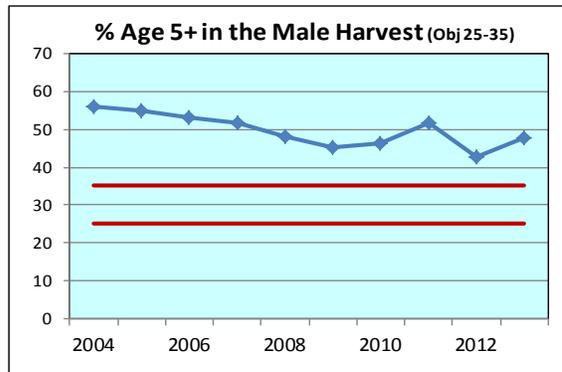
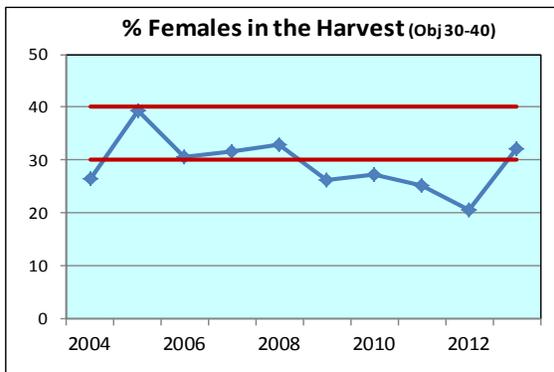
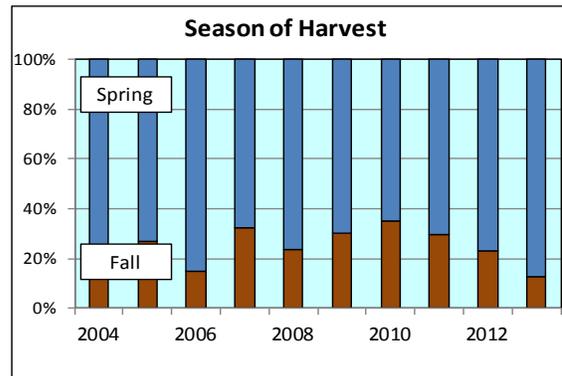
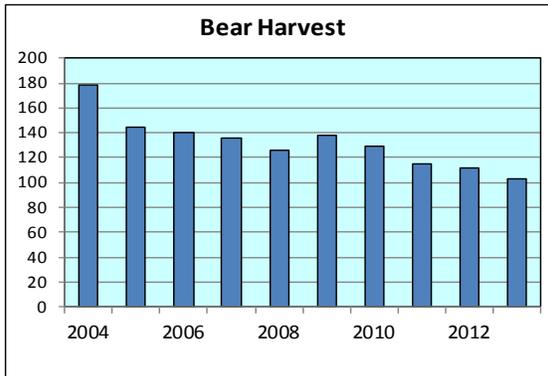


Figure 12. DAU3A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **SOUTHWEST (MC CALL) REGION**

### **Abstract**

Five hundred thirty four black bears of known sex were reported harvested in the Southwest Region in 2013. Of those, 522 black bears were reported harvested in DAU 1G, 1H, and 1K. Twelve were reported harvested in that portion of DAU 3B in the Southwest Region (GMUs 20A and 26).

Reported harvest in DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K were 165, 114, and 242 black bears respectively, during 2013 hunting seasons. The reported harvest in was consistent with 2012 harvest. Data indicate percent females and percent males  $\geq 5$  years-of-age in the harvest criteria are being met in all 3 DAUs (Figures 13-16). Baiting methods comprised most of the harvest in DAU 1G and 1K in 2013. Still hunting (stalking) and hound hunting methods contributed to the majority of black bear harvest in DAU 1H. Data for DAU 1G indicate harvest rates 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 2007, the Southwest Region had been working on a project to document black bear population dynamics in GMU 39. A mark-recapture DNA hair-snare grid was employed in 2009-2010, and camera mark-recapture was added as a method in 2012-2013. In February and March 2013, 9 female bear dens were visited to assess productivity. Seven of the dens had females with young, and 2 had barren females.

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.

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

#### **Management Direction**

Harvest guidelines and population characteristic targets provide management goals for these DAUs. The 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan directed the Department to manage these DAUs 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  $\geq 5$  years old. Bait station survey trends are also considered

when assessing population status. Harvest rates are categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Figure 13). 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 this area were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. This area 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.

## **Harvest Characteristics**

Reported harvest of known sex black bears in DAU 1G increased 3% in 2013 compared to 2012 reported harvest. The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in fall than spring in 2013. Age data indicate 2-year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group. Percent female in the harvest criteria was within acceptable limits (Figure 13). Hunting over bait was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1G in 2013. The rifle is the most common weapon used for harvesting black bear in DAU 1G.

## **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 32% females on average, within the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates 34% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 13).

## **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 2013. 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 2012 harvest season reflected the tenth year of monitoring this change. Younger bears have become more preponderant in the harvest. The 2012 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 1G (GMUs 19A, 23, 24, 25)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,984	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	5.2 NA
	Percent Females	31% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	34% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>165</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	60	55	61	55	59	49	55	67	66	77
	5+ years	24	41	33	41	17	31	26	32	42	34
	Unknown	5	1	4	8	2	0	6	1	1	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>113</b>
Females	0-4 years	21	19	17	32	21	23	25	21	29	22
	5+ years	21	26	14	32	20	11	20	23	21	28
	Unknown	6	1	2	2	4	2	2	0	1	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	49	53	48	58	26	49	43	45	71	77
	Fall	88	92	84	113	98	68	91	99	89	87
<b>Method</b>	Bait	38	47	41	70	37	60	48	61	69	81
	Hounds	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Incidental	16	30	15	18	18	14	16	28	28	25
	Still/Stalk	33	32	41	37	36	17	32	37	31	28
	Other	1	3	2	7	1	2	3	2	4	3

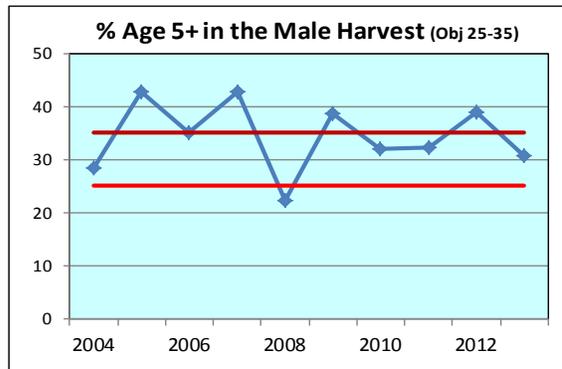
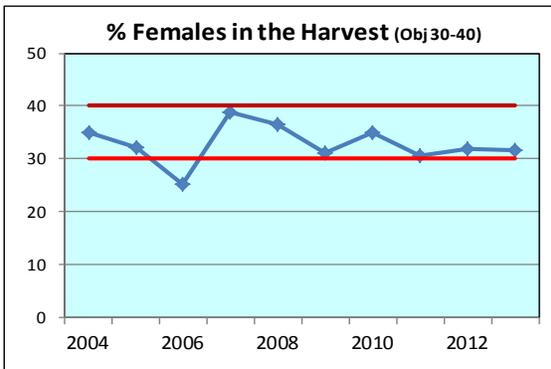
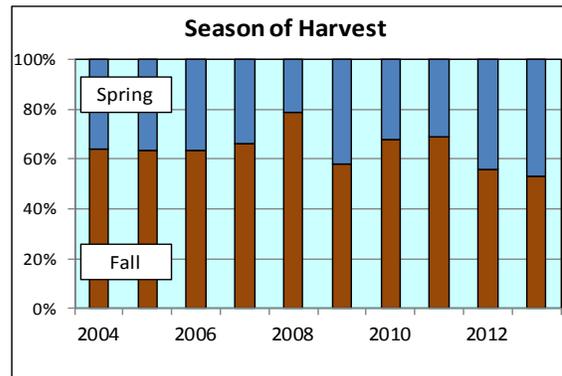
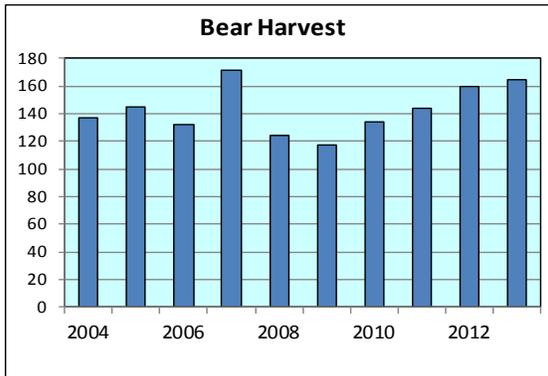


Figure 13. DAU1G Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### Management Direction

The 1992-2000 Black Bear Species Management Plan directed the Department to manage this area 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  $\geq 5$  years old. Bait station survey trends were also considered when assessing population status. Harvest rates were categorized as light, moderate, and heavy (Figure 14). 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 this area were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. This area 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 2013 (Appendix A).

### Population Surveys

No population surveys were conducted during the reporting period. Last population abundance survey for bears was conducted in 2008 in GMU 32A (lightly hunted unit). Non-invasive DNA hair-snares grids were used to collect hair. The study area grid was made up of 34 cells (2.40mi<sup>2</sup>) and total area size was 118mi<sup>2</sup>. CAPWIRE and DENSITY programs were used to analyze 135 hair samples. Results from CAPWIRE were approximately 1.03 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (95% C.I.: 1.23-1.82 bear/mi<sup>2</sup>). DENSITY, a spatially-explicit mark-recapture program, incorporates a buffer around the study area of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mean maximum distance moved post hoc to reduce the edge effects. Results from DENSITY were approximately 1.08 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (95% C.I.: 0.80-1.44bear/mi<sup>2</sup>) and the trapping area size was 107 mi<sup>2</sup>.

### Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest in 2013 was nearly the same as that reported for 2012. More bears were harvested in the fall than in the spring season in 2013. Age data indicate 2-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group. Percent female in the 2012 harvest was slightly higher than that reported in 2012 (Figure 14). Still and hound hunting methods are the dominant means of harvest in DAU 1H. The rifle is the most used weapon of choice.

## **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 41% females on average, greater than the target of  $\leq 30\%$  females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates 40% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 14).

## **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. No confirmed livestock depredations were reported in 2013 in DAU 1H. 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 caused an appreciable increase in male harvest.

The goal for the DAU is to continue to maintain the percentage of males  $\geq 5$  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 1H, fall permits were increased from 75 to 100 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 1H (GMUs 22, 31, 32, 32A)



<b>Square Miles:</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	<b>Objective</b>
3,494	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	3.5      NA
	Percent Females	41%      <30%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	41%      >35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Males</b>	0-4 years	30	28	26	27	37	41	39	42	42	36
	5+ years	18	19	16	15	32	24	30	25	36	22
	Unknown	2	6	4	4	1	0	5	4	3	7
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Females</b>	0-4 years	18	14	19	18	20	11	23	27	13	22
	5+ years	8	19	24	19	23	14	21	18	35	25
	Unknown	6	1	0	4	2	5	4	4	1	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Unknown sex</b>	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	31	38	44	35	57	40	57	56	69	45
	Fall	51	49	45	52	59	56	65	64	62	70
<b>Method</b>	Bait	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
	Hounds	23	29	23	29	40	35	40	40	36	36
	Incidental	5	3	4	3	4	2	7	3	4	3
	Still/Stalk	54	53	62	53	69	56	72	74	88	71
	Other	0	2	0	2	3	3	3	3	1	4

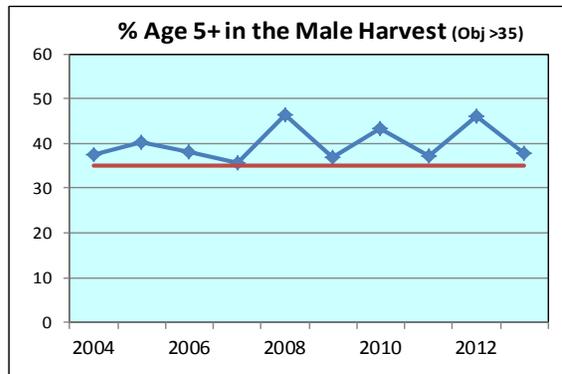
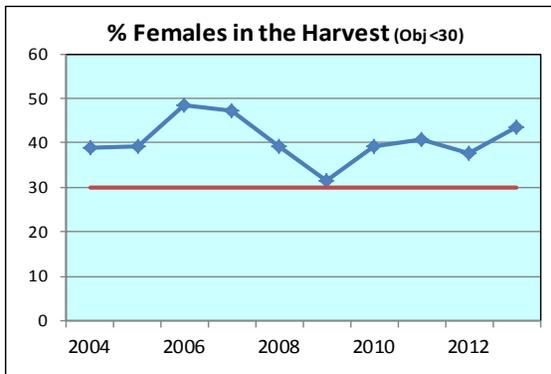
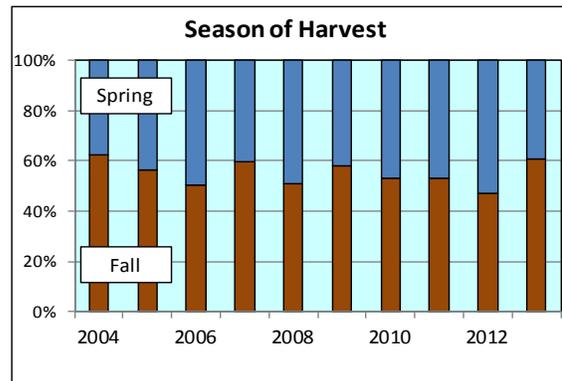
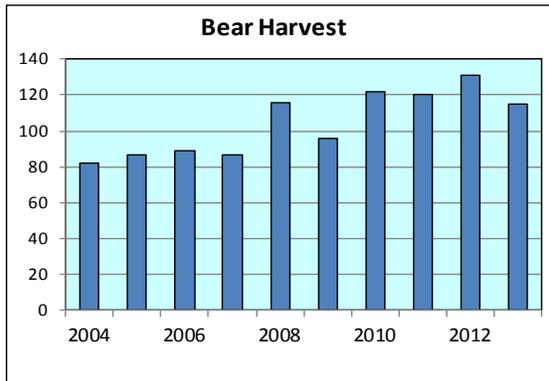


Figure 14. DAU1H Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **DAU 1K (GMUs 33, 39, 43)**

### **Management Direction**

The 1992-2000 Black Bear Management Plan directed the Department to manage this area to maintain or reduce harvest, improve age structure, and offer a variety of hunting opportunities. This included high quality controlled hunts in DAU 1K. New, simpler criteria were developed in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan to maintain those objectives. The new plan took effect in the 1999 fall hunting season. These harvest criteria were the 3-year running average of percent females and percent males  $\geq 5$  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 (Figure 15). DAU 1K objectives were to manage for moderate harvest levels. The goal for moderate harvest is to continue to maintain the percentage of males  $\geq 5$  years of age in the harvest between 25-35%; maintain percent females in the harvest between 30-40%.

### **Background**

A statewide mandatory report requirement for harvested black bear was introduced in 1983. Most seasons in this area were restricted in 1983 following implementation of the 1981-1985 Black Bear Management Plan. This area 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**

#### **Den Surveys: Reproduction**

Female bear dens were visited during the late winter from 2011-2013 to identify reproductive success, measure body condition, and to refit radio-collars. In February and March of 2013, 14 dens were visited, 11 still had bears in the dens, 10 female and one 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 from 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. From 2011-2013, one year cub survival was 58%, this based on yearlings present in the den the following winter. We are currently evaluating denning characteristics data from 2011-2013.

#### **Trail Camera Mark-Recapture**

In the summers of 2012 and 2013, 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, Pitman 2010). In the study area of 100 km<sup>2</sup>

16 and 25 cameras were deployed during those field seasons. This will hopefully provide alternative and cost effective options for wildlife managers across the state. In the summer of 2012 and 2013, trapping took place in the Crooked River drainage. Bears captured were marked with uniquely numbered cattle tags and cloth or radio collars for identification and monitoring. In 2012, 18 were bears captured, 7 were recaptured, 7 were females and 11 were males. Of those, 8 bears were radio-collared with GPS collars and 2 females and 1 male were marked with VHF collars. In 2013, 13 bears were captured, 7 were male and 6 were female. Of those, 6 were collared with GPS radio-collars.

After live trapping, in 2012 and 2013, 16 and 25 digital trail cameras were deployed and monitored. The cameras were placed in a 4x4 (2.5km x 2.5km cells) and 5x5 (2 km x 2 km) cell array; making the study area 100km<sup>2</sup>. 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 in 2012, 6 marked bears and 37 unmarked or unidentifiable marks were observed for 1,244 trap nights. In 2013, the trail cameras were set 3370 trap nights for 19 marked bears and 87 unmarked or unidentifiable marks. Information from GPS collars will be downloaded from bear dens to evaluate the movement data within the study area. MARK (NOREMARK) and DENSITY will be used to determine population density. NOREMARK includes marked identified and unidentified individuals into the mark-recapture analysis. 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.

Initial DENSITY estimates of marked individuals for 2012 and 2013 were 0.22 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (0.04-1.08 bear/mi<sup>2</sup>) and 0.41 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (0.13-0.52 bear/mi<sup>2</sup>). This program does not incorporate marked but unidentified individuals into the analysis and as a result may slightly underestimate the density of bears in the study area; however, does incorporate an ad hoc spatial buffer of 1/2MMDM to the study area. NOREMARK abundance estimates (*N*) were 58 (18-1621) 2012 and 93 (22-987) for 2013. Destiny estimates for 2012 were 1.52 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (0.47-42 bear/mi<sup>2</sup>) respectively and 2.44 bear/mi<sup>2</sup> (0.57-25 bear/mi<sup>2</sup>) for 2013. This estimate does not incorporate a post hoc spatial buffer of the study area. Due to the low recapture rates of marked individuals and many captures of marked and unidentified bears; the program NOREMARK tended to overestimate the abundance compared to our DNA mark-recapture results. Both years resulted in low recapture (*p*) probability of 0.08 in 2012 and 0.04 in 2013. Those results then will be compared with the live trapping and genetic capture.

### **Harvest Characteristics**

Reported harvest decreased by less than 1%, with 263 bear harvested in 2012, when compared to 2011 totals in DAU 1K. Hunters harvested 73% of the bears in the spring and 27% in the fall of 2012. Age data indicated 3-year old male and female bears were the most frequently harvested age group. Percent females in the harvest were within acceptable levels of the moderate harvest criteria (Figure 14). In 2012, hunting over bait was used 54% of the time to harvest black bears in DAU 1K. Of the remaining methods, 15% was taken by still/stalk, 13% was taken by hounds and 15% by incidental harvest. Rifle was the most reported weapon of choice in DAU 1K, used approximately 76% of the time (Figure 15).

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2010-2012 harvest was composed of 38% females on average, within the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates 33% of the 2010-2012 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older, within the 25-35% harvest target (Figure 15).

### **Depredations**

Black bear nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1K. Most complaints are associated with poor garbage disposal practices and outdoor placement of domestic pet food or wild birdseed in the several small towns and locally dense summer cabins within predominately USFS land. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations also occur in this DAU. No livestock depredations data was recorded in DAU 1K in 2012. 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 (Figure 15). 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  $\geq 5$  years old in DAU 1K continues to be maintained at the level desired in 2013 (Figure 15). Harvest data need to continue to be monitored closely to determine any new trends in the data.

## DAU 1K (GMU 33, 39, 43)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,814	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	6.8	NA
	Percent Females	38%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	31%	25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>242</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	115	96	108	116	95	82	102	105	115	97
	5+ years	37	59	44	55	41	36	54	62	41	42
	Unknown	12	2	6	10	5	1	9	5	8	8
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Females</b>	0-4 years	36	43	53	45	41	50	35	48	54	0
	5+ years	48	24	38	33	23	56	54	43	41	0
	Unknown	7	3	15	3	1	8	3	7	8	95
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Unknown sex</b>	Subtotal	1	0	2	1	4	2	3	2	1	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	149	163	126	172	152	119	179	183	194	178
	Fall	105	85	104	116	74	67	103	83	69	72
<b>Method</b>	Bait	89	105	91	126	88	86	113	98	143	119
	Hounds	45	42	33	32	44	18	43	42	35	36
	Incidental	48	41	31	32	39	24	43	37	39	24
	Still/Stalk	65	53	66	88	53	48	80	83	41	69
	Other	7	7	9	10	2	10	3	6	5	2

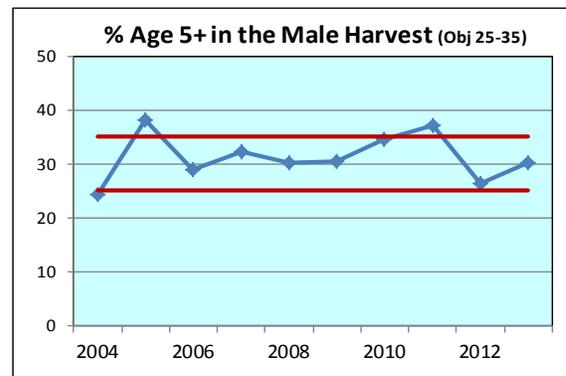
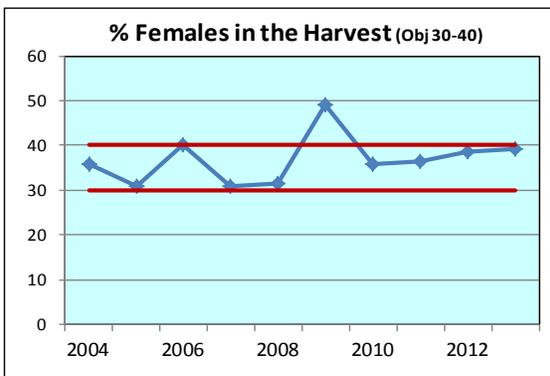
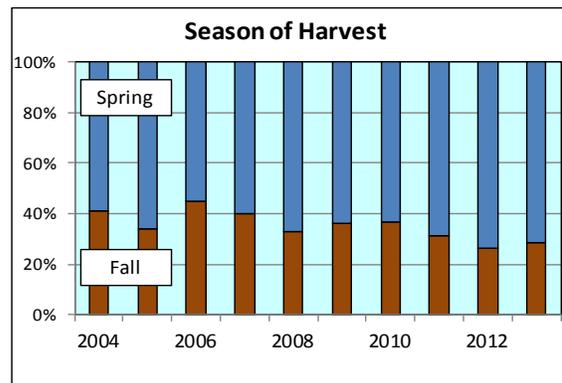
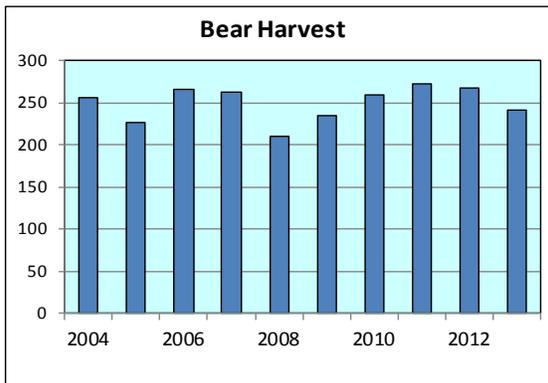


Figure 15. DAU1K Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Management Direction**

Harvest in DAU3B 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 this DAU black bear population 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 these GMUs.

Harvest in DAU3B 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 2013 was 11% lower than that reported in 2012. 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. Percent females in the harvest were higher in 2013 than that reported in 2012 (Figure 16). Still hunting and hunting over bait were the primary methods of harvest in this DAU. The primary weapon of choice in DAU 3B is the rifle.

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 30% females on average, within the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates 45% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 16).

### **Depredations**

No depredations were recorded in DAU 3B in 2013.

## **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.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,885	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	1.8 NA
	Percent Females	30% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	46% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>
Males	0-4 years	19	13	16	17	11	13	12	13	20	22
	5+ years	25	14	18	18	14	20	17	19	18	9
	Unknown	0	2	1	2	3	1	4	3	3	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>
Females	0-4 years	4	3	5	7	3	3	7	7	8	4
	5+ years	12	10	11	10	17	5	6	7	6	12
	Unknown	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
<b>Season</b>	Spring	21	18	20	16	22	12	17	26	19	28
	Fall	44	25	31	38	28	30	31	24	37	23
<b>Method</b>	Bait	7	6	5	7	17	12	13	19	19	23
	Hounds	1	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Incidental	22	11	13	21	10	11	10	8	14	7
	Still/Stalk	34	23	31	21	21	15	23	21	21	21
	Other	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	0

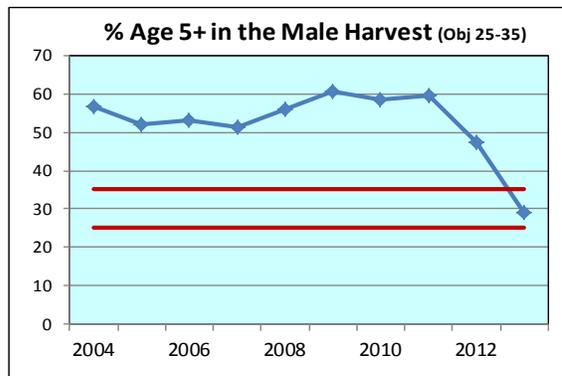
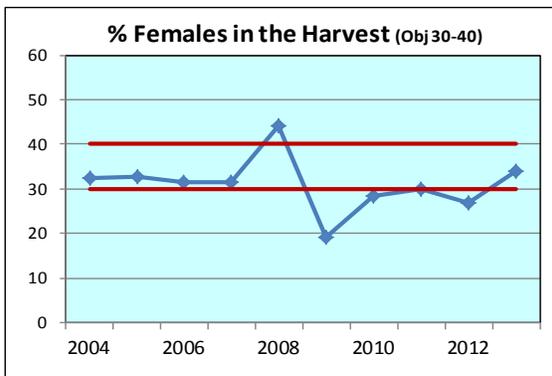
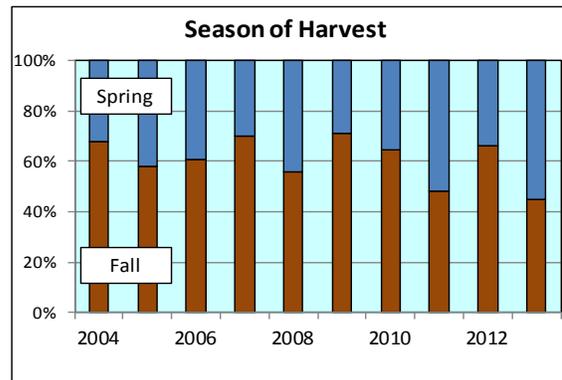
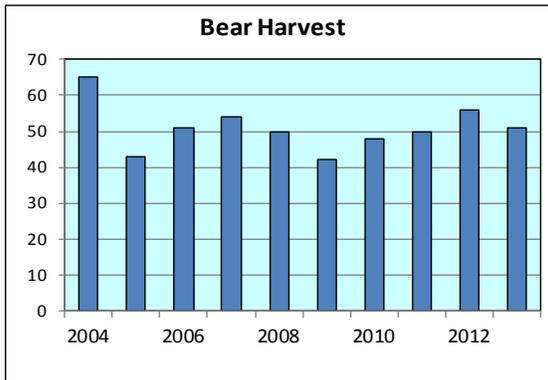


Figure 16. DAU3B Black Bear Status and Objectives

# MAGIC VALLEY REGION

## Abstract

Sixty-four black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2013 which is 12% higher than the 10-year average of 57 bears taken in DAU 4A (Figure 17). A relatively high proportion of bears were harvested using bait (53%).

## 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 2013 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2012. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A). Sixty-four black bears were harvested in 2013, equal to the 3-year average and 12% greater than the 10-year average for this DAU. Fifty-eight percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. Baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 53%, 31%, 5%, and 8% of the total hunter harvest of black bears in DAU 4A, respectively (Figure 17).

### Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 39% females on average, on the high end of the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a declining older male segment of the population, with only 22% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 17).

### **Dog-training Season**

A standard dog-training season of 1 June-31 July was implemented in 2003 and remained in place through 2013.

### **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. With an increasing trend in percent females in the harvest and a decreasing trend in males greater than age 5; adjustments in harvest opportunity may need to be made. 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. We will increase efforts with municipalities and campgrounds to install bear-proof dumpsters. Bears destroying apiaries has been a rare occurrence in this DAU. However, we have received 2 complaints in the past few years with one complaint involving multiple bears.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
3,241	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	2.0 NA
	Percent Females	39% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	22% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	24	17	17	26	26	22	25	22	29	30
	5+ years	11	19	7	13	19	5	11	13	6	4
	Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	5	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
Females	0-4 years	10	8	4	13	11	6	16	9	17	16
	5+ years	7	7	7	7	13	5	11	11	7	9
	Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Season</b>	Spring	29	24	14	41	34	26	44	39	46	37
	Fall	24	27	21	19	35	13	23	23	20	27
<b>Method</b>	Bait	15	15	14	34	15	20	31	32	34	34
	Hounds	19	13	3	2	15	3	7	9	3	3
	Incidental	9	11	7	5	21	5	10	8	8	5
	Still/Stalk	9	12	11	19	16	9	18	12	19	20
	Other	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	2

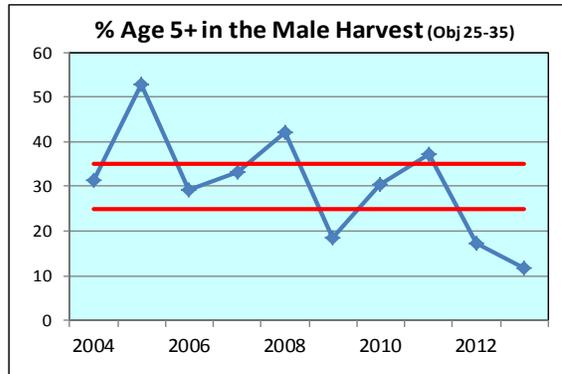
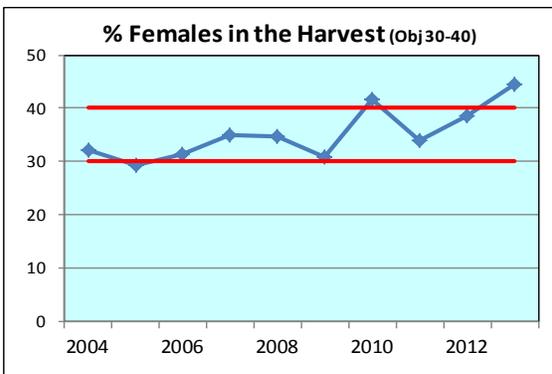
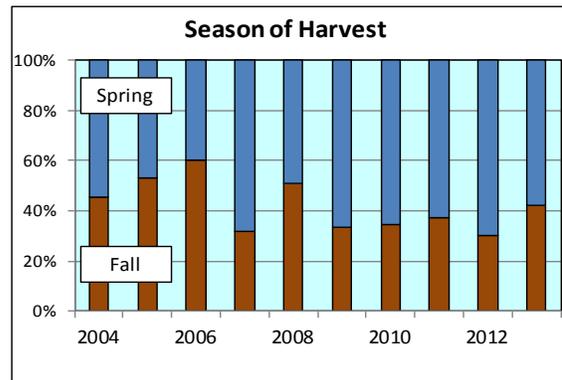
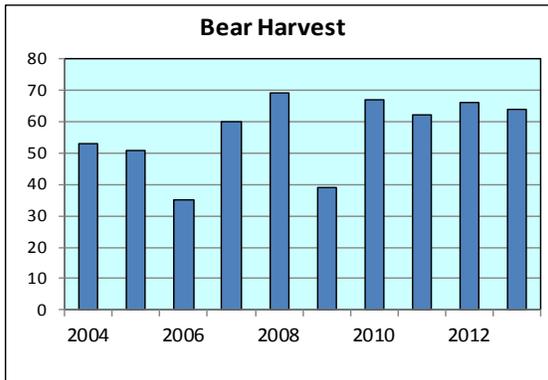


Figure 17. DAU4A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## UPPER SNAKE REGION

### Abstract

Black bear harvest increased markedly in all 3 Upper Snake/Southeast Region DAUs from the mid-1990s. 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. Whereas the 10 year average for 2004-13 was 189. 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 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. The harvest for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D was 186 during the 2013 season (Figures 18-20).

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  $\geq 5$  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  $\geq 30$  known-age black bears. For the 3-year running average (2011-2013), all DAU’s were meeting or exceeding the male harvest criterion. DAU 4C is meeting the % female criterion, while DAU 4B and 4D harvest has averaged 45% and 41%, respectively.

### Climatic Conditions

Overall, climatic conditions were very favorable throughout this reporting period. The summer of 2013 was average. The winter of 2013-2014 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.

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

### 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. In 2013, 42 black bears were reported harvested (Figure 18).

## **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  $\geq 5$  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**

We did not conduct any population surveys conducted during the reporting period.

## **Harvest Characteristics**

Forty two black bears were checked from DAU 4B in 2013. This was close to the current 3-year average for 2011-2013 of 41 (Figure 18).

Harvest management criteria 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.

Bait and hound hunters have historically accounted for the majority of the harvest for this DAU. This trend continued in 2013.

## **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 45% females on average, above the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 35% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 18).

## **Dog-training Seasons**

The 2013 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 2011-2013 was above the desired range for the female harvest criteria and within the male harvest criteria, suggesting harvest was moderate to high.

### DAU 4B (GMU 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
3,955	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	1.0 NA
	Percent Females	45% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	35% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Harvest	TOTAL	42	36	33	58	44	42	52	45	36	42	
	Males	0-4 years	19	17	17	23	15	18	20	15	11	16
		5+ years	10	9	11	10	7	9	12	7	9	7
		Unknown	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1
	Subtotal	30	26	28	33	23	28	34	23	21	24	
Females	0-4 years	2	5	3	12	8	6	10	7	3	7	
	5+ years	8	5	1	12	13	8	7	14	12	10	
	Unknown	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	
	Subtotal	12	10	5	25	21	14	18	22	15	18	
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Season	Spring	28	27	27	43	31	34	35	33	29	26	
	Fall	14	9	6	15	13	8	17	12	7	16	
Method	Bait	15	18	19	30	21	28	28	31	17	21	
	Hounds	16	8	6	11	12	8	11	6	12	6	
	Incidental	7	3	6	8	5	3	11	5	2	6	
	Still/Stalk	3	6	1	6	4	2	2	3	4	8	
	Other	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	

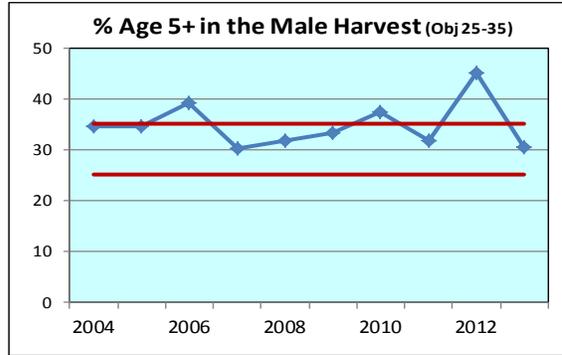
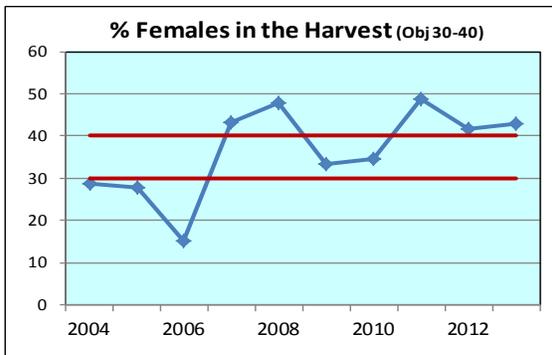
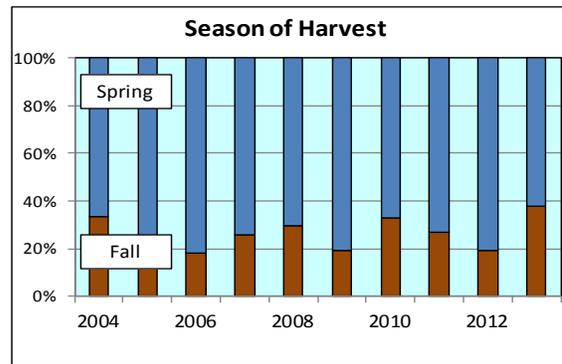
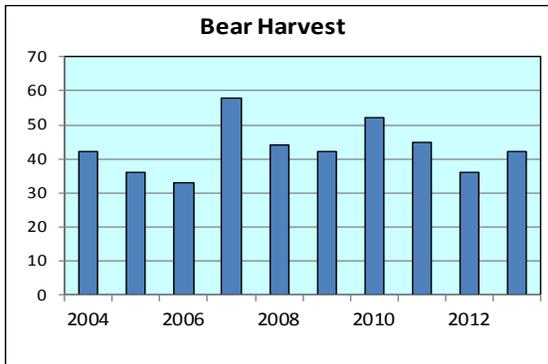


Figure 18. DAU4B Black Bear Status and Objectives

## 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 2011-2013 was within this level for percent females and above the desired level for percent males  $\geq 5$  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  $\geq 5$  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

Bait station survey were last conducted in parts of GMUs 61 and 62A in 2002. 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 did not conduct any surveys during the reporting period.

### 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  $\geq 30$ -bear criteria set forth in the Black Bear Management Plan. 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. Harvest for the 2011-2013 period was above the desired level for males  $\geq 5$  years old (35%) and within the desired level for percent females (31%), indicating a light harvest (Figure 19).

Still/stalk and incidental hunting combined dominate the method of take from this DAU. This is due to restrictions on use of bait and hounds to protect grizzly bears in much of the DAU.

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 31% females on average, within the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 35% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 19).

### **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 2011-2013 seasons was above objective for males  $\geq 5$  years and within 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  $\geq 5$  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 27 during 2004-2013.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,966	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	3.7 NA
	Percent Females	31% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	35% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>61</b>
Males	0-4 years	20	26	25	47	29	22	19	24	41	28
	5+ years	12	12	5	15	25	11	11	17	20	13
	Unknown	1	5	1	2	5	2	3	1	2	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>43</b>
Females	0-4 years	11	3	8	14	8	4	7	13	17	12
	5+ years	5	12	6	7	6	1	9	9	7	4
	Unknown	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	4	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Season	Spring	29	25	11	23	34	25	27	26	44	29
	Fall	20	33	34	65	39	15	23	38	47	32
Method	Bait	15	12	10	16	13	13	18	9	21	19
	Hounds	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	1
	Incidental	13	22	11	48	15	12	16	19	16	15
	Still/Stalk	17	20	18	15	37	11	10	30	47	23
	Other	2	3	3	7	5	1	4	2	3	3

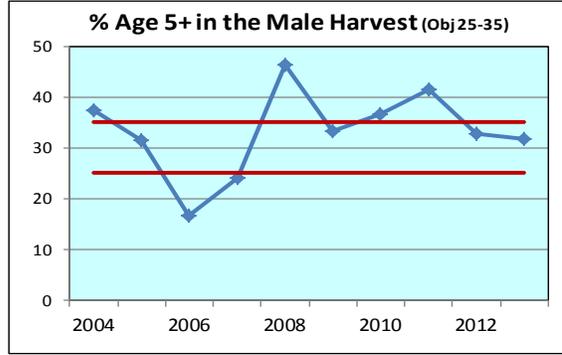
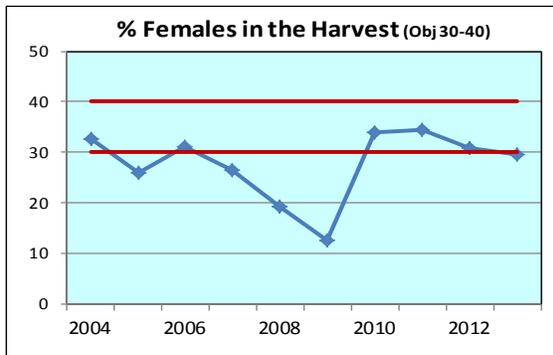
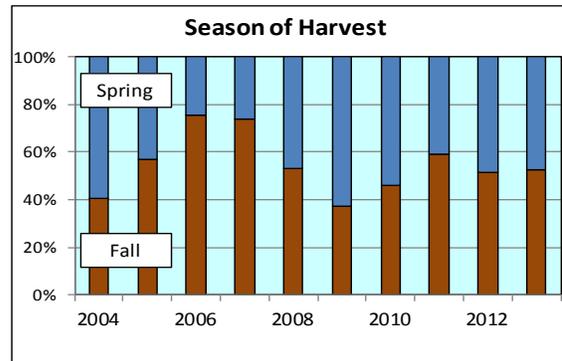
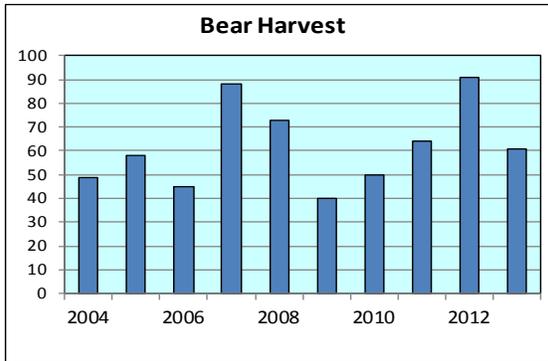


Figure 19. DAU4C Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **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 2013 harvest of 83 bears is near the 2011-2013 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 2011-2013 was within this level for the males harvest criteria but the percentage of females in the harvest was over objective.

### **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  $\geq 5$  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**

Bait station survey were last conducted in GMUs 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, and 76 in July/August 2004. 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 83 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2013. Harvest has fluctuated from 50 to 117 in the last ten years and is influenced by weather. The average annual harvest for the 2011-2013 seasons was 91 (Figure 20).

Baiting and hound hunting continue to be a popular method of harvest followed by incidental hunting, and then still/stalk.

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 2011-2013 harvest was composed of 41% females on average, above the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a young male segment of the population, with 25% of the 2011-2013 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 20).

### **Dog-training Season**

The 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 DAU is again outside the objectives outlined in the management plan, reductions in opportunity may have to be considered in the next season setting process.



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

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
4,449	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	2.1 NA
	Percent Females	41% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	25% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>83</b>
Males	0-4 years	38	40	30	45	22	37	42	23	49	40
	5+ years	16	14	6	11	10	21	17	16	14	8
	Unknown	0	1	3	3	1	0	3	5	3	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>
Females	0-4 years	22	16	13	22	12	17	13	17	24	16
	5+ years	15	16	8	14	4	6	12	12	24	16
	Unknown	1	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>33</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Season	Spring	53	38	16	40	17	35	27	16	50	38
	Fall	39	55	44	57	33	48	62	58	67	45
Method	Bait	44	40	20	42	18	39	35	34	58	36
	Hounds	24	21	10	16	6	13	19	16	18	13
	Incidental	14	15	16	22	14	15	25	10	18	15
	Still/Stalk	7	15	12	12	11	11	8	10	21	12
	Other	3	2	2	5	1	5	2	4	2	7

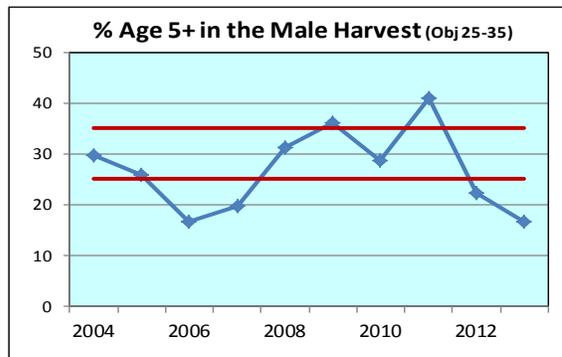
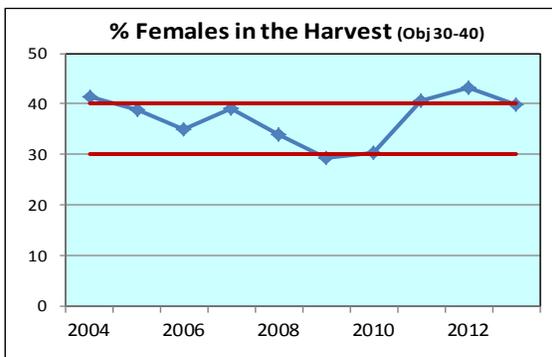
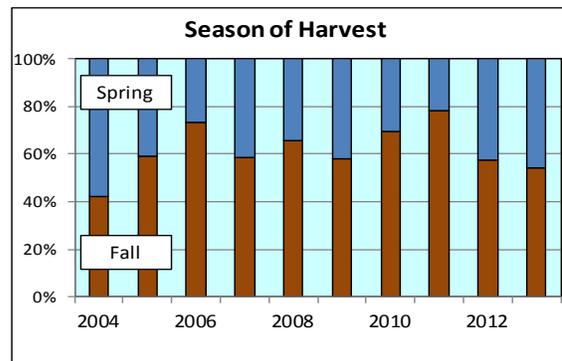
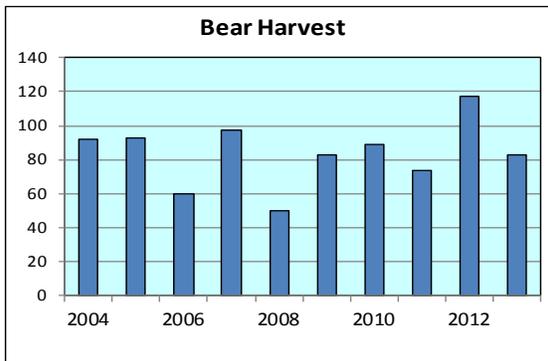


Figure 20. DUA4D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Management Direction**

Historically, the Department did not offer an open season in these DAUs because black bear numbers were low and too sparse to justify a hunting season. However, bear sightings 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 2008. There are no specific harvest expectations and the primary purpose of the season is to allow the harvest of black bears around human habitation and livestock operations.

### **Background**

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

### **Population Surveys**

No black bear population surveys are conducted in DAU 5.

### **Harvest Characteristics**

The 2013 season in DAU 5 ran from 30 August-31 October and 15 April-30 June. No bears were harvested during the 2013 season.

### **Dog-training Season**

The 2013 dog-training season ran from 1 July-31 July.

### **Management Implications**

The Department did not plan to offer an open season in DAU 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 DAU 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 DAU 5.

# **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 due to regulation changes. During 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, 184, 236, 194, and 183 bears were harvested, respectively (Figures 21-23). 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 2012 was below average, with generally cool, but dry weather during spring and early summer. Vegetative growth appeared average to below 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 96% of average by late winter, 2013. Onset of spring weather and associated plant phenology was about normal in 2013. Spring and early summer conditions in 2013 were cool and moist.

## **DAU 1I (GMUs 34, 35, 36)**

### **Management Direction**

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 1I is to maintain a heavy harvest rate of <25% males  $\geq$ 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest (Figure 21).

### **Background**

DAU 1I is bordered by the Frank Church Wilderness on the north and includes part of the Sawtooth Wilderness in the south. Virtually all of DAU 1I is 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 GMU 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 2013 was 21 less than the 20-year high in 2007 and slightly higher than the 3-year average (45). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1I indicates a lighter harvest rate than specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Figure 21).

Use of bait accounted for 69% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2013. Approximately 19% of bears were taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting.

## **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

With the exception of 2008 and 2010, female harvest has not reached the management goal of >40% in the past 10 years was 31% in 2013. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years old (29% in 2013) increasingly moved away from goal levels from 2001 through 2009, except for drops toward the goal of <25% in 2005 and 2010 (Figure 21).

## **Depredations**

Depredations in this DAU usually accounted for the majority of black bear problems in Salmon Region prior to 1994. 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.

## **Management Implications**

Management direction for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate (<25% males  $\geq 5$  years old and >40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggested a light 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. Despite this additional opportunity and the increased harvest that came with it, the management goal of a heavy harvest has not been met with the exception of 2008 and 2010. Currently, harvest indicator criteria suggests a light harvest rate.

## DAU 11 (GMUs 34, 35, 36)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,871	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	2.4      NA
	Percent Females	31%    >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	46%    <25%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>
Males	0-4 years	14	17	17	21	6	12	16	13	18	18
	5+ years	15	8	16	24	16	13	10	10	18	14
	Unknown	3	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>
Females	0-4 years	5	6	4	7	5	1	10	2	8	2
	5+ years	6	7	2	13	10	4	9	8	3	12
	Unknown	2	2	0	1	3	0	1	4	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	31	27	32	40	34	23	36	25	46	41
	Fall	14	15	8	29	6	7	10	12	6	7
<b>Method</b>	Bait	24	28	30	26	23	16	27	18	38	33
	Hounds	1	3	3	7	8	1	5	3	4	6
	Incidental	9	4	3	11	2	0	5	6	3	3
	Still/Stalk	10	7	4	24	7	12	6	8	6	6
	Other	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	1	0

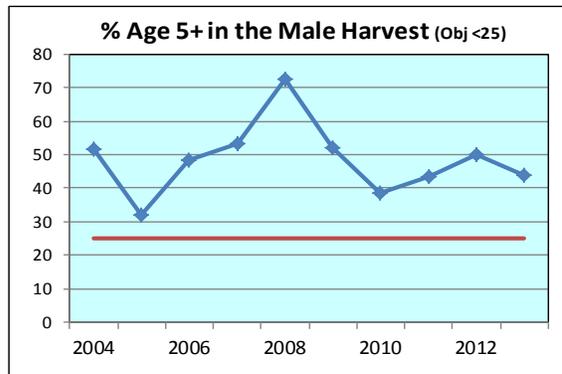
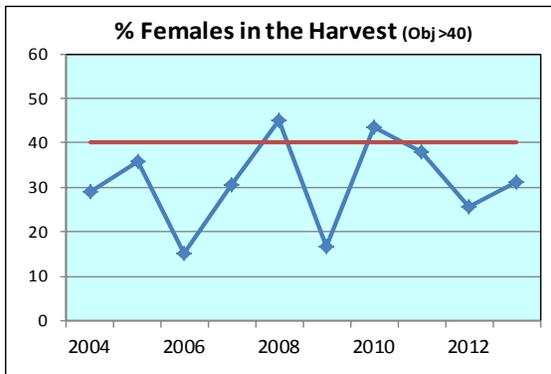
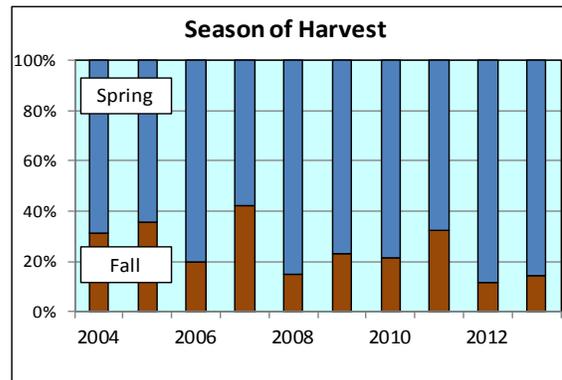
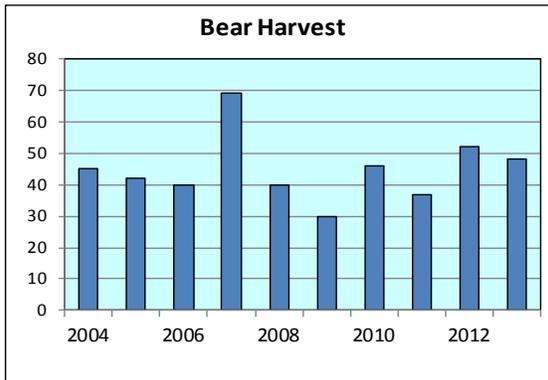


Figure 21. DAU 11 Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

### **Management Direction**

Follow statewide management direction of the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 1J is to maintain a moderate harvest rate of 25-35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30-40% females in the harvest (Figure 22).

### **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 outside the Wilderness area boundary (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. 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 70, respectively. Harvest in 2012 (80) dropped to the third lowest total since seasons were extended in 2000. Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1J indicates a slightly lighter harvest rate for males than specified in the 2000-2010 management plan. The 2013 harvest on females met the moderate harvest criteria called for in the plan (Figure 22).

In 2013, bait and hound hunters accounted for 61% of the harvest and still hunter and incidental take comprised 39% of the harvest. Most bears harvested in this DAU are taken with firearms, followed by archery (Figure 22).

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 3-year average for percent females in the harvest is within the management goal of 30-40%. The  $\geq 5$  year old male age composition harvest hit the high end of the (35%) 3-yr average of 25-35% specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Figure 22).

### **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. After a near-record 21 complaints received in 2010 and no complaints during 2011, a small number of complaints (8) was recorded in 2013 for this DAU.

### **Management Implications**

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30-40% females in the harvest). During the 1990s harvest indicator criteria for percent males  $\geq 5$  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. The proportion of the harvest falling within these extended dates has increased over the years. The proportion of females in the harvest has bounced above and within objective over the last 10 years. The proportion of older males hit the high end of objective 2013.

### DAU 1J (GMU 21, 21A, 28, 36B)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,651	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	3.2
	Percent Females	36% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	45% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>89</b>
Males	0-4 years	52	28	19	37	33	30	37	17	32	37
	5+ years	29	30	23	36	20	24	32	29	21	21
	Unknown	5	0	3	6	3	1	2	2	0	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>60</b>
Females	0-4 years	28	14	13	29	22	14	15	12	13	14
	5+ years	17	21	12	20	23	21	14	21	13	13
	Unknown	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Season	Spring	76	69	59	89	71	72	68	64	64	61
	Fall	56	27	11	40	32	20	33	19	16	28
Method	Bait	44	51	45	74	61	58	56	40	50	51
	Hounds	15	11	7	0	4	3	6	5	7	3
	Incidental	30	17	2	21	12	12	18	12	8	18
	Still/Stalk	41	14	16	31	23	16	19	26	15	17
	Other	2	3	0	3	3	3	2	0	0	0

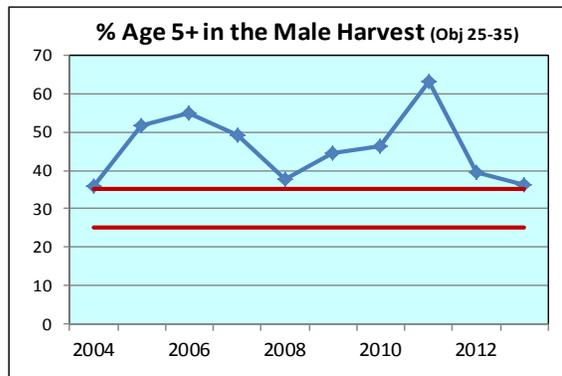
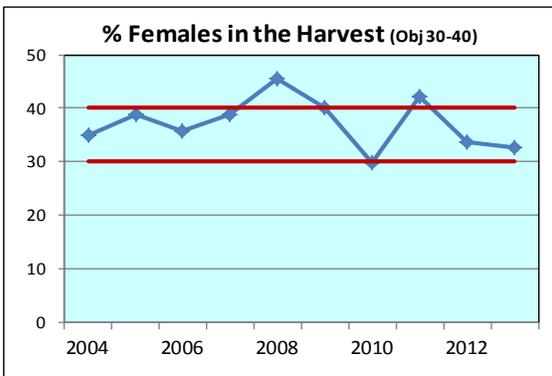
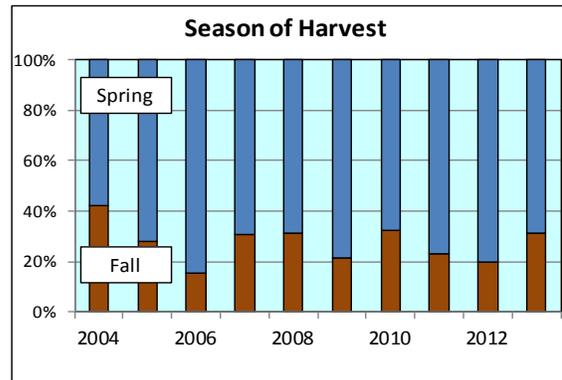
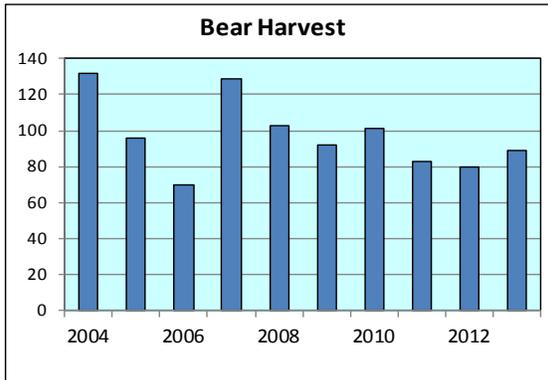


Figure 22. DAU 1J. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

## **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  $\geq 5$  years old and 30-40% females in the harvest.

### **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. In 2010, a record high 89 black bears were harvested, which is 24 more than the previous 3-year average. Harvest in 2011(74) was the second highest in recent history and the 2013 harvest (64) dropped back down to a level more comparable with past years. Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 4E indicates that the harvest is slightly exceeding the management plan criteria for both males and females (Figure 23).

In 2013, bait and hound hunters accounted for 69% of the harvest and still hunter and incidental take comprised 30% of the harvest. The majority of bears harvested in this DAU were taken with firearms, followed by archery (Figure 23).

### **Sex Ratio/Age Structure**

The 3-year average for percent females in the harvest (43%) is above the management goal of 30-40%. The %5+ year male bear harvest indicates a higher harvest (43%) than 3-yr average of 25-35% specified in the 2000-2010 management plan (Figure 23).

### **Depredations**

Except for 1994 and 2007, unusually dry years, DAU 4E experiences relatively few depredation problems. There were 3 depredation complaints in 2013.

### **Management Implications**

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males  $\geq 5$  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. The proportion of the harvest falling within these extended dates has increased over the years. Harvest levels for this DAU suggest harvest may be 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. Harvest levels will be monitored and adjustments made as appropriate.



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

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
3,207	Harvest per 100 M <sup>2</sup> :	2.0
	Percent Females	43% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	45% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>64</b>
Males	0-4 years	20	16	17	32	22	18	42	21	13	23
	5+ years	14	18	17	13	10	14	5	18	16	13
	Unknown	1	0	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>
Females	0-4 years	12	11	11	8	14	11	18	15	11	11
	5+ years	12	20	5	12	14	16	19	15	9	13
	Unknown	0	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>
Unknown sex	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Season</b>	Spring	39	54	46	51	51	49	52	51	41	39
	Fall	20	12	6	18	12	13	37	23	12	25
<b>Method</b>	Bait	26	37	37	40	42	42	41	36	31	36
	Hounds	12	10	7	7	8	6	7	8	7	8
	Incidental	12	15	4	17	4	7	23	12	5	12
	Still/Stalk	6	3	4	4	8	7	16	16	9	7
	Other	3	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	1

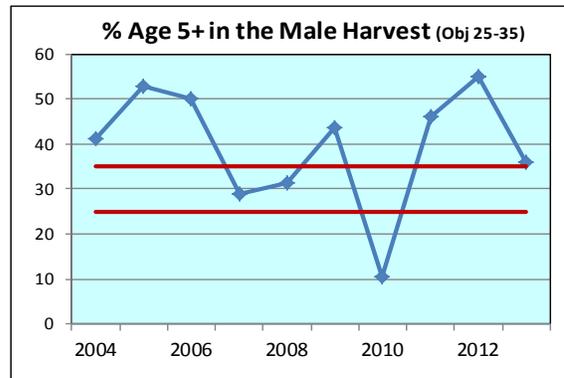
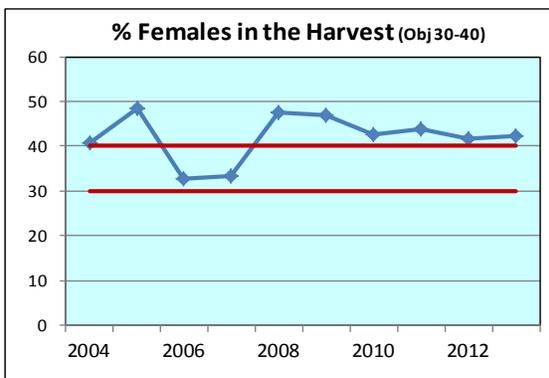
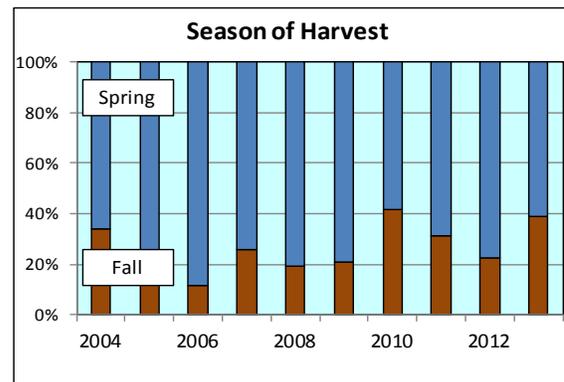
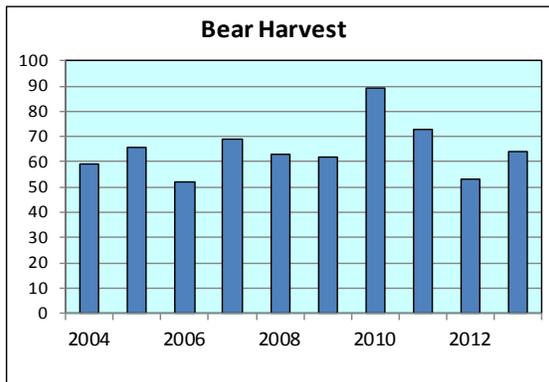


Figure 23. DAU 4E. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

**APPENDIX A**

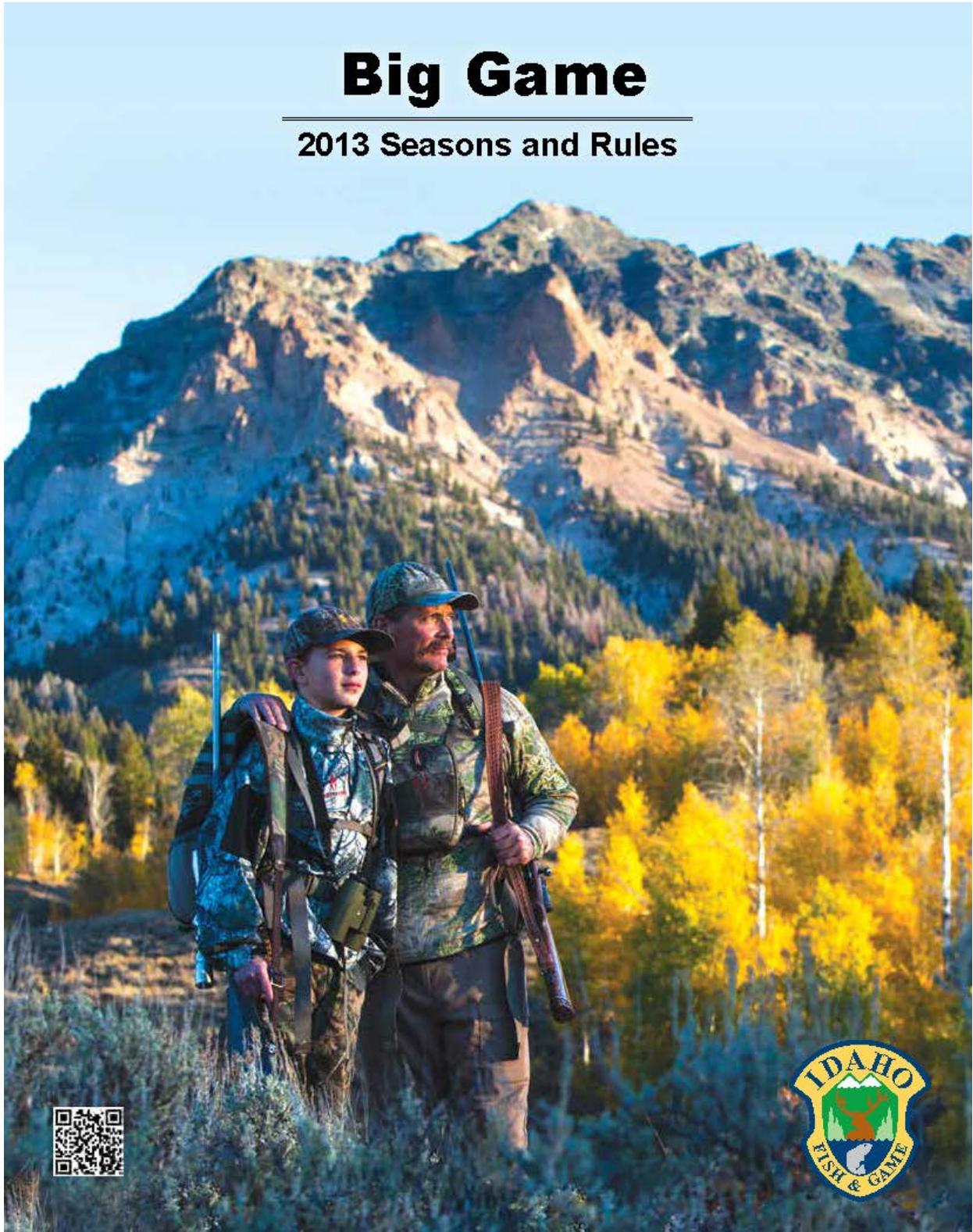
IDAHO

2013 SEASON

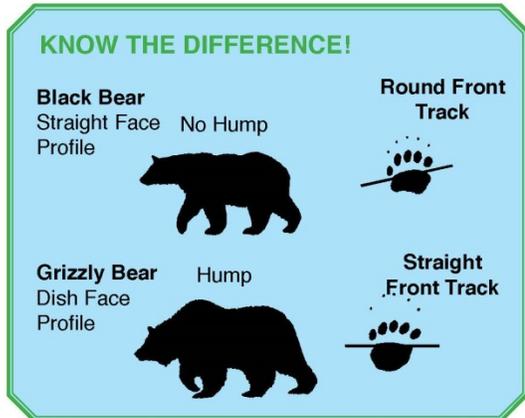
BLACK BEAR RULES

# Big Game

2013 Seasons and Rules



## 2013 Fall / 2014 Spring Black Bear Hunting Seasons



### General Rules

- Apply for spring controlled hunts Jan 15-Feb 15.
- Apply for fall controlled hunts May 1-June 5.

**Bag Limit:** No person may take more than one black bear per legal tag in his or her possession.

**Female Black Bear With Young:** No female black bear accompanied by young may be taken.

**Evidence of Sex:** For black bear, external evidence of sex (either scrotum, penis, or testicles for males or vulva for females) must be left naturally attached to the hide until the mandatory check requirement has been satisfied.

**Capturing Black Bears:** No person may trap, snare or otherwise capture or hold black bears.

**Mandatory Check and Report:** Any hunter killing a black bear must, *within 10 days of kill*:

- Present the skull and hide to an Idaho Fish and Game regional office, official check point, or a Fish and Game conservation officer for removal and retention of a premolar tooth and to have the hide tagged with an official state export tag. No person, who does not possess a fur buyer or taxidermist license with appropriate import documentation, shall have, **except** during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw black bear pelt that does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export documentation).
- A hunter may authorize another person to comply with the above requirements if that person possesses enough information to accurately complete the necessary form. Proxy required, see page 90.
- **Please thaw your black bear hide and skull before bringing it in for tagging or staff may not be able to complete check-in.**

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., 208-327-7095.

**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 4, 6, 7, 9, 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, excluding nonresident junior mentored deer and elk tags, may be used to tag a black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf, see page 98 for details.

**Nonresident Reduced Bear Tags:** Please see page 98.

### Bait

**Bait for hunting 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 refilled, 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 one-half 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 nonbiodegradable 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

Please see the section on hound hunting rules on page 89.

#### Bear Identification

**NEW!** To prevent mistaken identity, bear hunters are encouraged to learn to identify black bears and tell them from grizzly bears in the wild. A bear identification training program is available on our website at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/education/bearidentification/>

This link is provided for educational purposes only.

## WANTED: ALIVE!

### Your Photos of Wolverines and Fishers

Fish & Game is looking for wolverines and fishers throughout Idaho.

If you see a wolverine or fisher, or if you use a trail camera and capture images of either of these animals, Fish and Game wants to hear from you!

#### Descriptions

##### Wolverine:

32 to 52 inches long;  
18 to 40 pounds;  
Dark brown fur;  
Two pale stripes extend  
from neck to base of tail;  
White or orange patches often  
found on throat or chest



##### Fisher:

30 to 47 inches long;  
4 to 12 pounds;  
Brownish-black fur;  
Small white patches  
on chest and belly

Report sightings to <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/observations/>

 <b>Fall 2013 / Spring 2014 Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)</b>				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
2, 3	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	<i>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
4	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	June 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
4A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	June 1 - July 31	<i>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
5	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
6	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
7, 9	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - July 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31	None	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
8	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
8A, 10A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	June 1 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Apr 1 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
11	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	None	
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 15	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
14, 18	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	June 1 - July 31	
15	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	June 1 - July 31	
16	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used North of Selway River, Remainder of unit: 1 bear tag</i>
16A, 17, 19, 20	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Unit 17</i>
19A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	

 <b>Fall 2013 / Spring 2014 Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)</b>				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
20A	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	<i>Second bear tag may be used</i>
21, 21A, 28, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 32 &amp; 32A, See Pages 91-92</i>
23	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 7	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 8 - July 31	
24, 25	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 7	Oct 5 - Oct 31	June 8 - July 31	
26, 27	Aug 30 - Nov 18 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used</i>
29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 91-92</i>
33	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	<i>That portion of Unit 33 within the Middle Fork of the Payette River drainage downstream from but excluding Powder House Gulch drainage is closed during dog training season.</i>
34, 35, 36	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 5 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	
39	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 5 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	
43, 44, 45, 48, 49	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45 &amp; 49, See Pages 91-92</i>
50, 51, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 91-92</i>
60	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	None	<i>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
60A, 63, 63A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	
61	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31 west of Howard Creek in Clark County <b>only</b> .	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 7	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 1 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 66, 66A, 69 &amp; 76, See Pages 91-92, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Units 64, 65, 66 &amp; 67</i>

(continued)

 <b>Fall 2013 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (215 Tags)</b> <b>(Females with young are protected!)</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8501	1 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 74)	15	Sep 15 - Oct 9	<i>Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 74, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
8502	22 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 74)	100	Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 74</i>
8503	32 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 74)	100	Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 91-92</i>

 <b>Spring 2014 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (150 Tags)</b> <b>(Females with young are protected!)</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8001	22 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 74)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	32 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 74)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 91-92</i>

**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.

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See below for hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See below for hunt area descriptions.

**For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 94-97.**

**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.

**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, 66 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:**

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/education/bearIdentification/>

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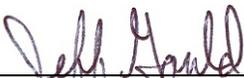
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Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Compton, Asst. Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Gould, Chief  
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## 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.

