

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Surveys and Inventories

Statewide Report
Harvest Year 2015



BLACK BEAR

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

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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: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

STATEWIDE

Abstract

For analysis, Idaho's black bear management utilizes 22 Data Analysis Units (DAU) comprised of multiple game management units (GMUs) (Figure 1). In prior reports, data were reported by fiscal year (July through June of the following year). Beginning with this report, data are summarized by calendar year, which better represents the biological year. With this approach, age classes remain intact (in prior reports, yearlings harvested. In prior reports, for example, harvest data within an age class would include animals born in two different years because the birth pulse (winter) occurred half way through the report period.

During 2015, 38,831 black bear tags were sold, showing a slight increase of 0.8% annually over the prior 10 years. However, additional black bear tags are included in each of 21,296 Sportsman's Packages sold in Idaho during 2015. It is unknown how many of these individuals hunted black bear. A total of 3,550 houndhunter permits were sold in 2015, with a 1.4% annual average increase over the prior 10 years. The number of black bear baiting permits sold was 2,973, with an annual average increase of 3.8% over the prior 10 years.

Few significant changes to bear harvest seasons were made during the report period. A second bear was authorized for GMUs 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, a portion of 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, a portion of 21, 27, 26, 27, and a portion of 28. Seventy statewide nonresident houndhunter permits were authorized for 2015. Not counted in this limit were nonresidents who hunted solely in GMUs 10, 12, 20A, 26, and 27. An additional 40 nonresident houndhunter permits were authorized for GMUs 16A, a portion of 17, 19, and 20. There is no limitation on the number of nonresident bear baiting permits.

Hunters are required to report black bears harvested within 10 days of kill. Although the 2015 (calendar year) harvest of 2,787 bears was the highest of the last decade, there has been little change in trend overall during that period. Sixty-two percent of the annual harvest occurs during the spring bear season (2013-2015). The dominant method for hunting black bears is with the use of bait (46% of the annual harvest, 2013-2015).

Typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of females in the harvest averaged 35% during 2015. Also typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of 5 year old and older bears within the male harvest averaged 34% during 2015.

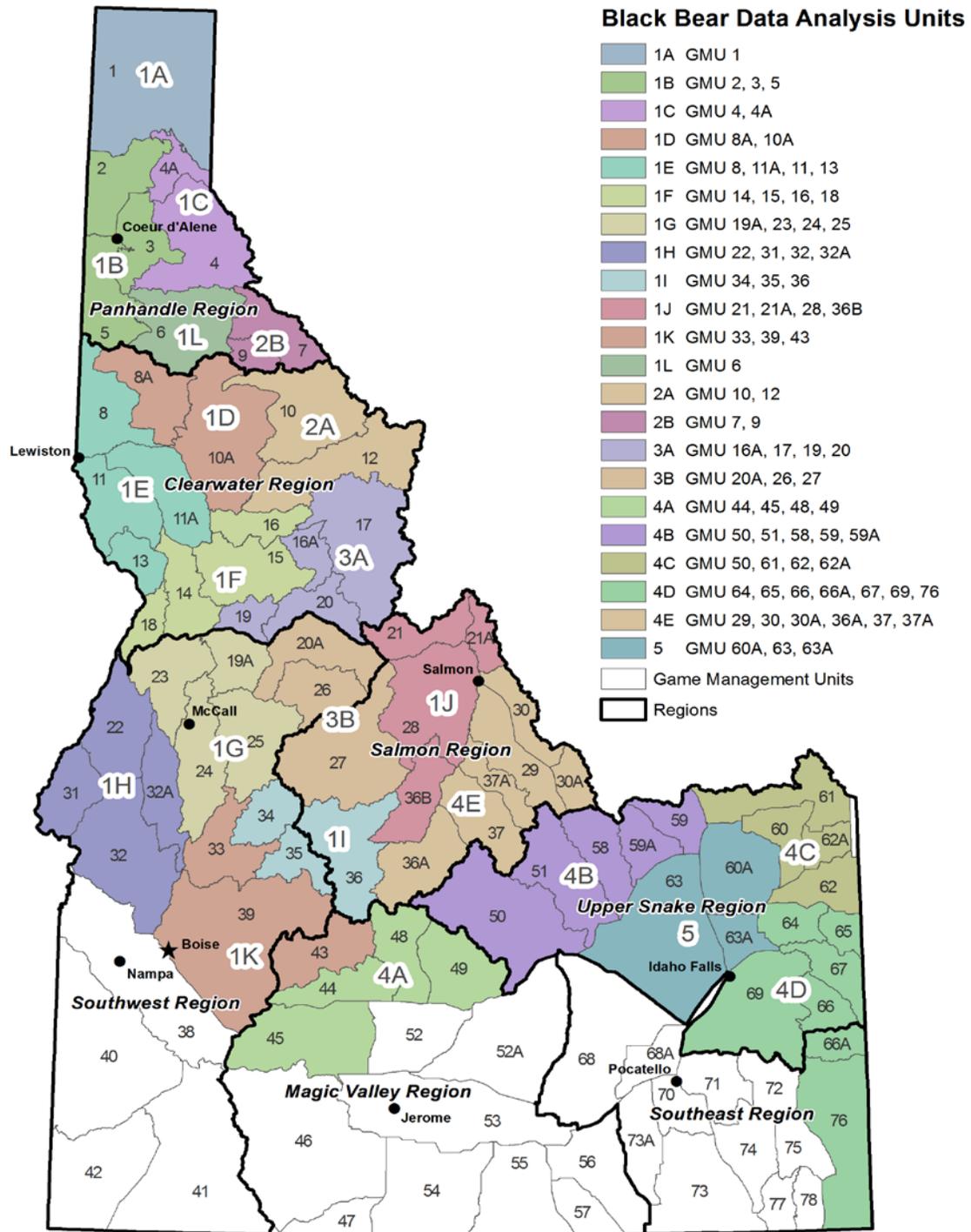


Figure 1. Twenty-two Data Analysis Units (DAU) for black bear management in Idaho.



Statewide

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	
57,555	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.3
	Percent Females	36%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	32%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	2269	2628	2167	2109	2506	2257	2487	2202	2495	2787
Males	0-4 years	881	1024	884	909	1004	860	1034	909	984	1240
	5+ years	464	594	441	454	527	500	519	448	511	518
	Unknown	119	77	45	41	84	56	73	49	61	49
	Subtotal	1464	1695	1370	1404	1615	1416	1626	1406	1556	1807
Females	0-4 years	393	473	361	365	420	369	420	372	393	487
	5+ years	343	401	394	309	404	429	395	381	418	453
	Unknown	69	59	42	31	67	43	46	43	128	40
	Subtotal	805	933	797	705	891	841	861	796	939	980
Season²	Spring	1199	1419	1109	1128	1358	1201	1463	1372	1534	1781
	Fall	1033	1257	1072	970	1159	1050	1038	845	965	1042
Method³	Bait	861	919	766	869	956	911	1029	961	1096	1178
	BaitHounds	24	40	22	30	36	28	31	26	32	32
	Hounds	328	330	319	272	345	316	359	345	381	471
	Incidental	329	438	366	281	380	301	287	226	272	302
	PredCall	42	45	30	32	41	30	39	35	37	27
	Still/Stalk	670	762	643	603	690	635	635	567	653	634

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

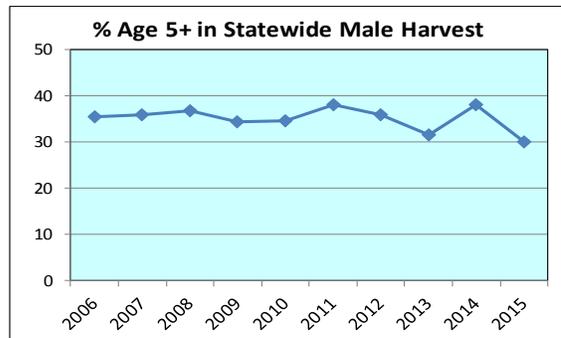
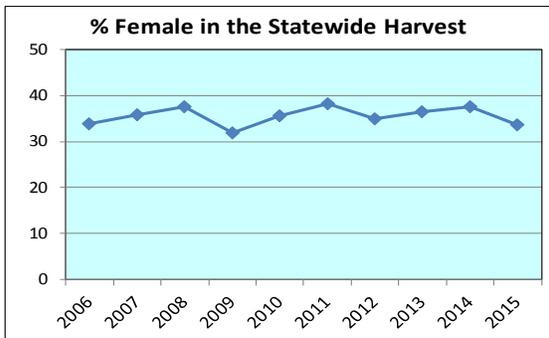
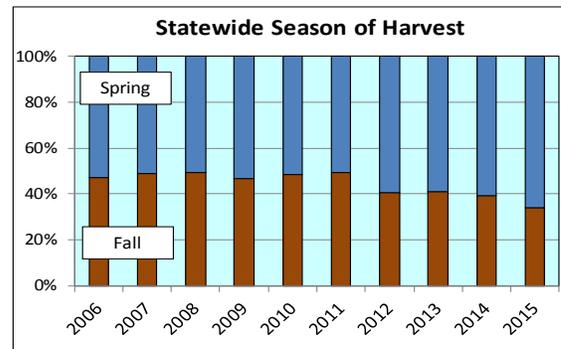
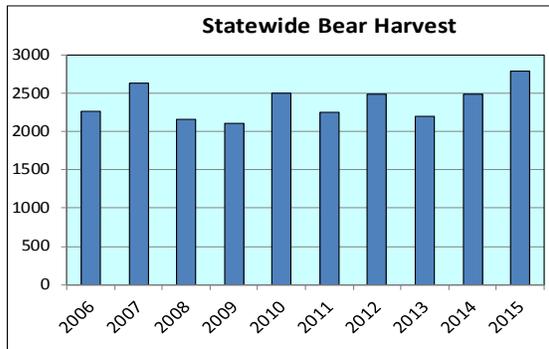


Figure 2. Statewide Black Bear Status and Objectives.

Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Resident bear tags	30,564	32,844	30,789	30,370	30,871	30,660	30,966	31,869	32,764	34,989	34,865
Nonresident bear tags	4,091	4,316	3,923	3,191	2,858	2,704	3,043	3,106	3,273	3,568	3,966
Total Bear Tags	34,655	37,160	34,712	33,561	33,729	33,364	34,009	34,975	36,037	38,557	38,831
Resident houndhunter permits	2,904	2,943	2,844	2,894	2,886	2,863	2,858	3,039	3,145	3,340	3,436
Nonresident houndhunter permits	138	119	121	108	98	100	97	104	96	97	114
Total Houndhunter permits	3,042	3,062	2,965	3,002	2,984	2,963	2,955	3,143	3,241	3,437	3,550
Resident bear baiting	1,921	2,398	2,061	2,135	2,022	1,912	2,150	2,307	2,274	2,699	2,567
Nonresident bear baiting	0	0	0	207	327	279	324	350	347	361	406
Total Bear baiting permits	1,921	2,398	2,061	2,342	2,349	2,191	2,474	2,657	2,621	3,060	2,973

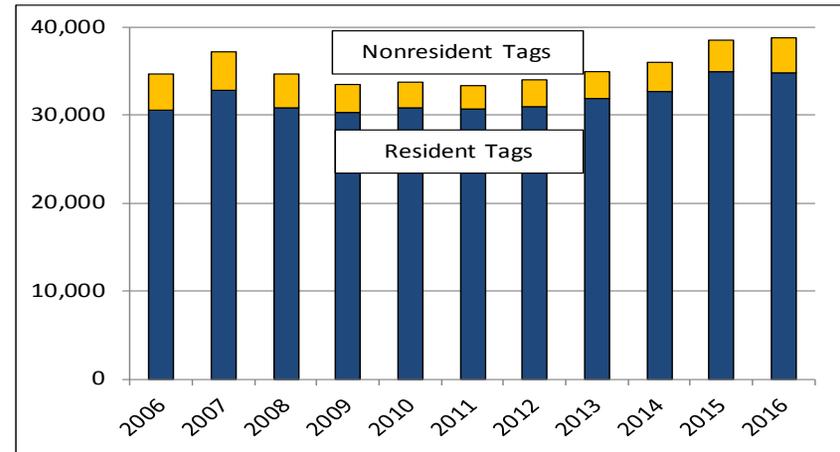
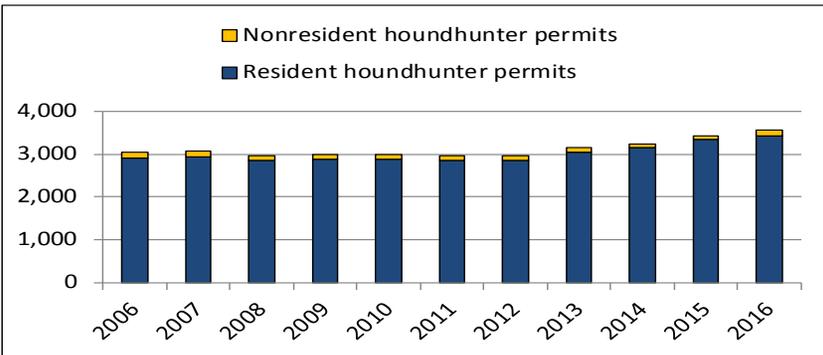
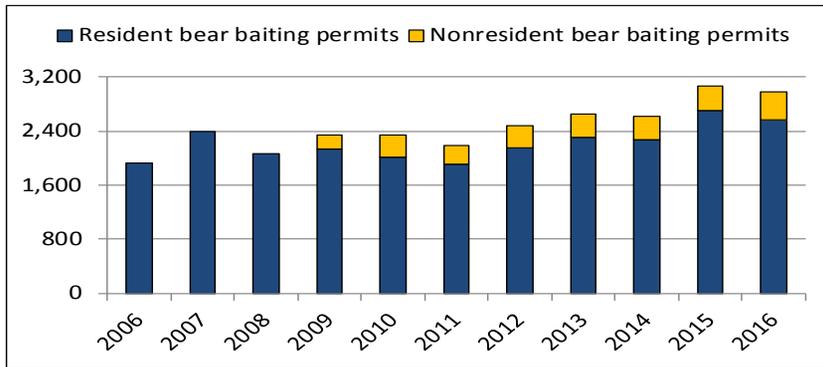


Figure 3. Statewide Black Bear Tags and Permits.

Black Bear Statewide 2015

PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in Panhandle Region during 2014 was 629 bears, 14% above the previous 3-year average and 778 in 2015, 32% above the previous 3-year average. Female harvest (244 in 2014 and 282 in 2015) was 18% and 29% above the previous 3-year averages, and male harvest (385 in 2014 and 496 in 2015) was 12% and 33% above, respectively. Thirty-nine percent of the harvest was female in 2014 and 36% female in 2015, and 28% of aged male bears were age class 5 or older in 2015 (Figures 4-8). Both indicators are consistent with a population managed under a moderate harvest regime as defined by the 2000-2010 black bear management plan. Overall harvest increased in all DAUs during 2014 and 2015. DAUs 1C, 1L and 2B have a longer season that runs through June (1C and 1L) and July (2B). In DAU 1C, 30% (2015) of the spring bear harvest occurred in June (spring 2015 was the first period the harvest season was extended into June). In DAU 1L, 39% (2014 and 2015) of the spring harvest occurred during June and in DAU 2B, 51% (2014) and 46% (2015) of the spring harvest occurred in June/July (Figures 4-8). These relatively high harvests in the extended seasons may simply be an artifact of cold wet springs that limited access in other areas during the earlier season, but it does warrant watching. The 2014 and 2015 huckleberry crops were “average-above average”.

The objective for Data Analysis Unit (DAU) 1A is for light harvest and current indicators demonstrate light to moderate harvest. DAU 2B is managed for moderate harvest and current indicators demonstrate light to moderate harvest. DAUs 1B, 1C, and 1L are managed for heavy harvest; DAU 1B meets heavy harvest criterion, while DAU 1C demonstrates moderate harvest and DAU 1L demonstrates moderate to heavy 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. DAU 1L is 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 152 during 2014, approximately 9% above the 2011-2013 average, and 223 during 2015, approximately 57% above the 2012-2014 average. The harvest composition has changed little during the past 10 years. The percentage of females

in the harvest averaged 31% and 32% from 2012-2014 and 2013-2015, respectively, and the percentage of males in age classes 5+ is 37% from 2013-2015 (Figure 4).

Management Direction

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

Background

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

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

Special Projects

Department Research Biologist John Beecham studied black bears in the Priest Lake portion of the Selkirk Mountains 1979 – 1981. Additional work was conducted in 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-two percent of the 2014 and 71% of the 2015 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunter's specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Figure 4).

The majority of the harvest occurred during the fall season in both 2014 and 2015; with 52% and 56% percent of the harvest in the fall, consistent with many years.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2012-2014 harvest was composed of 31% females and the 2013-2015 harvest was composed of 32% females on average, slightly higher than the target of <30% females in the harvest. However, in 2014 and 2015 the harvest of females has below the most recent 10 year average. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 37% of the 2013-2015 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 4).

Dog-training Seasons

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

Management Implications

No changes in hunting seasons are indicated by examination of management criteria. The 3-year averages of 31% and 32% females in the harvest is slightly higher than the management objective but, as noted, the 2014 and 2015 harvest of females was below the most recent 10 year average. This component of the harvest warrants watching. The male harvest of 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)

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,475	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	6.7 NA
	Percent Females	32% <30%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	37% >35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	223	208	145	130	179	147	151	122	152	223
	Males										
	0-4 years	77	59	47	55	53	43	58	44	57	102
	5+ years	44	62	46	28	47	38	41	40	39	38
	Unknown	26	17	1	5	12	8	8	1	7	9
	Subtotal	147	138	94	88	112	89	107	85	103	149
Females	0-4 years	26	33	20	17	29	16	17	22	17	34
	5+ years	35	34	28	20	25	36	23	13	28	35
	Unknown	15	3	3	5	13	6	4	2	4	5
	Subtotal	76	70	51	42	67	58	44	37	49	74
Season²	Spring	84	98	70	71	69	70	73	75	74	100
	Fall	140	111	78	59	110	78	78	47	79	125
Method³	Bait	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	0
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	9	2	6	3	6	7	6	5	6	5
	Incidental	22	16	15	9	16	16	17	5	13	47
	PredCall	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	190	182	121	115	148	121	116	109	124	158

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

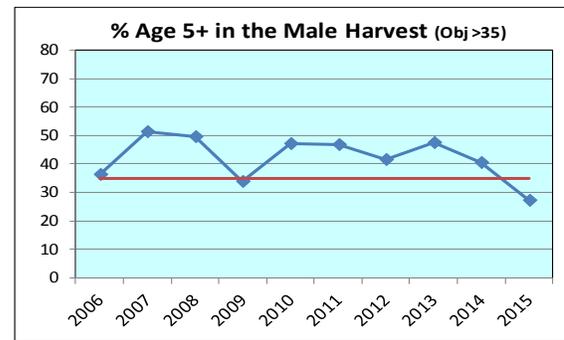
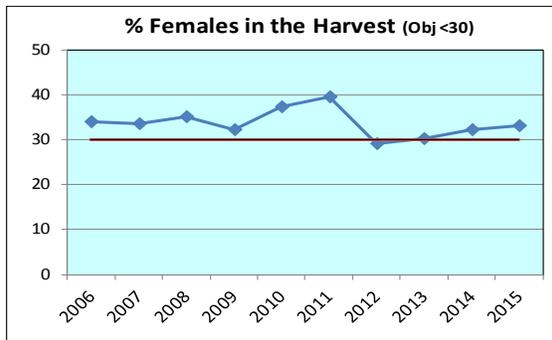
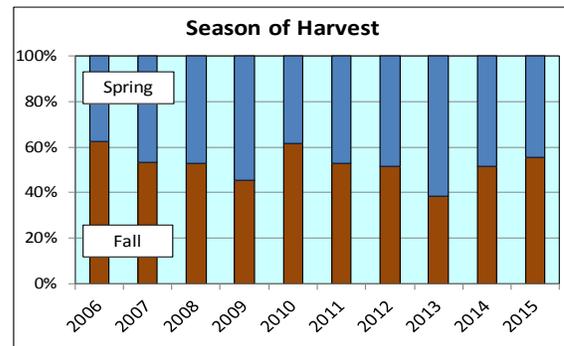
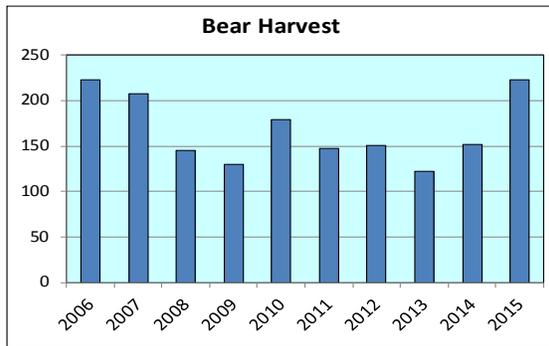


Figure 4. DAU1A Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1B (GMUs 2, 3, 5)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1B was 100 during 2014, a 4% decrease over the 2011-2013 average of 104 bears and 132 in 2015, a 25% increase over the 2012-2014 of 105 bears (Figure 5). Males 5+ years of age made up 17% of the harvest over the past 3 years (2013-2015), achieving the management objective for heavy harvest of <25%; the percent of females in the harvest (40%) 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 2014 and 2015, harvest using bait was the most predominant method (48% and 53% respectively). Hounds and still/stalk harvest was nearly equal in 2014 (18% and 20% respectively) while hound hunting (26%) was twice as much as still/stalk (12%) in 2015. Incidental harvest was much lower in 2014 and 2015 (10% and 8% respectively, Figure 5). In 2014, only 29% of the harvest occurred in the spring while 45% of the harvest occurred in the spring in 2015.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2012-2014 and 2013-2015 harvest were both 40%. In 2015, 18% 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 (40%) was near 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: 1,963	<u>3-Year Averages</u>		<u>Objective</u>
	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :		5.4
	Percent Females		40% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		17% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	124	153	126	131	120	96	129	86	100	132
	Males										
	0-4 years	54	67	61	63	52	43	53	45	48	63
	5+ years	11	21	10	12	17	12	17	5	12	14
	Unknown	1	3	1	6	4	3	6	0	4	1
	Subtotal	66	91	72	81	73	58	76	50	64	78
Females	0-4 years	27	34	22	30	26	19	30	18	21	22
	5+ years	26	26	30	17	18	18	21	17	15	29
	Unknown	5	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	0	3
	Subtotal	58	62	54	50	47	38	53	36	36	54
Season²	Spring	35	36	12	30	30	13	31	32	29	60
	Fall	89	117	114	103	90	84	98	54	72	73
Method³	Bait	44	52	40	52	56	49	54	44	48	70
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	20	21	24	30	17	16	23	17	18	34
	Incidental	20	28	21	9	11	16	18	6	10	11
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	35	48	35	36	30	10	22	17	20	16

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

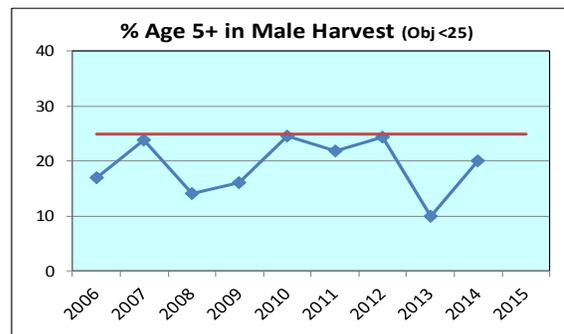
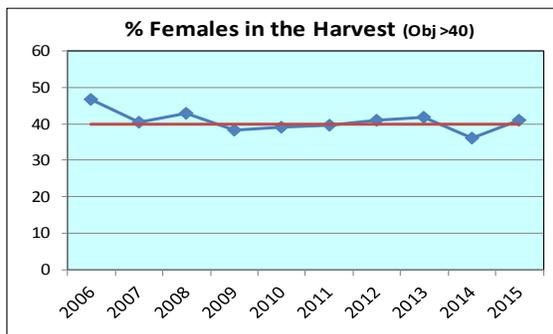
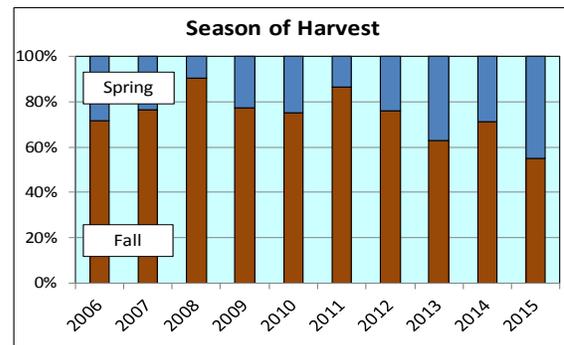
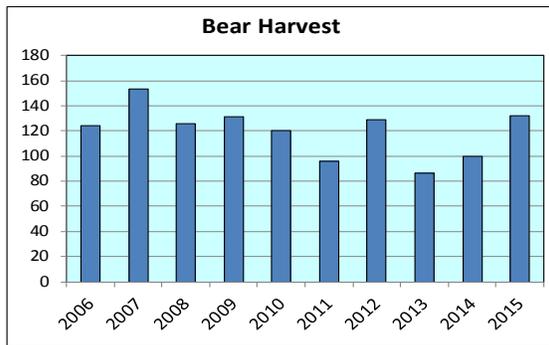


Figure 5. DAU1B Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 151 during 2014, a 3% increase from the previous 3-year average, and 233 during 2015, a 58% increase from the previous 3-year average (Figure 6). 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-six percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2014, consistent with previous years. Sixty-one percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2015, a 56% increase from the previous 10-year average. Baiting (30% in 2014 and 39% in 2015) and still/stalk (29% in 2014 and 25% in 2015) were the primary method used to kill bears in DAU 1C followed by hounds (27% in 2014 and 22% in 2015). Incidental kills (11% in both years) made up most of the remaining harvest (Figure 6).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2012-2014 harvest was 38% and 37% in the 2013-2015 harvest, very close to the 40%+ objective. The percentage of males 5+ years old was 35% from 2013-2015 average harvest, above the desired age criterion of <25%. This criterion has not been achieved in the previous 10 years (Figure 6).

Dog-training Seasons

The 2014 dog-training season in DAU 1C was 21 June-31 July and 1 July-31 July in 2015 (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. Fall 2012, a second bear tag was added in the GMU 4 portion of this DAU in an attempt to achieve the heavy harvest criteria (A second tag was added to GMU 4A in the Fall 2014 season). 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. Spring 2015, harvest was extended to June 20th.

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
1,523	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :		11.2 NA
	Percent Females		37% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		35% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	151	168	107	136	159	148	163	126	151	233
	Males										
	0-4 years	62	52	40	57	61	59	63	41	66	90
	5+ years	32	47	19	33	31	17	25	33	22	52
	Unknown	10	5	4	5	11	4	13	6	4	9
	Subtotal	104	104	63	95	103	80	101	80	92	151
Females	0-4 years	20	27	22	16	19	19	29	17	22	43
	5+ years	16	34	21	21	30	43	28	23	34	31
	Unknown	11	3	1	4	7	6	5	6	3	8
	Subtotal	47	64	44	41	56	68	62	46	59	82
Season²	Spring	57	77	28	47	70	44	64	61	70	141
	Fall	94	92	79	90	89	104	100	65	83	92
Method³	Bait	45	47	25	29	55	43	49	44	45	91
	BaitHounds	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	0
	Hounds	28	26	16	31	43	26	38	38	41	51
	Incidental	29	34	29	13	16	28	17	10	17	26
	PredCall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	47	58	36	51	42	36	55	29	44	58

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

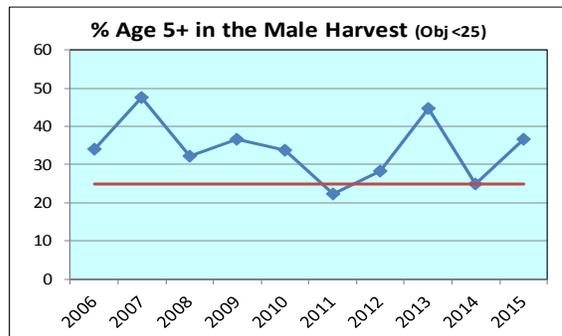
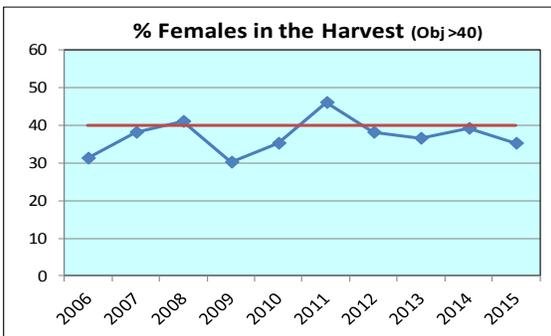
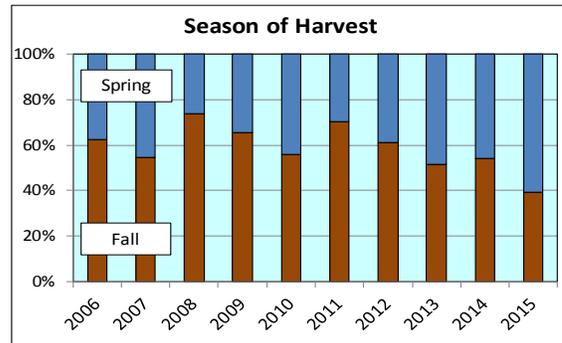
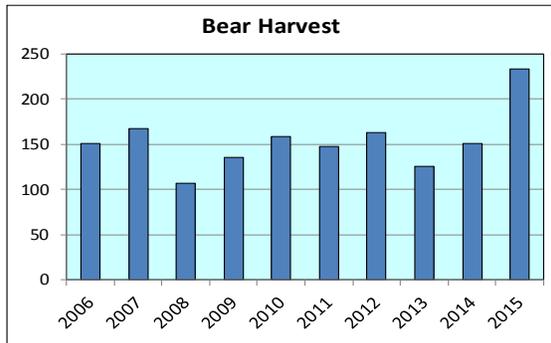


Figure 6. DAU1C Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1L (GMU 6)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 1L was 150 in 2014, 39% above the 2011-2013 average and 122 in 2015, 13% below the 2012-2014 average. Sixty-eight percent of the harvest occurred during spring in 2014 and 65% of the harvest in 2015 (Figure 7). Females made up 42% of the 3-year harvest average from 2012-2014 and 2013-2015, which is within the objectives established for this DAU. The 3-year average for the percentage of males ≥ 5 years from 2013-2015 was 25%, less than the management objectives for this DAU.

Management Direction

Historically DAU 1L was 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. However in 2014, with the adoption of a Predation Management Plan in GMUs 6, 7, and 9, the harvest objectives increased from moderate to heavy harvest. In fall 2012, a second bear tag was added to GMU 6 to help achieve the heavy harvest criteria. Harvest criteria currently fall within the desired category for females and nearly for males. 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.

Past season changes include the addition of bait and a 30 August opener instead of a 15 September opener (both during 2000), and a two week addition to spring hunting during 2004 (closing 31 May rather than 15 May). For 2012-2013, the spring season 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 majority of the harvest has occurred in the spring during recent years, much higher than previous years. This shift is likely due to mild winters and increased access during the spring season and the extension of the bear season to the end of June. Baiting is the primary method to harvest a bear in GMU 6; 37% and 39% of successful hunters used this method in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Spotting/stalking had traditionally been the primary method used to hunt bears but is now third at 21% (2014) and 20% (2015). The use of hounds accounted for 31% (2014) and 27% (2015) of the harvest, the second most used method (Figure 7).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Forty-two percent of the 2012-2014 and 2013-2015 harvest was female bears, reflective of a heavy harvest regime. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest was 25%, which is lower than the objective of $>35\%$ old males in the harvest (Figure 7).

Dog-training Seasons

The 2014 and 2015 dog-training season in this DAU was 1 July-31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

The increase of harvest 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 heavy harvest level now prescribed for this DAU after implementing a Predation Management Plan (2014); the older male harvest still lies within the moderate management criterion. Low elk calf:cow ratios are present in this DAU, however 2015 and 2016 aerial composition surveys showed an increase in calf:cow numbers.



DAU 1L (GMU 6)

Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,053	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	12.9 NA
	Percent Females	42% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	25% >35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	88	97	62	71	81	74	115	136	150	122
	Males										
	0-4 years	38	43	29	31	34	40	51	53	53	59
	5+ years	15	16	9	17	14	7	18	23	18	14
	Unknown	6	3	3	1	0	0	3	3	8	6
	Subtotal	59	62	41	49	48	47	72	79	79	79
Females	0-4 years	10	18	11	9	23	15	17	16	33	20
	5+ years	16	15	8	13	9	10	25	40	33	23
	Unknown	3	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	5	0
	Subtotal	29	35	21	22	33	27	43	57	71	43
Season²	Spring	36	38	18	30	44	38	44	95	102	76
	Fall	52	59	44	42	37	36	71	41	49	42
Method³	Bait	11	18	10	16	23	21	41	45	56	46
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	19	19	9	14	11	14	22	40	46	32
	Incidental	16	24	16	9	8	8	11	11	12	16
	PredCall	40	36	27	29	36	29	34	31	32	23
	Still/Stalk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

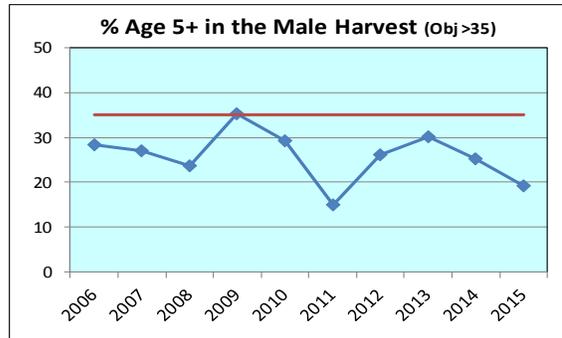
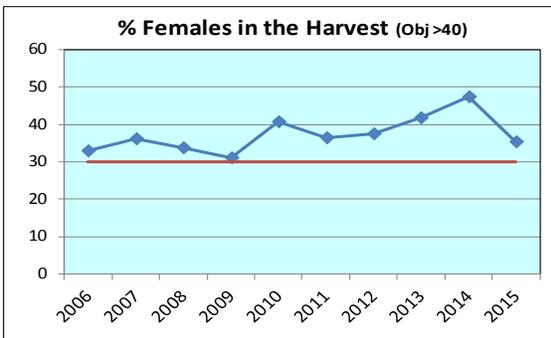
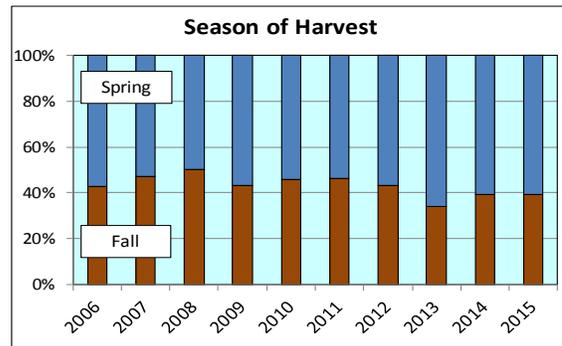
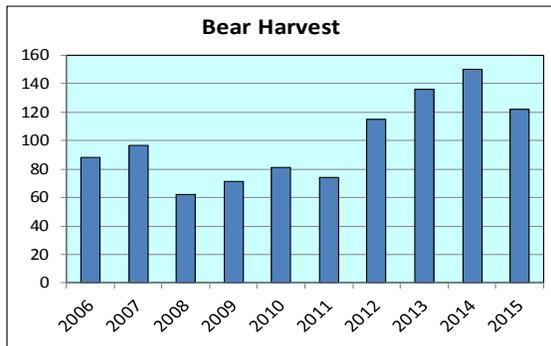


Figure 7. DAU1L Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 2

DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 2B was 76 bears during 2014, 46% above the 2011-2013 average and 75 bears during 2015, 17% above the 2012-2014 average. Spring harvest is predominant in this DAU (88% of the 2014 and 84% of the 2015 harvest). This DAU is targeted for moderate harvest; however, historic harvest has been in the light category for both females and males. After implementation of the Predation Management Plan in GMUs 6, 7 and 9 in 2014 and corresponding changes to bear seasons, additional bear harvest may help achieve moderate harvest objectives. The average percentage of females in the harvest from 2012-2014 was 32% and 34% from 2013-2015, which falls within the moderate category. Male age structure (36% 5+ years old) still puts this DAU well into the light harvest level (Figure 8).

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. Spring 2013, the harvest season was extended to July 31st and an additional bear tag was added in the fall of 2012. For four 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 2014 harvest of 76 bears was 46% above the previous 3 year average and the 2015 harvest of 75 bears was 17% above the previous 3 year average. Eighty-eight percent of the 2014 bear harvest and 84% of the 2015 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Figure 8).

Sixty-six percent of the 2014 harvest and 68% of the 2015 harvest were taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Still/stalking accounted for 13% (2014) and 11% (2015) of the harvest and incidental harvest accounted for 7% (2014 and 2015) of the harvest.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2012-2014 harvest was 32% and 34% from 2013-2015, 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 36% of the 3-year male 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 8).

Dog-training Seasons

There is no dog training season in this DAU because spring season extends to July 31 (Appendix A).

Management Implications

The proportion of females was in the moderate harvest category for the last four 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: 765	<u>3-Year Averages</u>		<u>Objective</u>
	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :		9.0
	Percent Females		36% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		36% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	54	60	48	47	69	40	61	55	76	75
	Males										
	0-4 years	22	27	18	22	28	14	22	22	26	33
	5+ years	18	18	14	13	19	8	19	17	18	10
	Unknown	0	1	0	4	5	1	1	2	3	0
	Subtotal	40	46	32	39	52	23	42	41	47	43
Females	0-4 years	6	7	8	3	4	7	10	7	10	14
	5+ years	8	6	8	5	10	10	8	7	14	13
	Unknown	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	5	5
	Subtotal	14	14	16	8	17	17	19	14	29	32
Season²	Spring	42	51	38	30	54	25	46	49	55	67
	Fall	12	9	10	17	16	15	15	6	21	9
Method³	Bait	35	43	35	27	55	23	43	40	50	51
	BaitHounds	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	5	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
	Incidental	5	5	7	10	5	6	8	2	10	8
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	7	9	4	9	8	11	8	5	5	5

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

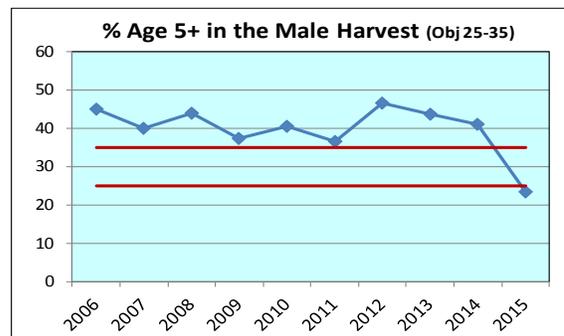
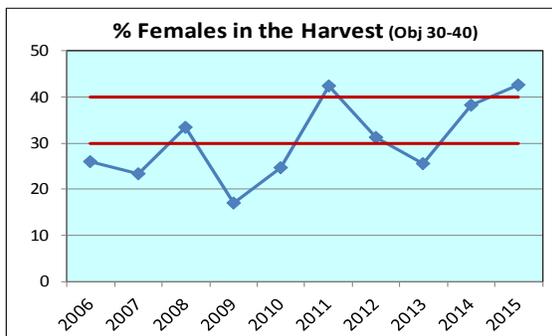
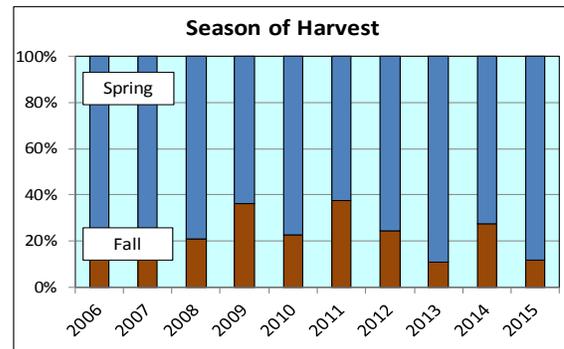
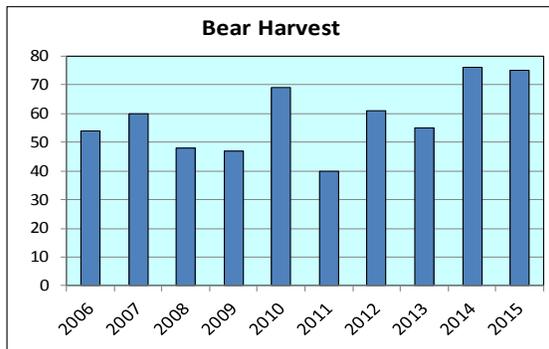


Figure 8. DAU2B Black Bear Status and Objectives

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Reported 2014 and 2015 harvests for the Clearwater Region were 776 and 800 black bears, respectively. This compares to 667 bears harvested in 2013 and is above the previous 3-year average of 740 (2013-2015). Total harvest by DAU in 2014 was 128 in DAU 1D, 102 in DAU 1E, 187 in DAU 1F, 252 in DAU 2A, and 107 in DAU 3A (Figures 9-13). Total harvest by DAU in 2015 was 145 in DAU 1D, 104 in DAU 1E, 183 in DAU 1F, 257 in DAU 2A, and 111 in DAU 3A (Figures 9-13).

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 and DAU 1E in 2014. We are still awaiting age analysis results from the 2015 season. DAU 3A met moderate harvest objectives for the female criteria, but male harvest results fell into the light category for the 2014 season. Harvest objectives were not achieved for the DAU 1F and 2A. The harvest of male black bears is considered heavy when percent harvest of males ≥ 5 years of age is < 25 percent of the total male 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. Harvest in 2A and 3A occurs primarily during the spring season (89% in DAU 2A and 77% in DAU 3A based on a 3-year average) and hunting over bait being the predominant method of take (91% and 60%, respectively) based on 2015 data. For the rest of the region (DAU’s 1D, 1E, and 1F), spring harvest accounted for 45%, 56%, and 54% of the total harvest, respectively, based on the most recent 3-year averages. During 2015, the most common method of take in DAU 1D was hounds (56%) followed by still/stalk (31%), while the most common method of take for DAU 1E was bait (45%), followed by still/stalk (15%). For DAU 1F the most common method of take was bait (50%), followed by hounds (23%) in 2015 (Figures 9-13).

AREA 1

DAU 1D (GMUs 8A, 10A)

Abstract

DAU 1D was historically one of the most over-harvested DAUs in the region based on Black Bear Management Plan criteria. Harvest criteria were exceeded in all 4 criteria in 1992. In 1993, seasons were modified to reduce harvest of black bears in this DAU. Regulation changes reduced 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

2014, 34% of bears were harvested in the spring and 66% were harvested in the fall while in 2015 bear harvest was evenly split between fall and spring. The most common method of take in 2014 was by hound hunters (48%), followed by incidental take (29%), and still/stalk hunters (20%); harvest in 2015 was comparable by hound hunters (56%), incidental harvest (11%), and still/stalk hunters (31%) (Figure 9). 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 and percent males ≥ 5 years of age in 2014.

Management Direction

DAU 1D has historically exhibited signs of high black bear harvest. Heavy harvest objectives for both the male and female categories were met in 2014. Although the female harvest objective has consistently been met over the last 7 years, the percentage of males in the >5 years of age category has only met objectives in 3 of the past 9 years. This DAU likely receives many dispersers from DAU 2A; therefore, high harvest objectives remain in place. 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 factors such as fall harvest and food availability. 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. 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 2014 and 2015, the general spring and fall seasons were 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 2014 and 2015, 128 and 144 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, compared to 85 black bears harvested in 2013 and the 3-year average of 110 black bears. Females accounted for 42% of the harvest in 2014 and 43% of the harvest in 2015 (Figure 9). Most black bears (66%) were harvested during the fall season in 2014. This is consistent with recent harvest trends. Harvest was evenly split between the fall and spring seasons in 2015. Age characteristics of bears harvested in 2015 indicate that harvest objectives were met (Figure 9).

The primary method of harvest in 2014 was hound hunting, which accounted for 48% of the total harvest, followed by incidental harvest (29%) and still-hunting (20%). This represents a shift from 1990-1992, when baiting was the most common method used. Hound hunting was also the most common method of take in 2015 (56%), followed by still-hunting (31%), and incidental take (11%).

Depredations

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1D in 2014 or 2015.

Dog-training Seasons

An 8-week dog-training season (from 1 June-31 July) was offered in DAU 1D during 2014 and 2015 (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 (43%) met the objective of >40% for the 2013 and 2014 seasons; percent males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest (30%) exceeded the objective in 2015 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 Mi ² :	5.2 NA
	Percent Females	44% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	27% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	141	149	151	121	126	99	116	86	128	144
	Males										
	0-4 years	46	71	74	56	45	40	43	28	61	57
	5+ years	22	25	17	12	20	15	24	16	12	25
	Unknown	5	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	0
	Subtotal	73	98	92	70	68	56	69	45	74	82
Females	0-4 years	43	30	31	31	31	21	27	24	30	42
	5+ years	21	16	24	17	24	22	17	17	21	20
	Unknown	4	5	4	3	3	0	3	0	3	0
	Subtotal	68	51	59	51	58	43	47	41	54	62
Season²	Spring	58	74	41	44	48	33	50	44	44	72
	Fall	83	77	110	77	78	66	66	42	84	73
Method³	Bait	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	83	80	70	49	51	41	59	37	62	82
	Incidental	32	36	53	39	48	34	29	24	37	16
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	22	32	24	32	24	23	23	21	26	46

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

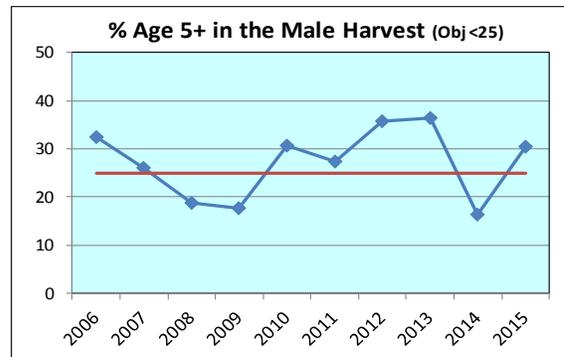
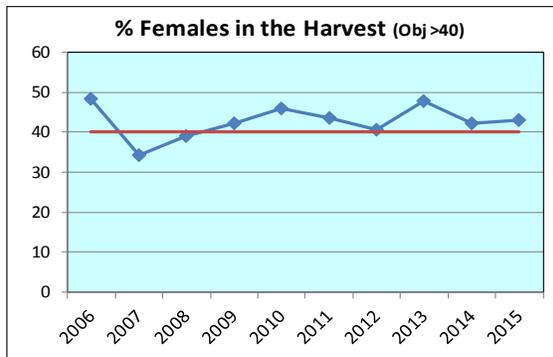
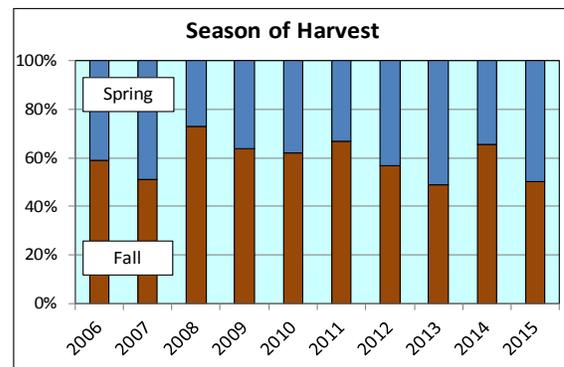
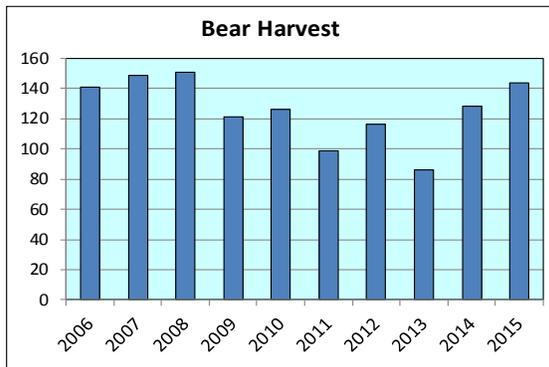


Figure 8. DAU1D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1E harvested a total of 102 and 104 black bears during 2014 and 2015, compared to 75 black bears harvested during 2013, and the previous 3-year average of 89 (2013-2015). Females accounted for 42% of harvested bears in 2014 and 37% in 2015. Most black bears were harvested in the spring (3-year average = 56%) with still/stalk hunting and baiting being the most common methods employed (Figure 10).

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, high 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 throughout 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, which has coincided 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 2014 and 2015 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2014 and 2015 was 47 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were discontinued in this DAU in 2008.

Harvest Characteristics

There were 102 and 104 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2014 and 2015. This compares to a previous 3-year average of 89 bears harvested. Sixty percent and 40% were taken in the spring and fall of 2015, 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 were met in 2014 (% female bears = 42%, % males \geq 5 years old = 20%) and 2015 (% female bears = 42%, % males \geq 5 years old = 23%). The most frequent methods of harvest were bait and still/stalk hunting in both 2014 and 2015 (Figure 10).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1E in 2014 and 2015.

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 isolated pockets of black bear habitat. 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 while adult black bears may be using better quality habitats away from roads. Due to the lack of road access, it is likely that harvest will continue to contain large numbers of young dispersing black bears. The previous 3-year average (2012-2014) was 37% female and might indicate that the productive elements of the population (females) were usually selecting more isolated areas, thus reducing the likelihood of harvest. Historically, a large proportion of black bears harvested in this DAU 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 Mi ² :		3.5
	Percent Females		38% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		18% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	63	62	73	77	83	80	88	76	102	104
	Males										
	0-4 years	26	24	27	34	35	35	39	46	46	48
	5+ years	10	7	13	9	15	17	17	4	12	15
	Unknown	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
	Subtotal	36	31	42	44	51	53	56	51	59	65
Females	0-4 years	21	20	15	22	20	16	24	14	27	27
	5+ years	6	9	13	10	9	11	8	11	15	9
	Unknown	0	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	1	3
	Subtotal	27	31	31	33	32	27	32	25	43	39
Season²	Spring	29	29	33	34	38	39	52	39	58	63
	Fall	34	33	40	43	45	41	36	37	44	42
Method³	Bait	15	19	18	20	26	26	30	24	30	47
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	7	8	10	11	16	15	11	14	12	21
	Incidental	14	11	17	22	19	10	15	13	18	15
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	26	21	27	24	21	27	29	24	40	22

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

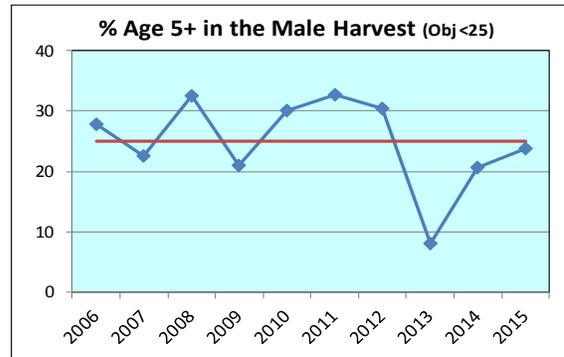
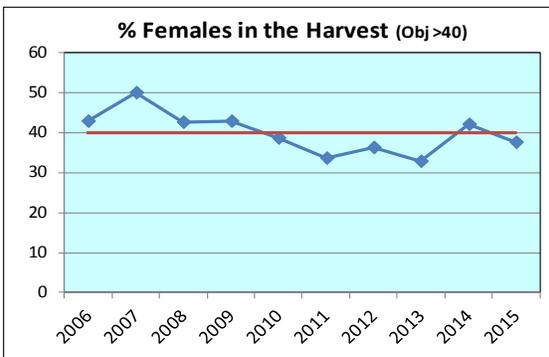
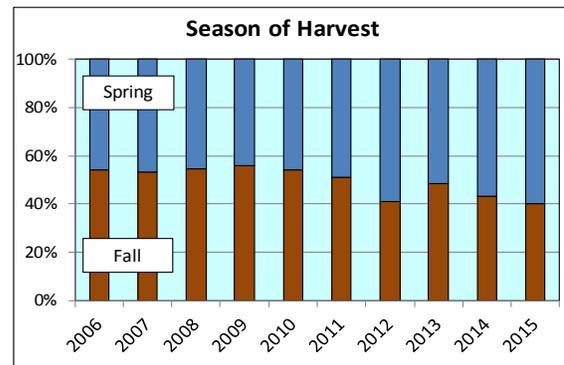
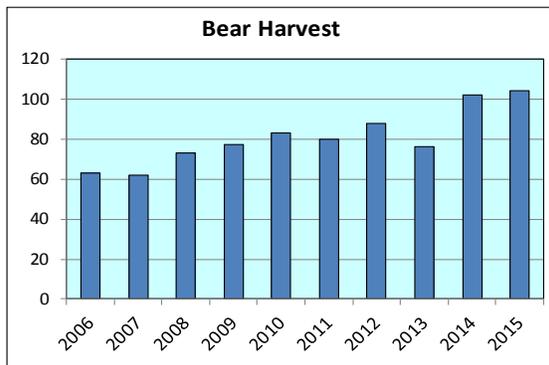


Figure 10. DAU1E Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 187 and 180 black bears during 2014 and 2015, compared to 155 in 2013, and a previous 3-year average of 163. More black bears were harvested during the spring in 2014 (58%) and 2015 (52%) than in the fall. The most frequent harvest methods in 2014 and 2015 were bait (47%; 50%), hounds (23%; 23%), and still/stalk hunting (17%; 18%). The 2014-2015 harvest results indicated that percent females (39%; 36%) did not meet the target criteria of >40%. Percent males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest, 30% and 28%, did not meet the harvest objective of <25% in 2014 and 2015 respectively and indicates harvest pressure was moderate (Figure 11). 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 in previously roadless areas. The previous Black Bear Management Plan (1992-2000) adopted a decreased 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. Based on 2014-2015 harvest results, current harvest is at the “moderate” level. A portion of GMU 15 that was closed to bear harvest in 1999 to meet the objectives of an ungulate/predation research project was reopened.

Background

The season framework outlined in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan for 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 2014 was 47 days in GMUs 14, 15, and 18 and 77 days in GMU 16. Fall 2014 and 2015 general seasons in DAU 1F were 63 days long. In 2015, the spring season in GMU 15 was lengthened to 77 days.

DAU 1F is comprised of about 80% USFS land and 20% private and state lands. Much of the area has high road densities, has been logged, and is easily accessible. There are a few areas in these 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 187 and 180 black bears harvested in DAU 1F during 2014 and 2015 with the majority being taken during the spring season (Figure 11). Management objectives allow for heavy harvest of females with a management objective of >40%. Harvest management criteria were not met for the 2014-2015 harvest period (Figure 11). The most frequent harvest methods

in 2014 and 2015 were bait (47%; 50%), hounds (23%; 23%), still/stalk hunting (17%; 18%), and incidental (12%; 9%).

Depredations

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1F in 2014 or 2015.

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 1 June-31 July in 2014 in DAU 1F, except for GMU 16 where the season ran from 1-31 July (Appendix A). In 2015, the training season in GMU 15 was changed to 1-31 July.

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 2014-2015 harvest results indicated that percent females (39%; 36%) did not meet the objective of >40% and in 2014-2015 percent males ≥ 5 years old (32%; 28%) 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 Mi ² :		8.2 NA
	Percent Females		36% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		28% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	136	150	142	159	179	140	148	155	187	180
	Males										
	0-4 years	49	65	72	71	78	61	66	72	77	90
	5+ years	26	29	29	31	46	23	27	30	36	25
	Unknown	12	2	1	0	1	2	4	1	1	1
	Subtotal	87	96	102	102	125	86	97	103	114	116
Females	0-4 years	21	27	17	34	28	30	24	27	36	33
	5+ years	20	24	21	23	24	22	22	24	32	31
	Unknown	8	3	2	0	2	2	5	1	5	0
	Subtotal	49	54	40	57	54	54	51	52	73	64
Season²	Spring	62	54	48	52	92	69	79	80	108	95
	Fall	74	96	94	107	88	71	69	75	79	88
Method³	Bait	56	53	51	60	80	57	70	68	87	91
	BaitHounds	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Hounds	30	30	18	26	31	28	38	47	43	42
	Incidental	21	34	22	34	24	19	11	11	22	17
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	29	29	51	37	45	35	27	28	32	33

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

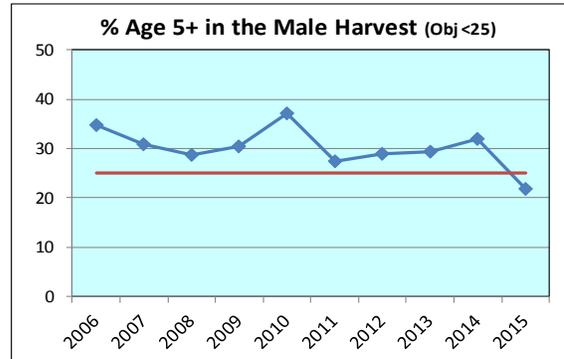
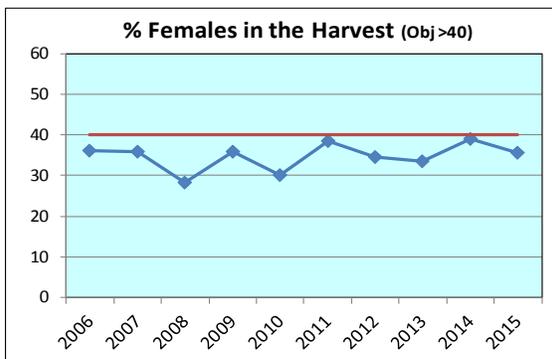
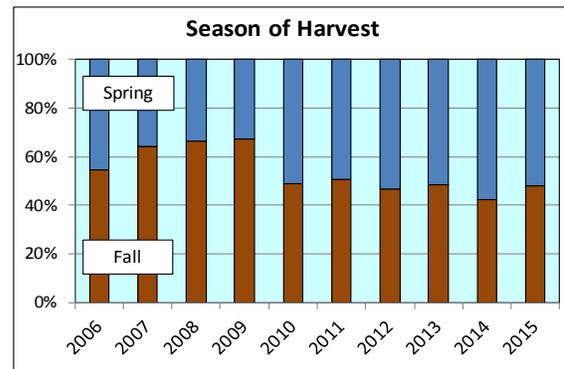
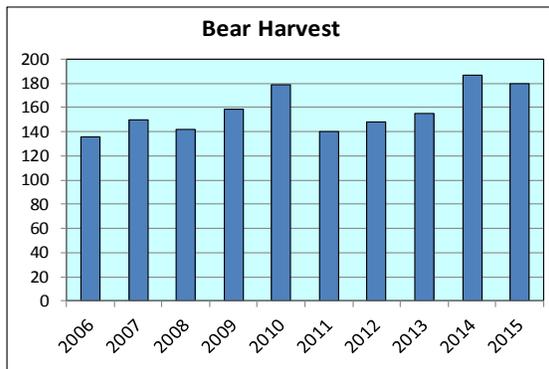


Figure 11. DAU1F Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 2

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

Abstract

In 2014 and 2015, 252 and 271 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 249 in 2013, and a 3-year average of 253. The 2014 harvest consisted of 33% females, and 27% males ≥ 5 years of age (male harvest) and did not meet the criteria of “heavy” for either sex. Eighty-two percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season in 2015 (Figure 12). Baiting was the primary method of the harvest in both 2014 (80%) and 2015 (90%).

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. The fall take season was increased from 65 to 93 days for the 2014 and 2015 season. Spring seasons were 91 days long with a 31-day dog-training season that ran 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 study area boundaries.

Background

DAU 2A is thought to contain 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 likely kept black bear populations below carrying capacity.

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

In 2014 and 2015, 252 and 271 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 249 in 2013, and a previous 3-year average of 261. Eighty-two percent of these black bears were harvested during the 2015 spring season. Harvest contained 33% females, and 30% male's ≥ 5 years of age in 2014 and 28% females with 18% male's ≥ 5 years of age in 2015. Harvest criteria set under the current management plan allow for increased harvest because harvest values were below management criteria, falling within the “moderate” range for the 2014 and 2015 harvest period (Figure 12). Hunting over bait accounted for 88% of the harvest in DAU 2A between 2014 and 2015, followed by still/stalk (10%).

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 2014 or 2015.

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 higher in 2015 with 3-year average = 27% of harvested males in the ≥ 5 years old category. This did not meet the desired objective of <25%. Percent female harvest (3-year average = 31%) also did not meet the target criteria of >40% (Figure 12).

DAU 2A has the potential to support a relatively large black bear population because of the high quality habitat in the area. 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 appeared to be healthy, IDFG increased black bear hunting opportunities in the DAU. Increasing black bear harvest rates was also a desirable method to address elk calf recruitment concerns related to predation. 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 continued at a high level. Most of the harvest in this DAU typically occurs in the spring (82% in 2015).

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,373	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	10.6	NA
	Percent Females	31%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	27%	<25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	301	278	234	270	304	292	296	235	252	271
	Males										
	0-4 years	110	124	119	123	159	121	151	95	116	159
	5+ years	40	70	34	47	50	72	52	59	43	35
	Unknown	32	6	7	6	5	2	5	6	11	1
	Subtotal	182	200	160	176	214	195	208	160	170	195
Females	0-4 years	55	40	32	52	31	53	37	37	0	41
	5+ years	54	35	42	41	51	41	48	32	0	35
	Unknown	10	3	0	1	8	3	3	6	82	0
	Subtotal	119	78	74	94	90	97	88	75	82	76
Season²	Spring	222	262	194	206	244	222	260	221	215	228
	Fall	38	57	44	44	64	64	45	28	33	51
Method³	Bait	259	168	181	232	208	261	197	213	235	130
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hounds	11	12	6	2	11	5	4	6	4	5
	Incidental	21	14	17	17	16	4	8	6	6	0
	PredCall	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	Still/Stalk	26	40	37	48	47	32	34	21	27	8

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

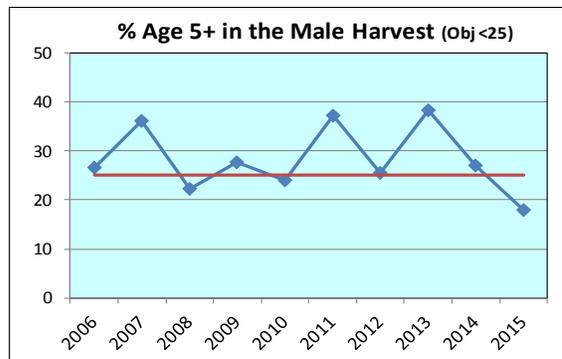
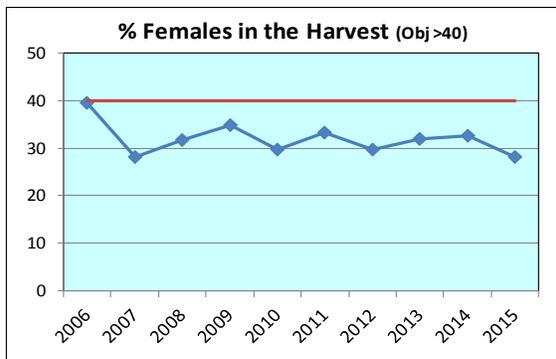
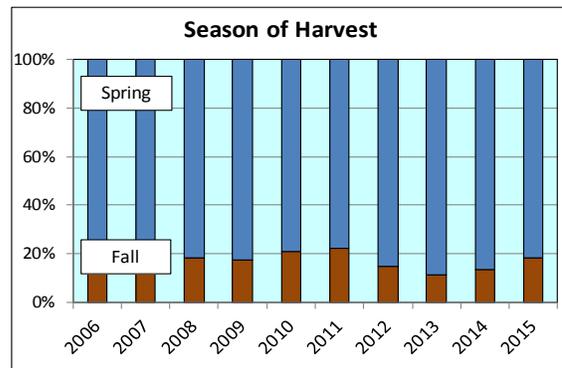
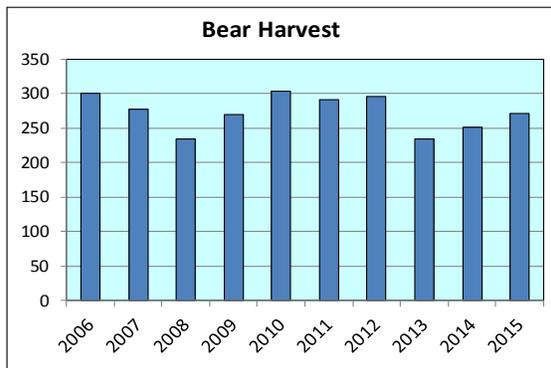


Figure 12. DAU2A Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 3

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

Abstract

During 2014 and 2015, a total of 107 and 111 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A, compared to the 2013 harvest of 103, and the previous 3-year average (2012-2014) of 106. Harvest consisted of 33% females and 44% males ≥ 5 years of age in 2014. We are still awaiting age analysis results from the 2015 harvest season. The majority of harvest occurred during the spring season in 2014 (75%) and 2015 (71%) (Figure 13). This DAU consistently met the previous (1992-2000) management criteria objectives; the level of harvest relative to current (2000-2010) criteria suggest a lightly to moderately harvested population. Sixty percent of the black bears taken in 2015 were harvested over bait.

Management Direction

This DAU may serve 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 in 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 2014 to the current season of 184 days with a 2 bear bag limit (Appendix A). The fall take season was 93 days long while the spring take season was 91 days long in 2014 and 2015. 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 2014 and 2015, 107 and 111 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A compared to 103 in 2013 and the previous 3-year average of 104. 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 a corresponding increase in harvest. Of the 107 bears harvested in 2014, 33% were females and 43% were males ≥ 5 years of age. Spring harvest accounted for 75% of the total harvest in 2014 and 71% in 2015. Harvest criteria in the current (2000-2010) plan indicate moderate to light harvest levels when compared to the desired harvest criteria. Forty-two percent of the males harvested during the 2013-2015 reporting period were ≥ 5 years old compared to the desired objective of 25-35 (Figure 13). Most of the black bears harvested in 2014 and 2015 were taken over bait (2-year average = 60%) followed by still/stalk (2-year average = 27%).

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 DAU tends to be the most lightly harvested DAU in the region.

Depredations

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 3A during 2014 or 2015.

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 at or below moderate harvest levels, especially the percent males ≥ 5 years old. Because of the amount of available habitat within this DAU and light hunting pressure, the season structure outlined in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan allowed for increased harvest (e.g. 2-bear bag limit and extended seasons). This liberalized season framework was also meant 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 ² :	4.1	NA
	Percent Females	30%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	42%	25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	154	136	127	142	130	121	118	93	107	111
	Males										
	0-4 years	44	45	42	53	50	40	51	36	39	49
	5+ years	50	48	39	44	43	43	38	33	30	28
	Unknown	3	0	3	4	1	3	0	1	3	0
Subtotal	97	93	84	101	94	86	89	70	72	77	
Females											
0-4 years	24	22	14	14	15	8	14	9	14	15	
5+ years	27	18	23	27	19	24	15	13	18	17	
Unknown	6	3	6	0	2	3	0	1	3	2	
Subtotal	57	43	43	41	36	35	29	23	35	34	
Season²	Spring	131	92	98	100	84	85	91	81	80	79
	Fall	23	44	30	43	46	36	27	12	27	33
Method³	Bait	104	89	90	86	74	71	91	55	63	67
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	5	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	5	4
	Incidental	11	10	7	11	17	3	4	2	9	8
	PredCall	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Still/Stalk	31	31	27	40	34	42	22	31	28	31

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

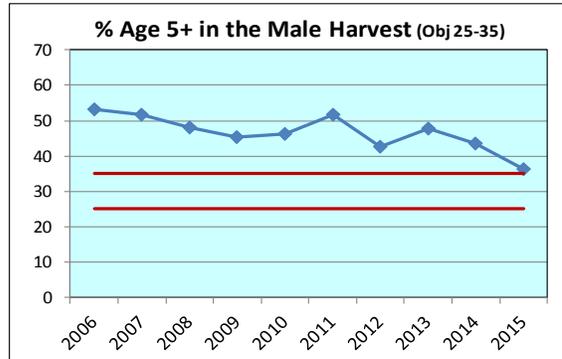
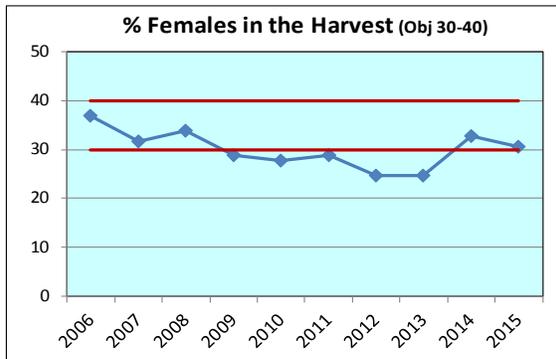
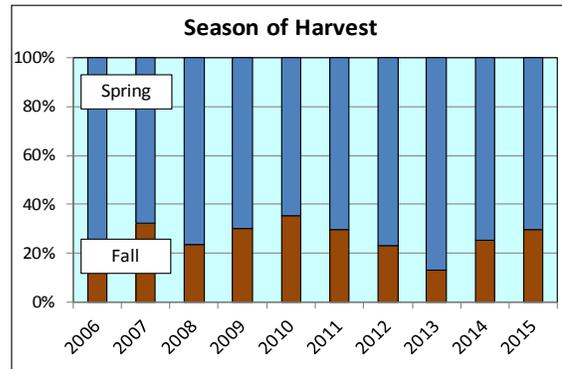
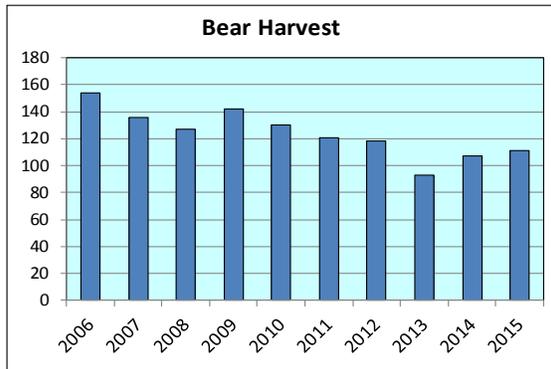


Figure 13. DAU3A Black Bear Status and Objectives

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

The Southwest Region is responsible for DAUs 1G and 1H (wholly encompassed by the Region), 1K (overlaps the Magic Valley Region), and 3B (overlaps the Salmon Region). The Salmon Region is responsible for DAU 1I (overlaps the Southwest Region).

Reported harvest of black bears (of known sex) in DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K during the 2014 season was 151, 158, and 249 black bears respectively. During the 2015 season, reported harvest of black bears (of known sex) in DAUs 1G, 1H, and 1K was 178, 121, and 301 black bears respectively. Data indicate percent females in the harvest is within objectives for DAU 1G and 1K, and exceeds objectives in DAU 1H. Percent males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest is within or near objectives in all 3 DAUs. Baiting methods comprised most of the harvest in DAU 1G and 1K in 2014 and 2015 (Figures 14 & 16). Still hunting (stalking) methods contributed to the majority of black bear harvest in DAU 1H (Figure 15). Data for DAU 1G indicate harvest has been generally stable over the past 10 years, with a slight increase in harvest in the past 5 years (Figure 14). Data for DAU 1H indicate increasing harvest over the past 10 years (Figure 15). Data for DAU 1K indicate harvest has been stable (Figure 16).

Reported harvest of black bears (of known sex) in DAU 3B during the 2014 and 2015 season was 54 and 63, respectively. Data indicate percent females in the harvest is within objectives for DAU 3B. Percent males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest exceeds the moderate harvest objective for this DAU. Harvest methods in DAU 3B were well distributed between still hunting (stalking) and baiting, with some incidental take. Data for DAU 3B indicate harvest has been generally stable over the past 10 years, with a slight increase in harvest in the past 5 years (Figure 17).

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 1G was 151 in 2014, consistent with the previous 3-year average. Harvest of black bears in 1G was 178 in 2015, 12% above the 3-year average. During 2014 and 2015, over half the black bear harvest occurred in the spring seasons. Females made up 30% of the 3-year harvest average (2013-2015) and are within the objectives established for this DAU. The 3-year harvest average (2013-2015) for percent males ≥ 5 years was 36%, slightly above the moderate harvest objectives for this DAU (Figure 14).

Management Direction

DAU 1G is managed for moderate harvest targets of 25-25% ≥ 5 year old bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest.

Background

Approximately 70% of DAU 1G is in public ownership, with most land managed by the USFS. Open, scattered shrub communities at lower elevations and mixed-conifer forests at mid to upper elevations characterize the habitat. The wide valley bottoms of the upper Little Salmon River and the North Fork Payette River are dominated by agri-business and housing developments.

High road densities exist in the western half of the DAU, while few roads are found in the rest of the DAU. Bear habitat is considered good in this DAU.

Recent season changes (2013 season) included extending the spring season in GMUs 23, 24, 25 by one week (7 June).

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

The 2014 harvest of 151 black bears is consistent with the previous 3-year average. The 2015 harvest of 178 black bears is 12% above the previous 3-year average. The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than the fall for both 2014 and 2015 (56% and 58% respectively), a change from the prior 8 years. Hunting over bait was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1G in 2014 and 2015; 61% and 52% respectively of successful hunters used this method. The remainder of the harvest was split relatively equally between still hunting (stalking), hunting with hounds, and incidental harvest (Figure 14).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty percent of the 2013-2015 harvest was female bears, within the moderate harvest target of 30-40% females for this DAU. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the 2013-2015 harvest was 36%, slightly above the moderate objective of 25-35%. Age data indicate 0-4 year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

Depredations

Black bear nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1G. Most nuisance complaints are mostly related to poor garbage disposal practice, and have been numerous during years with poor berry crops. Some livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations have also occurred in this DAU. . Two bears were killed in this DAU in 2014 due to conflicts with humans (GMU 24). Three bears were killed in this DAU in 2015 due to conflicts with humans (GMUs 19A, 24, and 25). Two confirmed or probable bear-caused livestock depredation incidents were reported in DAU 1G in 2015 (two sheep, GMU 24). No bears were controlled in response to livestock depredations in this DAU in 2014 or 2015.

Dog-training Seasons

The dog training seasons in this DAU for 2014 and 2015 were 16 June-31 July in GMU 19A, and 8 June -31 July in GMUs 23, 24 and 25.

Management Implications

In 2013, with harvest parameters appearing stable, the spring season was increased by one week (to 7 June) in GMUs 23, 24 and 25 to allow more hunting opportunity. This change does not appear to have impacted the 2014-2015 harvest parameters for this DAU, which continue to appear stable and within or near objectives.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,984	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	5.5 NA
	Percent Females	30% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	36% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	131	170	123	116	134	144	160	165	151	178
	Males										
	0-4 years	61	55	59	49	55	67	66	78	58	82
	5+ years	33	41	17	31	26	32	42	33	50	39
	Unknown	4	8	2	0	6	1	1	2	1	3
	Subtotal	98	104	78	80	87	100	109	113	109	124
Females	0-4 years	17	32	21	23	25	21	29	22	18	26
	5+ years	14	32	20	11	20	23	21	28	23	28
	Unknown	2	2	4	2	2	0	1	2	1	0
	Subtotal	33	66	45	36	47	44	51	52	42	54
Season²	Spring	48	58	26	49	43	45	71	77	85	103
	Fall	84	113	98	68	91	99	89	88	68	75
Method³	Bait	41	70	37	60	48	61	69	81	92	92
	BaitHounds	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Hounds	15	18	18	14	16	28	28	25	18	35
	Incidental	41	37	36	17	32	37	31	28	19	25
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Still/Stalk	32	39	32	24	35	16	28	27	22	24

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

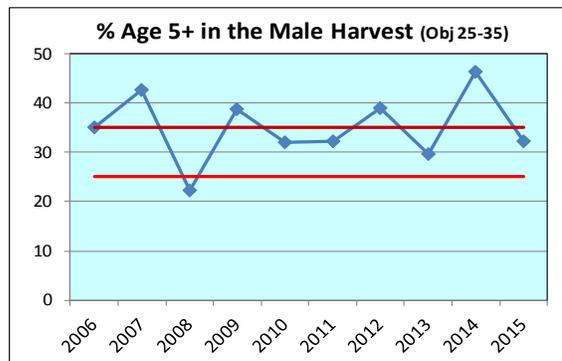
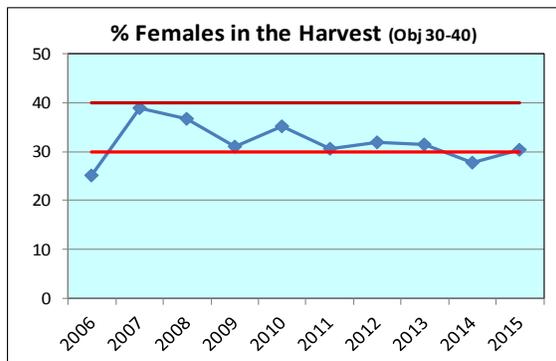
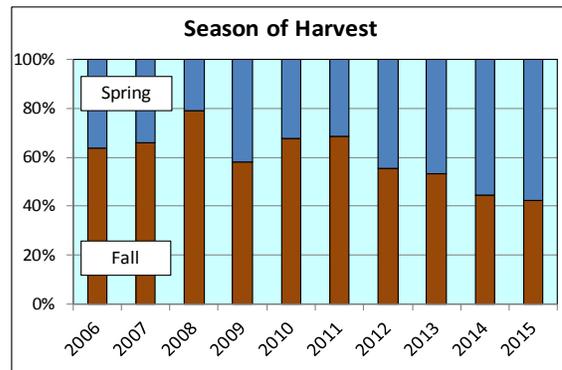
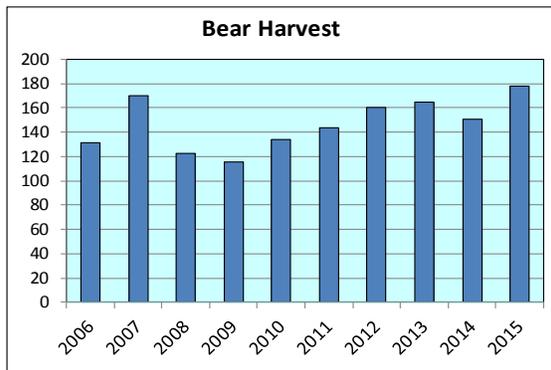


Figure 14. DAU1G Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 1H was 158 in 2014, up 30% from the previous 3-year average. Harvest of black bears in 1H was 121 in 2015, a 10% decrease from the previous 3-year average. During 2014 and 2015, over half the black bear harvest occurred during the fall seasons. Females made up 42% of the 3-year harvest average, exceeding the light harvest target for this DAU of <30% females in the harvest. The 3-year average for percent males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest was 39%, meeting the light harvest objective of >35% males ≥ 5 years of age for this DAU (Figure 15).

Management Direction

DAU 1H will continue to be managed as a high quality controlled hunt area. DAU 1H is managed for light harvest targets of >35% age ≥ 5 year old bears in the male harvest and <30% females in the total harvest.

Background

Approximately 60% of DAU 1H is not productive bear habitat, consisting of desert and irrigated agricultural lands. Over 90% of the bear habitat in this DAU is publicly owned and managed by the USFS. Road densities are moderate to high in most of this DAU. Bear habitat is characterized by open, scattered shrub communities at lower elevations and mixed-conifer forest and scattered onion beds and shrubfields at mid to upper elevations. Where present, bear habitat is considered excellent in this DAU.

Recent season changes included the 2011 season addition of 50 tags to the fall season (150 to 200), the 2014 season addition of 2 weeks to the fall season on private land only (opened 15 August instead of 1 September), and the 2015 season addition of a youth only fall controlled hunt (25 tags).

Population Surveys

No population surveys were conducted during the reporting period.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2014 harvest of 158 black bears exceeds the previous 3-year average by 30%. The 2015 harvest of 121 black bears is 11% below the previous 3-year average. Harvest in this DAU was greater in the fall than in the spring season for both 2014 and 2015 (57% and 63% respectively), consistent with previous years. Still hunting (stalking) was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1H in 2014 and 2015; 64% and 58% of successful hunters used this method, respectively. Hunting with hounds accounted for the vast remainder of the harvest. Hunting over bait is prohibited in these units. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during the spring season in these GMUs.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Forty-two percent of the 2013-2015 harvest was female bears, greater than the target of <30% females in the harvest. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the 2013-2015 harvest was 39%, meeting the objective of > 35%. Age data indicate zero- to four-year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

Depredations

Black bear nuisance complaints occur regularly in DAU 1H. Most nuisance complaints are mostly related to poor garbage disposal practice, and have been numerous during years with poor berry crops. Depredation complaints also occur regularly in this DAU, primarily on orchards. Depredations on livestock are sporadic in this DAU. Eight confirmed bear-caused livestock depredation incidents were reported in this DAU in 2015. Seven of the incidents occurred in GMU 22, involving a total of nine calves. One incident occurred in GMU 32, involving one calf. One bear was removed in response to these depredations (GMU 22).

Dog training Seasons

The dog training season in this DAU was 23 May – 31 July in 2014 and 2015.

Management Implications

Data for DAU 1H indicate a steady increase in harvest over the past 10 years. The goal for the DAU is to continue to maintain the percentage of males ≥ 5 years of age in the harvest above 35%; maintain percent females in the harvest below 30%; and to maintain a 30% or higher hunter success rate (2013-2015 average success rate was 32%). Fall controlled hunt tags were increased from 150 to 200 in 2011, the fall season was extended by 2 weeks on private land only in 2014, and a youth only fall season controlled hunt was added in the 2015 season (25 tags).

Harvest parameters in DAU 1H show female black bear harvest has chronically exceeded the <30% objective. However, other harvest parameters such as harvest success do not suggest a negative impact on the population, or a decrease in ≥ 5 year-old bears in the male harvest.

Education regarding species management plan harvest goals and population objectives is needed to help sportsmen understand that the seasons in this DAU are meant to provide for high black bear numbers and an increased chance for seeing black bears. Balancing this management strategy against a high rate of nuisance bear complaints will continue to be a challenge in this DAU.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
3,494	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	3.8 NA
	Percent Females	42% <30%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	39% >35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	TOTAL	89	87	115	95	122	120	130	115	158	121	
	Males	0-4 years	26	27	37	41	39	42	42	36	49	47
		5+ years	16	15	32	24	30	25	36	23	40	22
		Unknown	4	4	1	0	5	4	3	6	3	3
	Subtotal	46	46	70	65	74	71	81	65	92	72	
Females	0-4 years	19	18	20	11	23	27	13	22	27	20	
	5+ years	24	19	23	14	21	18	35	26	38	27	
	Unknown	0	4	2	5	4	4	1	2	1	2	
	Subtotal	43	41	45	30	48	49	49	50	66	49	
Season²	Spring	44	35	57	40	57	56	69	43	68	45	
	Fall	45	52	59	56	65	64	62	72	91	75	
Method³	Bait	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hounds	23	29	40	35	40	40	36	36	50	45	
	Incidental	4	3	4	2	7	3	4	3	3	4	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	
	Still/Stalk	62	53	69	56	72	74	88	71	101	68	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

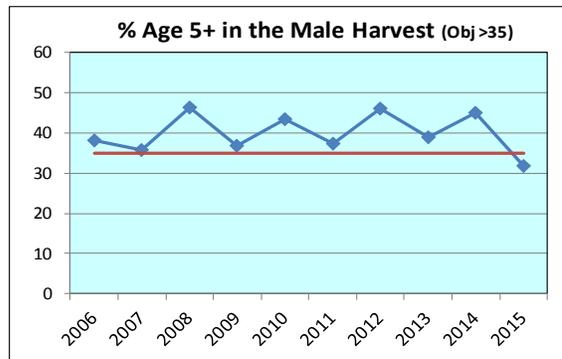
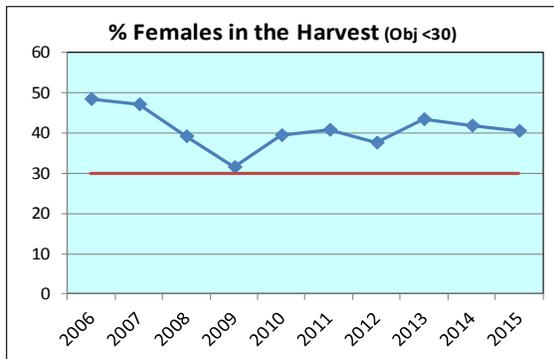
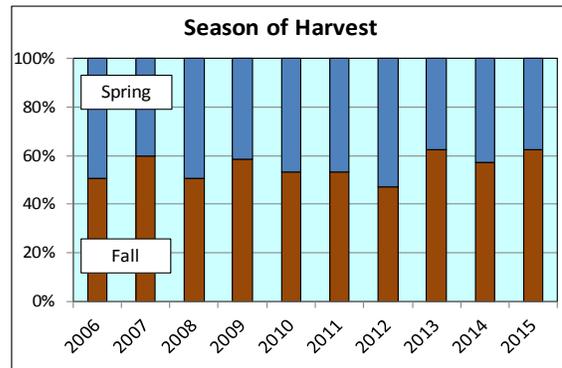
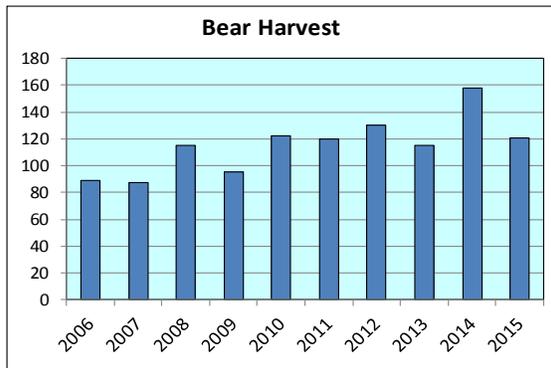


Figure 15. DAU1H Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1K (GMUs 33, 39, 43)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 1K was 249 in 2014, consistent with the previous 3-year average. Harvest of black bears in 1K was 301 in 2015, a 19% increase from the previous 3-year average. More than 70% of the harvest occurred in the spring seasons for both 2014 and 2015). Females made up 40% of the 3-year harvest average, consistent with the moderate harvest target of 30-40%. The 3-year average for percent males ≥ 5 years was 31%, meeting the moderate harvest objective of 25-35% for this DAU (Figure 16).

Management Direction

DAU 1K is managed for moderate harvest targets of 25-35% ≥ 5 year old bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest.

Background

The majority of DAU 1K is forested public land administered by the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. However sections of private agricultural also exist in the valley bottoms. A portion of the Treasure Valley—Idaho's largest metropolitan area—is also found in this zone. Open, scattered shrub communities at lower elevations and mixed-conifer forests at mid to upper elevations characterize the habitat. Access within DAU 1K ranges from heavily roaded urban areas to roadless wilderness areas. Bear habitat in this DAU is considered moderately productive.

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

The 2014 harvest of 249 black bears is consistent with the previous 3-year average. The 2015 harvest of 301 black bears is 19% above the previous 3-year average. Harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than in the fall season for both 2014 and 2015 (74% and 76%, respectively, consistent with previous years. Baiting was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1K in 2014 and 2015; 52% and 58% of successful hunters used this method, respectively. Still hunting (stalking) was the second most used method in the 2014 and 2015 seasons, accounting for 22% and 19% of the harvest, respectively.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Forty percent of the 2013-2015 harvest was female bears, meeting the target of 30-40% females in the harvest. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest (2013-2015) was 31%, meeting the moderate harvest objective of 25-35%. Age data indicate 0-4 year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

Depredations

Black bear nuisance complaints occur sporadically in DAU 1K, but have been numerous during years with poor berry crops. 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 bear-caused livestock depredations were recorded in DAU 1K in 2014 or 2015.

Dog Training Seasons

The dog training season in this DAU for 2014 and 2015 was 16 June – 31 July.

Management Implications

Harvest parameters for this DAU continue to appear stable and within objectives.

DAU 1K (GMU 33, 39, 43)



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,814	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	7.0	NA
	Percent Females	40%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	31%	25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	228	287	222	184	280	263	262	250	249	301
	Males										
	0-4 years	108	116	95	82	102	105	115	97	107	119
	5+ years	44	55	41	36	54	62	41	42	42	61
	Unknown	6	10	5	1	9	5	8	8	2	1
	Subtotal	158	181	141	119	165	172	164	147	151	181
Females	0-4 years	43	53	45	41	50	35	48	54	47	68
	5+ years	24	38	33	23	57	53	43	41	47	52
	Unknown	3	15	3	1	8	3	7	8	4	0
	Subtotal	70	106	81	65	115	91	98	103	98	120
Season²	Spring	126	172	152	119	179	183	194	178	185	239
	Fall	104	116	74	67	104	82	69	72	64	74
Method³	Bait	89	125	88	86	111	97	143	119	130	179
	BaitHounds	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
	Hounds	33	32	44	18	43	42	35	36	35	49
	Incidental	31	32	39	24	43	37	39	24	29	21
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	66	88	53	48	81	82	41	69	55	58

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

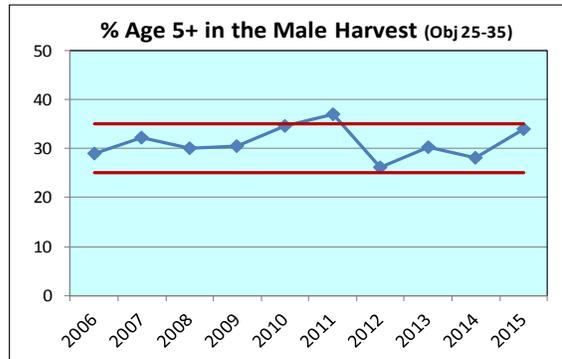
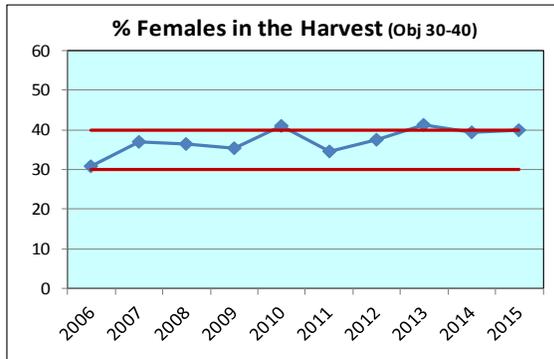
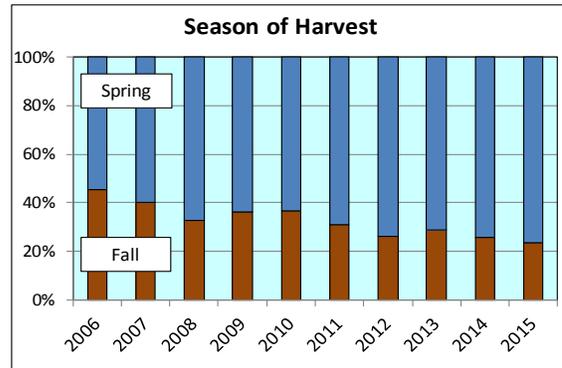
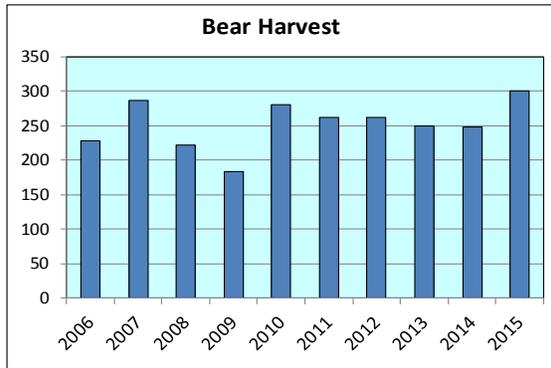


Figure 16. DAU1K Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 3B was 54 in 2014, consistent with the previous 3-year average. Harvest of black bears in 3B was 63 in 2015, an 18% increase from the previous 3-year average. The majority of the harvest occurred in the spring seasons for both 2014 and 2015. Females made up 32% of the 3-year harvest average, consistent with the moderate harvest target of 30-40%. The 3-year average for percent males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest was 45% (2013-2015), exceeding the objective of 25-35% for this DAU (Figure 17).

Management Direction

DAU 3B is managed for moderate harvest targets of 25-35% ≥ 5 year old bears in the male harvest and 30-40% females in the total harvest.

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. The steep canyon breaks of the Middle Fork Salmon and main Salmon Rivers characterize the lower elevations of this DAU. Mid to upper elevations are dominated by mixed conifer forests. Bear habitat is of moderate productivity in this area.

Recent season changes included extending the fall season by 12 days (to 30 November), to increase hunter opportunity.

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

The 2014 harvest of 54 black bears is consistent with the previous 3-year average. The 2015 harvest of 63 black bears is 18% above the previous 3-year average. The black bear harvest in the DAU was greater in the spring than in the fall season for both 2014 and 2015 (64% and 56%, respectively), consistent with 2013 but a change from most prior years. Still hunting (stalking) and baiting were the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 3B in 2014, accounting for 44% and 42% of the harvest, respectively. Baiting was the primary method of take in 2015 (57%), followed closely by spotting/stalking (29%).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty-two percent of the 2013-2015 harvest was female bears, meeting the moderate harvest target of 30-40% females in the harvest. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest (2013-2015) was 45%, exceeding the moderate harvest objective of 25-35%. Age data indicate ≥ 5 year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

Depredations

No bear-caused livestock depredations were recorded in DAU 3B in 2014 or 2015. One bear was killed due to conflict with humans in this DAU in 2015 (GMU 27).

Management Implications

Harvest parameters for DAU 3B are meeting objectives for 30-40% females in the harvest. Harvest parameters chronically exceed the moderate objective of 25-35% ≥ 5 year old bears in the male harvest in this DAU, but there has been no indication of a decrease in the percent males in the total harvest.

The 2014 extension of the fall season by 12 days to 30 November has not resulted in an increase in the fall harvest.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,885	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	1.9 NA
	Percent Females	32% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	45% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
¹	TOTAL	51	54	50	42	46	50	56	50	54	63
	Males										
	0-4 years	16	17	11	13	12	13	20	22	16	23
	5+ years	18	18	14	20	17	19	18	9	20	21
	Unknown	1	2	3	1	4	3	3	2	1	0
	Subtotal	35	37	28	34	33	35	41	33	37	44
Females	0-4 years	5	7	3	3	7	7	8	4	7	12
	5+ years	11	10	17	5	6	7	6	12	8	7
	Unknown	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	0
	Subtotal	16	17	22	8	13	15	15	17	17	19
Season ²	Spring	20	16	22	12	17	26	19	28	35	38
	Fall	31	38	28	30	31	24	37	23	20	30
Method ³	Bait	5	7	17	12	13	19	19	23	23	39
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	1	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Incidental	13	21	10	11	10	8	14	7	7	9
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	31	21	21	15	23	21	21	21	24	20

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

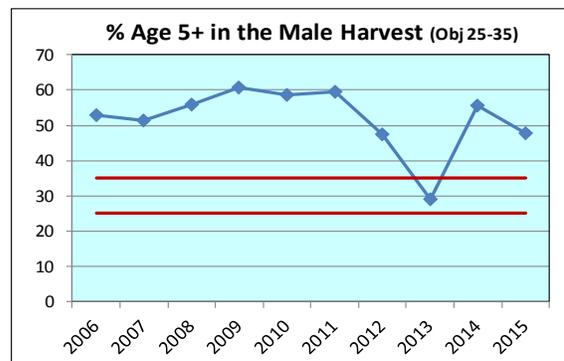
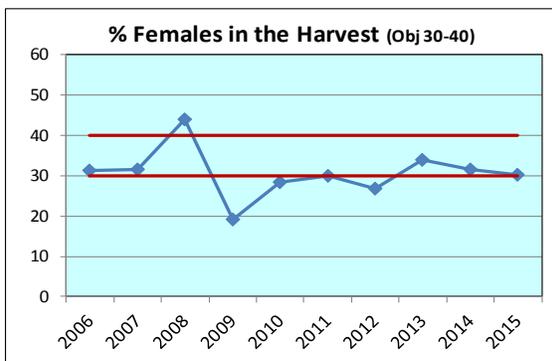
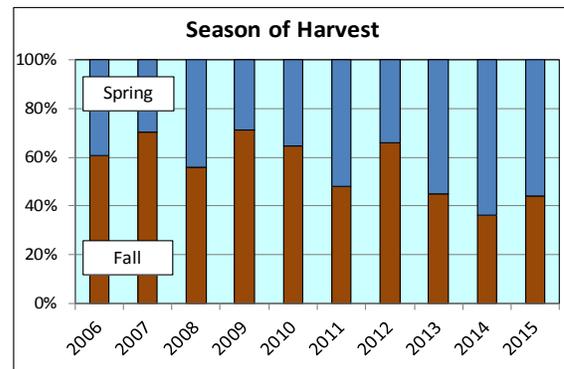
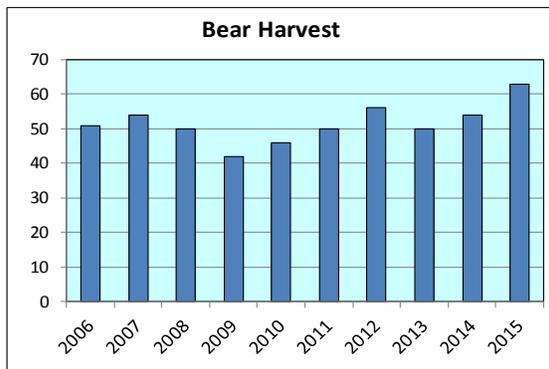


Figure 17. DAU3B Black Bear Status and Objectives

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Sixty-four black bears were harvested in DAU 4A in 2014 which is 13% higher than the 10-year average of 57 bears taken in DAU 4A (Figure 18). In 2015, 82 bears were harvested in DAU 4A, which is 14% higher than the 10-year average, which remained 60. A relatively high proportion of bears were harvested using bait for both 2014 and 2015.

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 2014 and 2015 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2013. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A). 64 black bears were harvested in 2014, equal to the 3-year average and 13% greater than the 10-year average for this DAU. In 2014, 62% of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. 79 black bears were harvested in 2015, which is 14% higher than the 3-year average. In 2014, baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 50%, 25%, 12%, and 11% of the total hunter harvest of black bears in DAU 4A, respectively and in 2015, baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 57%, 16%, 7% and 12% of the total harvest of black bears in DAU 4A (Figure 18).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2012-2014 harvest was composed of 38% 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 26% of the 2013-2015 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older, however this has not been declining in the recent years (Figure 18).

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. Typically, the Department receives one complaint every few years, regarding a bear destroying apiaries.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,241	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	2.1	NA
	Percent Females	42%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	26%	25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	35	60	69	39	67	62	65	63	64	82
	Males										
	0-4 years	17	26	26	22	25	22	29	30	23	33
	5+ years	7	13	19	5	11	13	6	4	13	14
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	6	5	1	1	3
	Subtotal	24	39	45	27	39	41	40	35	37	50
Females	0-4 years	4	13	11	6	16	9	17	16	13	16
	5+ years	7	7	13	5	11	11	7	9	12	14
	Unknown	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
	Subtotal	11	21	24	12	28	21	25	28	27	32
Season²	Spring	14	41	34	26	44	39	46	37	40	61
	Fall	21	19	35	13	23	23	20	27	24	18
Method³	Bait	12	26	11	19	29	31	34	32	32	45
	BaitHounds	2	8	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	5
	Hounds	3	2	15	3	7	9	3	3	8	6
	Incidental	7	5	21	5	10	8	8	5	7	10
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	11	19	16	9	18	12	19	20	16	13

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

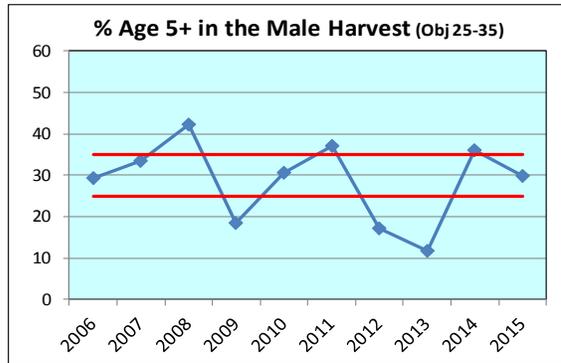
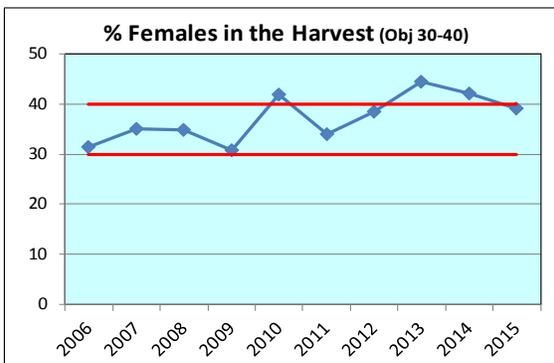
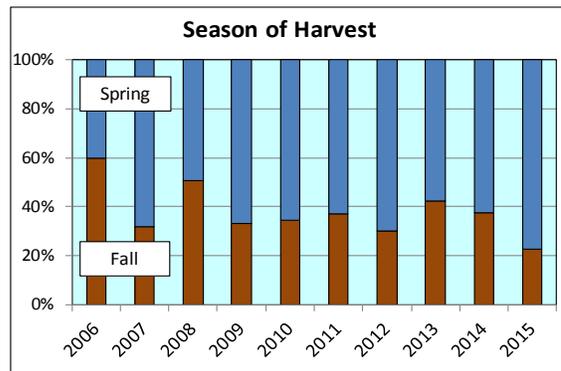
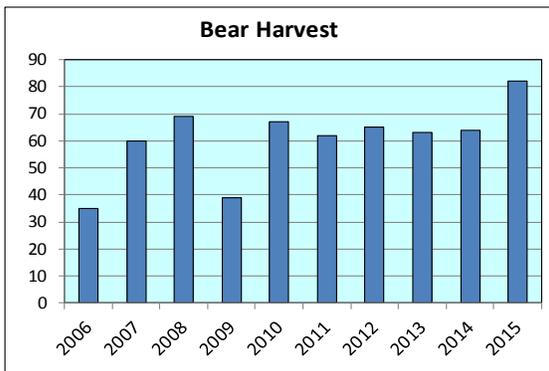


Figure 18. DAU4A Black Bear Status and Objectives

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 2004-2013 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 223 and 237 for 2014 and 2015, respectively (Figures 19-21).

The 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets management objectives for DAUs 4B, 4C, and 4D to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” harvest targets of 25-35% male bears ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average. These criteria apply to DAUs with an average annual harvest of ≥ 30 known-age black bears. All DAU’s were meeting or exceeding the male harvest criterion for the 2013-2015 3-year average. The 3-year average of % females in the harvest are 2013-2015; DAU 4C and 4D are meeting the % female criterion, while DAU 4B is 42%.

Climatic Conditions

Overall, climatic conditions were average throughout this reporting period.

Depredations

There were 2 and 0 confirmed black bear depredations in the Upper Snake Region during 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Upper Snake staff captured 1 and 4 orphaned black bear cubs that were transported to a rehabilitation center during 2014 and 2015, respectively.

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. Hunters harvested 42 and 54 black bears in DAU 4B in 2014 and 2015, respectively (Figure 19).

Management Direction

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

Background

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

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

Hunters harvested 42 and 54 black bears in DAU 4B in 2014 and 2015, respectively. This was close to the current 3-year average for 2011-2013 of 41 (Figure 19).

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 2014 and 2015.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2013-2015 harvest was composed of 42% females on average, above the target of 30-40% females in the harvest (Figure 18). Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 42% of the 2013-2015 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older.

Dog-training Seasons

The dog-training season ran from 16 June-31 July in DAU 4B in 2014 and 2015.

Management Implications

DAU 4B is to be managed to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range. Harvest for 2013-2015 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 Mi ² :	1.2 NA
	Percent Females	43% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	42% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	33	58	44	42	52	45	36	43	42	54
	Males										
	0-4 years	17	23	15	18	20	15	11	17	8	20
	5+ years	11	10	7	9	12	7	9	7	15	10
	Unknown	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1
	Subtotal	28	33	23	28	34	23	21	25	23	31
Females	0-4 years	3	12	8	6	10	7	3	7	9	9
	5+ years	1	12	13	8	7	14	12	10	10	11
	Unknown	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
	Subtotal	5	25	21	14	18	22	15	18	19	23
Season²	Spring	27	43	31	34	35	33	29	26	34	39
	Fall	6	15	13	8	17	12	7	17	8	11
Method³	Bait	13	16	13	17	14	22	5	13	12	18
	BaitHounds	6	14	8	11	14	9	12	8	9	8
	Hounds	6	11	12	8	11	6	12	6	11	13
	Incidental	6	8	5	3	11	5	2	6	7	6
	PredCall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	1	6	4	2	2	3	4	8	2	4

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

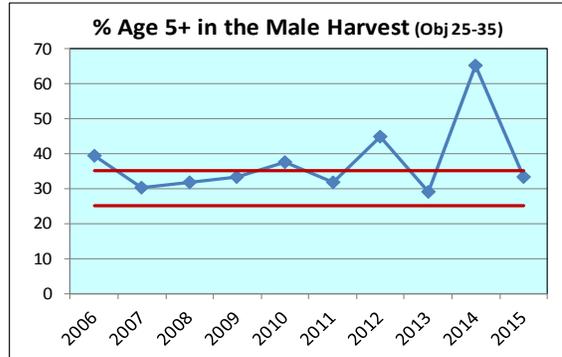
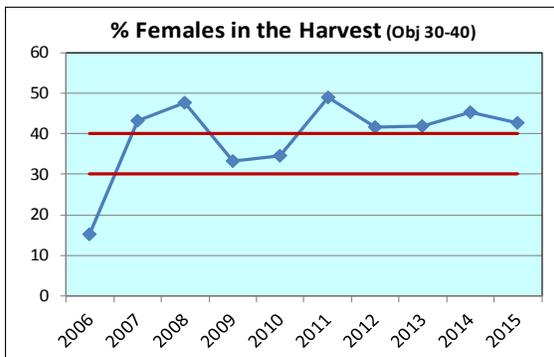
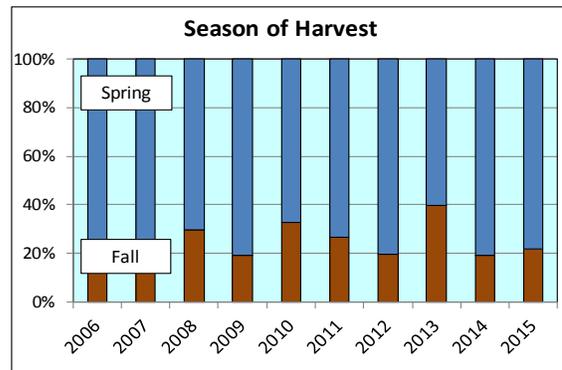
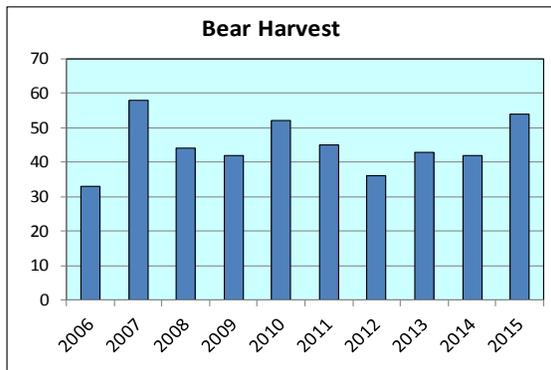


Figure 19. DAU4B Black Bear Status and Objectives

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 within the desired level for percent males ≥ 5 years-of-age.

Management Direction

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

Background

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

Population Surveys

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 ≥ 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. 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

Harvest for the 2013-2015 period was within the desired level for males ≥ 5 years old (29%) and within the desired level for percent females (30%), during the 2013-2015 period (Figure 20).

Dog-training Season

The 2014-2015 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 2012-2014 seasons was within objective for males ≥ 5 years. Harvest was within the desired level for percent females during the 2013-2015 period, indicating a light harvest. This population is more lightly harvested than other DAUs in the region because of restrictions placed on baiting and hound hunting to protect grizzly bear in most of the DAU. In an effort to bring DAU 4C into the desired levels for percent female and percent males ≥ 5 years old in the harvest and to provide more hunting opportunity, the Fish and Game Commission extended the spring take season by 15 days in 2003. That change has increased the number of spring bears taken from an average of 14 during 1994-2002 to an average of 27 during 2004-2013.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
1,966	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	3.8 NA
	Percent Females	29% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	29% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Harvest	TOTAL	45	87	73	40	50	64	91	60	86	77	
	Males	0-4 years	25	47	29	22	19	24	41	28	45	36
		5+ years	5	15	25	11	11	17	20	13	14	17
		Unknown	1	2	5	2	3	1	2	2	1	2
	Subtotal	31	64	59	35	33	42	63	43	60	55	
Females	0-4 years	8	14	8	4	7	13	17	12	12	10	
	5+ years	6	7	6	1	9	9	7	4	14	12	
	Unknown	0	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	
	Subtotal	14	23	14	5	17	22	28	17	26	22	
Season²	Spring	11	23	34	25	27	26	44	28	49	39	
	Fall	34	65	39	15	23	38	47	32	37	41	
Method³	Bait	9	16	13	13	17	9	21	18	22	17	
	BaitHounds	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	
	Hounds	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	1	1	10	
	Incidental	11	48	15	12	16	19	16	15	20	17	
	PredCall	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	18	15	37	11	10	30	47	23	35	35	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

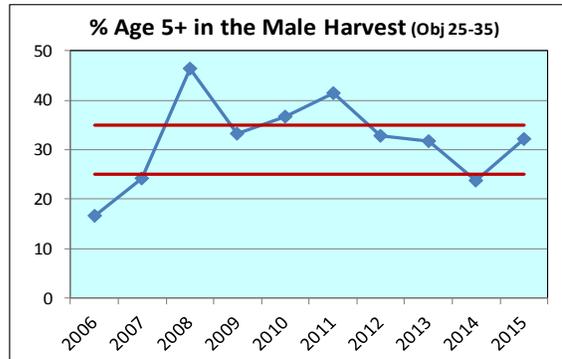
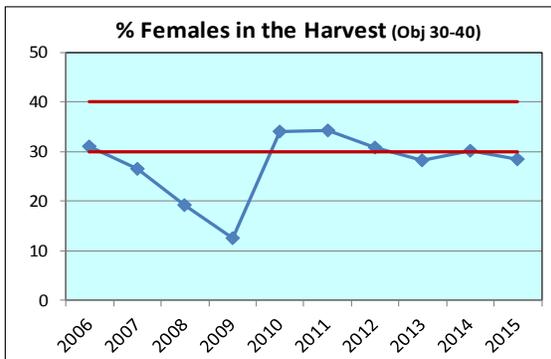
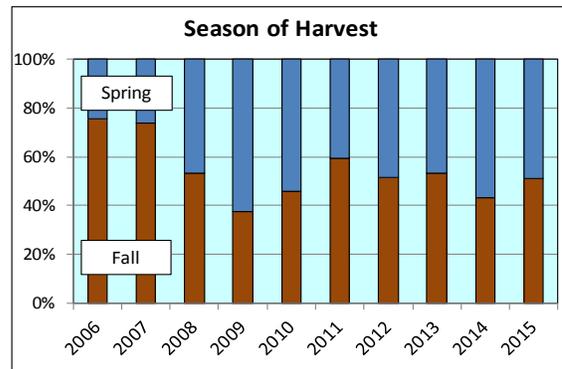
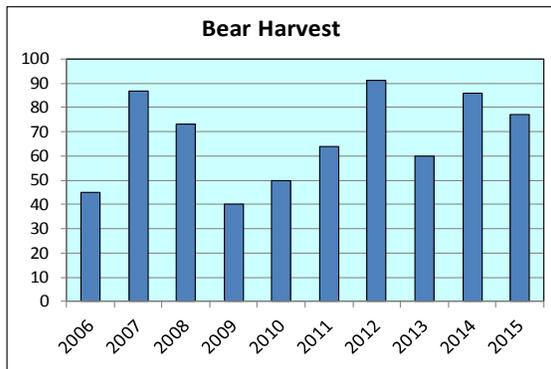


Figure 20. DAU4C Black Bear Status and Objectives

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. Harvest objectives for DAU 4D have been set to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” level of harvest. Harvest over 2012-2014 was below this level for the males harvest criteria and within the percentage of females in the harvest.

Management Direction

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

Background

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

Population Surveys

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.

Over the past several years, the Department has received numerous reports of black bears in GMUs 75, 77, and 78. Anecdotally, the frequency of these reports seems to have increased in recent years. However, there has never been any harvest or pursuit opportunity for black bear in these GMUs and no population data has ever been collected. Therefore, this area is not currently part of a black bear DAU. In an effort to improve knowledge of black bears in this part of southern Idaho the Department opened a pursuit only season for black bear in 2014. The intent was to obtain data (photos, hair samples, DNA samples) from houndsmen and other sportsmen to help assess density of bears. Additionally, the Department initiated a study during the summer of 2015 across these GMUs to collect hair and photos at scent lure stations. Upon completion of this effort, no hair samples were obtained for DNA analysis. Trail cameras, however, provided photos of black bears within the study area. Using these photos, at least 4 unique individuals could be identified, but due to photo quality and physical similarities between individuals in the photos this is a minimum count. Based on these efforts it appears black bear density in these GMUs remains extremely low, but the Department plans to continue to evaluate this area in the future.

Harvest Characteristics

A total of 95 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in both 2014 and 2015. Harvest has fluctuated from 50 to 117 in the last ten years and is influenced by weather. The average annual harvest for the 2013-2015 seasons was 91 (Figure 21).

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 2013-2015 harvest was composed of 36% 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 24% of the 2013-2015 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (Figure 21).

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 Mi ² :	2.1 NA
	Percent Females	37% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	24% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	60	97	50	82	89	74	116	84	95	95
	Males										
	0-4 years	30	45	22	37	42	23	49	41	36	50
	5+ years	6	11	10	21	17	16	14	8	18	14
	Unknown	3	3	1	0	3	5	3	2	4	0
	Subtotal	39	59	33	58	62	44	66	51	58	64
Females	0-4 years	13	22	12	17	13	17	24	16	22	16
	5+ years	8	14	4	6	12	12	24	16	14	15
	Unknown	0	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	0
	Subtotal	21	38	17	24	27	30	50	33	37	31
Season²	Spring	16	40	17	35	27	16	50	38	62	63
	Fall	44	57	33	48	62	58	67	46	33	44
Method³	Bait	16	36	15	31	27	28	49	30	51	57
	BaitHounds	4	6	3	8	8	6	9	6	6	6
	Hounds	10	16	6	13	19	16	18	13	9	17
	Incidental	16	22	14	15	25	10	18	15	7	18
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Still/Stalk	12	12	11	11	8	10	21	12	15	9

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

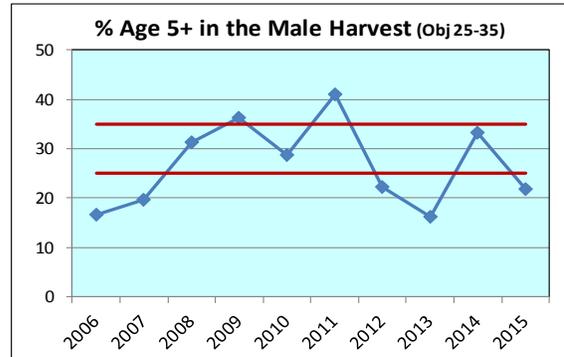
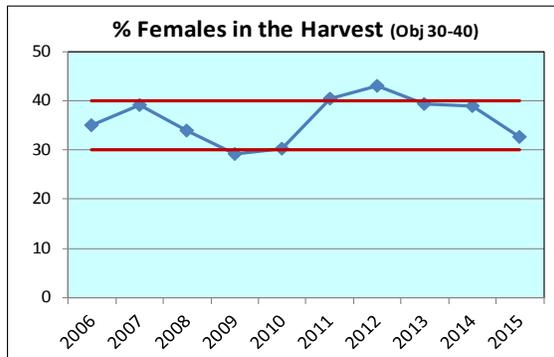
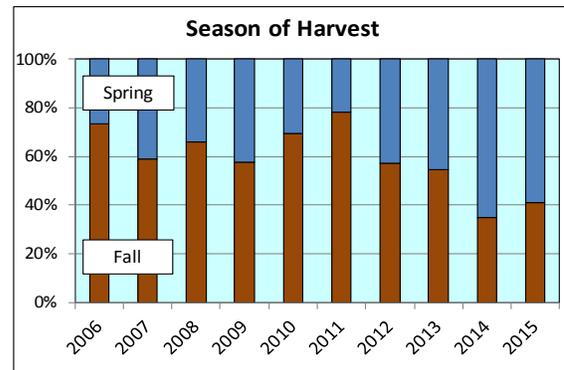
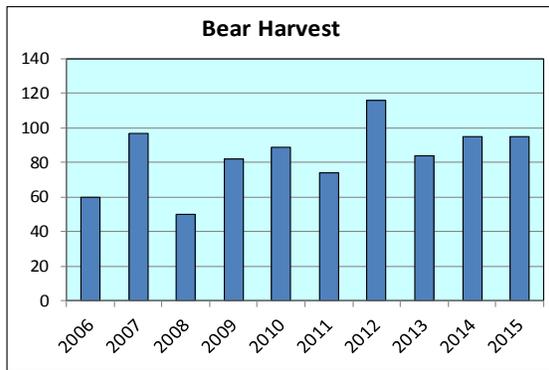


Figure 21. DAU4D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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 season in DAU 5 ran from 30 August-31 October and 15 April-30 June. One bear harvested during the 2014 season and no bears during the 2015 season.

Dog-training Season

The 2014-2015 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 harvest tend to correspond to Spring and Fall precipitation that influences forage availability for bears. 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 1999-2010 Black Bear Management Plan specifies moderate to heavy harvest rates in these DAUs, harvest data 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. Mean harvest from 2011-2015 across the 3 DAUs averaged 198 bears (Figures 22-24). Long-term percent females in the harvest indicates there was not much selectivity for bear gender among harvest methods.

Climate

Spring and Fall weather in 2014 and 2015 was relatively wet, with favorable conditions for vegetative growth that benefitted bear foraging. Winter conditions were relatively mild in 2014, with below average snowpack. Winter conditions in 2015 were more typical of the region, with near or slightly above average snowpack.

DAU 1I (GMUs 34, 35, 36)

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 1999-2010 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 22).

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

Forty two black bears were harvested in 2014, slightly less than the running 3-year average harvest of 47 bears (range = 42-52). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1I indicates a lighter harvest rate than the objective specified in the 1999-2010 management plan (Figure 22).

Use of bait accounted for 83% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2014. Approximately 17% of bears were taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting.

Forty one black bears were harvested in 2015, slightly less than the running 3-year average harvest of 44 bears (range = 42-48). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU II indicates a lighter harvest rate than the objective specified in the 1999-2010 management plan (Figure 22).

Use of bait accounted for 83% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2015. Approximately 17% 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, and was 33% in 2014 (3-year running avg. = 30%). The percent of males ≥ 5 years old within the total male harvest (72% in 2014; 3-year running avg. = 54%) did not meet the management objective of <25%, and has not approached that objective for the previous 9 years (Figure 22).

The percent females in the harvest was 26% (3-year running avg. = 31%), and has been decreasing-to-stable since last meeting the management objective of >40% in 2010. The percent of males ≥ 5 within the total male harvest was 48% (3-year running avg. = 54%).

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, with only 1 complaint received over 2014-2015.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate (<25% males ≥ 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest). Harvest indicator criteria for this DAU suggested a light to moderate harvest rate during the 1990s. Accordingly, the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 7 to 30 June, creating an additional 24 days to hunt black bears. In addition, the fall 1999 season in GMU 36 opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years. 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, when the female harvest objective was achieved (but not ≤ 5 year-old males). 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 Mi ² :		2.3
	Percent Females		31% >40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		54% <25%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	40	69	40	30	46	37	51	48	42	41	
	Males											
	0-4 years	17	21	6	12	16	13	18	18	7	14	
	5+ years	16	24	16	13	10	10	18	14	18	14	
	Unknown	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	
	Subtotal	34	48	22	25	26	23	38	33	28	29	
Females	0-4 years	4	7	5	1	10	2	8	2	3	2	
	5+ years	2	13	10	4	9	8	3	12	10	9	
	Unknown	0	1	3	0	1	4	2	1	1	1	
		Subtotal	6	21	18	5	20	14	13	15	14	12
	Season²	Spring	32	40	34	23	36	25	46	41	33	38
Fall		8	29	6	7	10	12	6	7	9	5	
Method³	Bait	29	25	22	15	26	18	38	33	34	33	
	BaitHounds	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hounds	3	7	8	1	5	3	4	6	0	3	
	Incidental	3	11	2	0	5	6	3	3	5	3	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	4	24	7	12	6	8	6	6	2	4	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

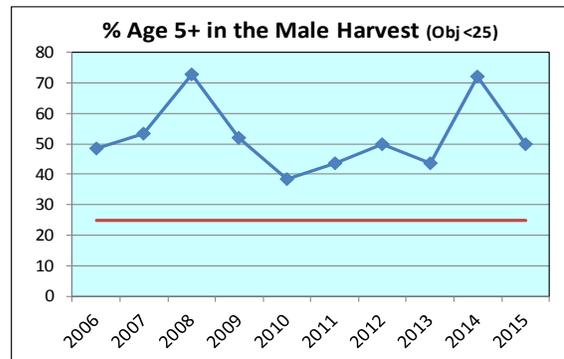
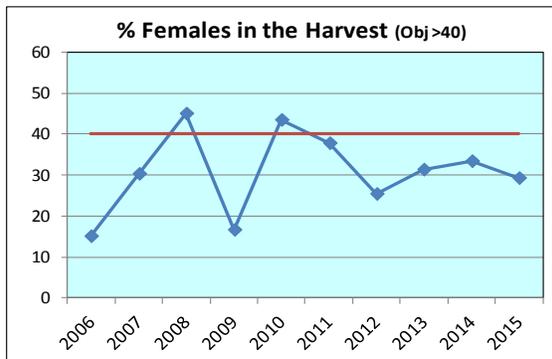
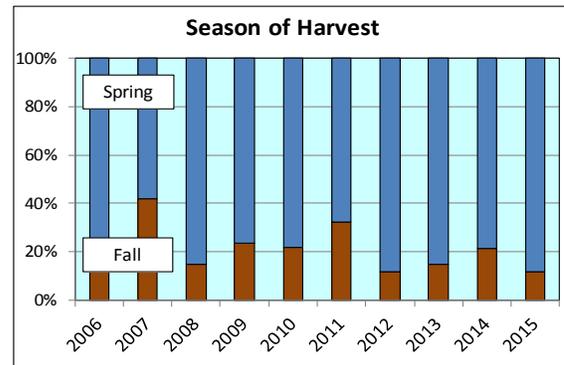
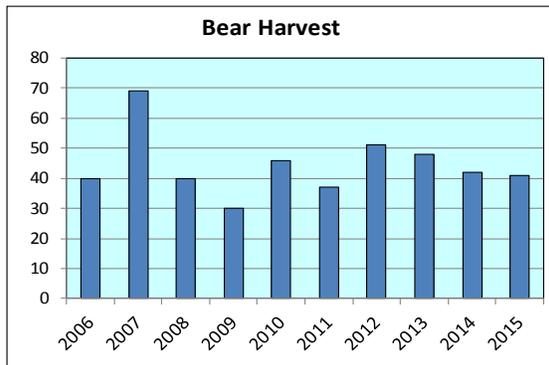


Figure 22. DAU 11 Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 1999-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 1J is to maintain a moderate harvest rate of 25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest (Figure 23).

Background

The vegetation in DAU 1J varies from dry river breaks and sagebrush grasslands to subalpine, with most of the area in dry to moderately moist coniferous forests. 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

One hundred one black bears were harvested in 2014, exceeding the running 3-year average harvest of 90 bears (range = 81-101). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1J indicates a harvest rate at or near the objective specified in the 1999-2010 management plan (Figure 23).

Use of bait accounted for 60% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2014. Approximately 37% of bears were taken by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting. The remaining harvest was through the use of hounds.

One hundred fifteen black bears were harvested in 2015, more than the running 3-year average harvest of 99 bears (range = 89-108). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 1J were slightly below objectives specified in the 1999-2010 management plan (Figure 22).

Method of harvest was similar to 2014, with use of bait accounting for 60% of black bears harvested and 37% taken by still hunters or incidental to other hunting in this DAU in 2015.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percent females in the harvest was 35% (3-year running avg. = 34%), and was within target management objectives for this DAU. The percent of males ≥ 5 years old within the total male

harvest (38% in 2014; 3-year running avg. = 38%) was slightly above management objectives for this DAU (Figure 22).

The percent females in the harvest was 28%, however the 3-year running average (32%) remained within management objectives for the DAU. The percent of males ≥ 5 within the total male harvest was 43%, just above the 3-year average of 41%.

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. A total of 4 complaints were received (2014 = 3, 2015 = 1) during 2014-2015 in this DAU.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest). During the 1990s harvest indicator criteria for percent males ≥ 5 years old and percent females suggest a light harvest rate. Accordingly, fall 1999 season opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years, and the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 15 to 30 June, creating a total of 31 additional days to hunt black bears. The proportion of the harvest falling within these extended dates has increased over the years. The annual proportion of females in the harvest has fluctuated above and within objective over the last 10 years, but the 3-year average harvest has remained within objectives during this reporting period. While still slightly above management objectives, harvest of older males has steadily declined during the past several years, suggesting season structure is adequate to achieve harvest goals. However, some units within this DAU (i.e., GMU 21 & 28) may need to be closely monitored in the future to ensure overharvest does not occur.

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



Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	Objective
2,651	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	3.8 NA
	Percent Females	32% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	41% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Harvest¹	TOTAL	70	129	103	92	101	83	81	89	101	115
	Males										
	0-4 years	19	38	33	30	37	17	32	37	40	41
	5+ years	23	36	20	24	32	29	21	21	25	35
	Unknown	3	5	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	5
	Subtotal	45	79	56	55	71	48	54	59	66	81
Females	0-4 years	13	29	22	14	15	12	13	15	14	13
	5+ years	12	20	23	21	14	21	13	13	17	16
	Unknown	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	5
	Subtotal	25	50	47	37	30	35	27	30	35	34
Season²	Spring	59	89	71	72	68	64	64	60	71	83
	Fall	11	40	32	20	33	19	17	29	30	25
Method³	Bait	44	71	61	56	52	40	46	47	61	70
	BaitHounds	1	3	0	2	4	0	4	3	1	2
	Hounds	7	0	4	3	6	5	7	3	2	4
	Incidental	2	21	12	12	18	12	9	18	10	16
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	16	31	23	16	19	26	15	18	27	16

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

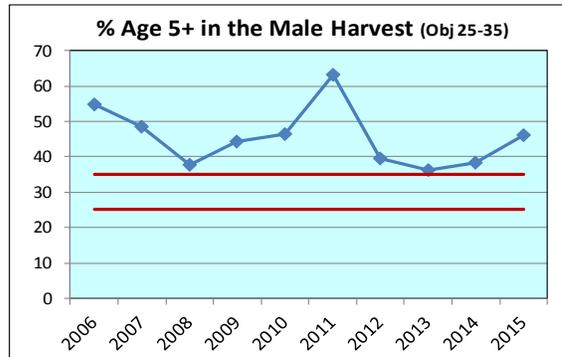
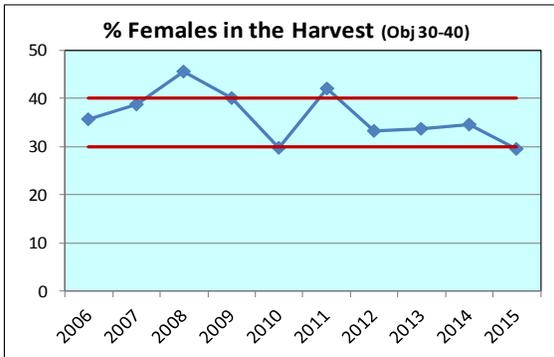
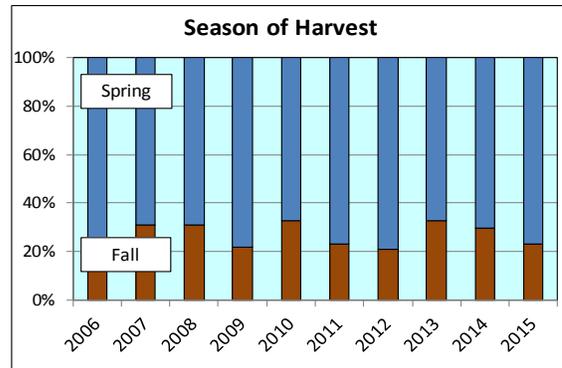
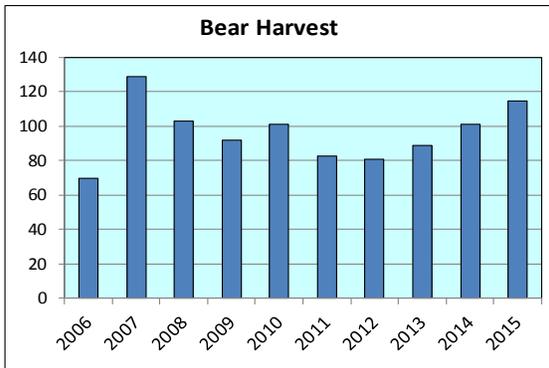


Figure 23. DAU 1J. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

Management Direction

Follow statewide management direction of the 1999-2010 Black Bear Management Plan. Management direction for DAU 4E is to maintain a moderate harvest rate of 25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest.

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

Forty seven black bears were harvested in 2014, a decline from the running 3-year average harvest of 55 bears (range = 47-64). Sex and age composition of harvest in DAU 4E indicates a harvest rate slightly above objectives specified in the 1999-2010 management plan with respect to female harvest (Figure 24).

Use of bait accounted for 43% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2014. Approximately 34% of bears were taken through the use of hounds. The remainder were harvested by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting.

Sixty five black bears were harvested in 2015, slightly more than the running 3-year average harvest of 60 bears (range = 47-65).

Use of bait accounted for 51% of black bears harvested in this DAU in 2015. The remainder were taken through the use of hounds (25%) or were harvested by still hunters and incidentally to other hunting (24%).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percent females in the harvest was 55% (3-year running avg. = 46%), and was above the management objective of 30-40% for this DAU. The percent of males ≥ 5 years old within the total male harvest (70% in 2014; 3-year running avg. = 51%) was above management objectives for this DAU (Figure 24).

The annual percent females in the harvest dropped to 37%; however the 3-year running average (44%) still slightly exceeded objectives for the DAU. The percent of males ≥ 5 within the total male harvest was 37%, below the 3-year average of 44%.

Depredations

Depredation complaints within this DAU were limited to a single honey producer, with a total of 6 complaints (2014 = 3, 2015 = 3).

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25-35% males ≥ 5 years old and 30-40% females in the harvest). Fall 1999 season opened 30 August, 16 days earlier than in prior years, and the spring 2000 black bear season ending date was extended from 15 to 30 June, creating a total of 31 additional days to hunt black bears. 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. While the three-year running average has continued to remain in the mid-forties, 2015 was the first year when annual female harvest fell within the objective of 30-40% since 2007. 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 Mi ² :	1.8
	Percent Females	44% 30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	44% 25-35%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	52	69	63	62	89	73	53	64	47	65	
	Males	0-4 years	17	32	22	18	42	21	13	23	6	25
		5+ years	17	13	10	14	5	18	16	13	14	15
		Unknown	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	1
	Subtotal	35	46	33	33	51	41	31	37	21	41	
Females	0-4 years	11	8	14	11	18	15	11	11	10	4	
	5+ years	5	12	14	16	19	15	9	13	15	19	
	Unknown	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	
	Subtotal	17	23	30	29	38	32	22	27	26	24	
Season²	Spring	46	51	51	49	52	50	41	39	37	52	
	Fall	6	18	12	13	37	24	12	25	10	16	
Method³	Bait	31	37	38	37	39	31	25	30	20	35	
	BaitHounds	6	3	4	5	2	5	6	6	7	7	
	Hounds	7	7	8	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	
	Incidental	4	17	4	7	23	12	5	12	3	9	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	4	4	8	7	16	16	9	7	8	6	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

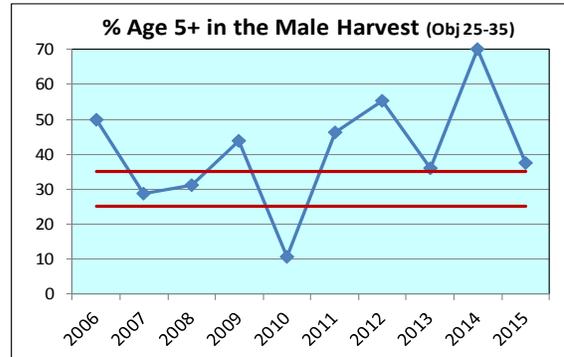
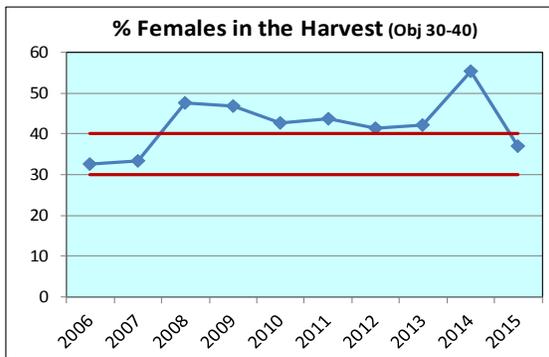
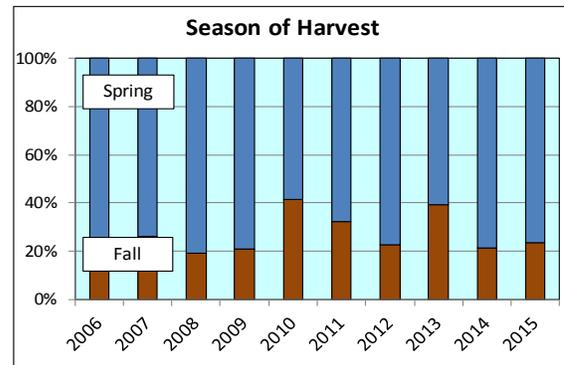
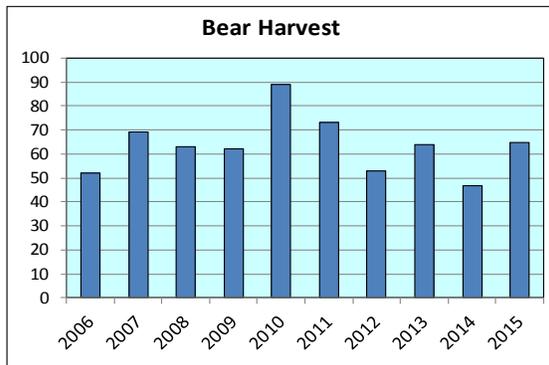


Figure 24. DAU 4E. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

APPENDIX A

IDAHO

2014/2015 SEASON

BLACK BEAR RULES

Big Game

2014 Seasons and Rules

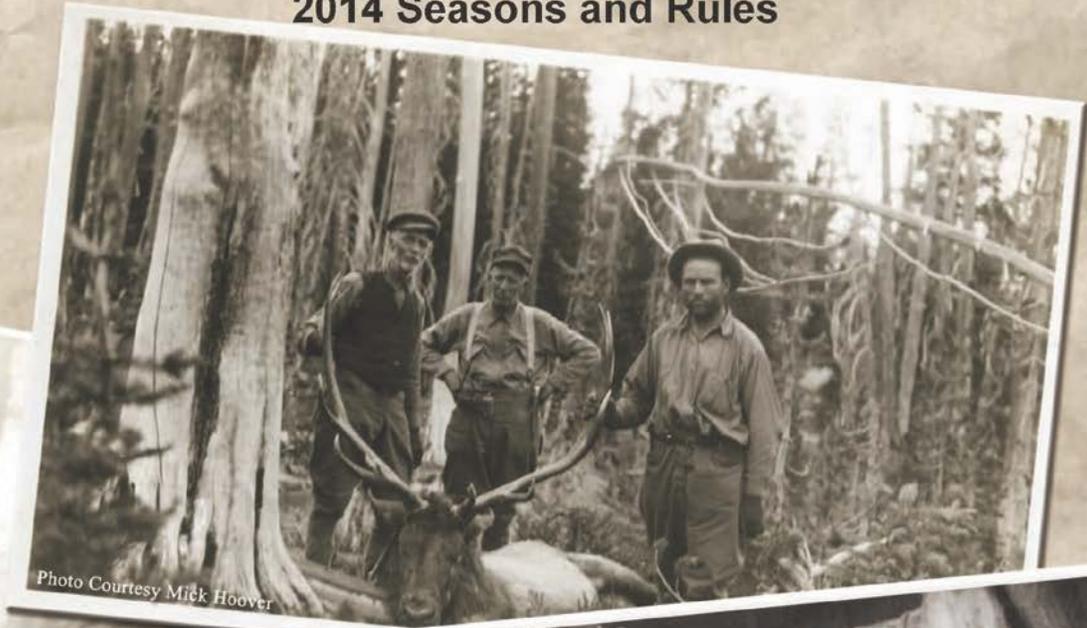


Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover



Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover



Photo Courtesy Alton Howell



2014 Fall / 2015 Spring 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 bears, 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 102.
- **Please thaw your black bear hide and skull before bringing it in for tagging or staff members 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 Monday through Friday, 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 black bears 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, 4A, 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 112 for details.

Nonresident Reduced Bear Tags: Please see page 112.

Bait

Bait for hunting is any substance placed to attract game animals. Bait may be used to hunt black bears 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. The number of bait sites maintained by licensed 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 101.

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.

LEARN ABOUT LEAD

HUNTER INFORMATION:	RISK REDUCTION TIPS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead shot is banned in U.S. for waterfowl hunting, but is still used for other purposes. • Lead can be toxic if ingested. • The toxicity depends on the level and frequency of exposure. • Lead can have physiological effects. • Wildlife can be poisoned from ingesting lead. • People can ingest lead particles from bullets in hunter harvested game animals. • Lead particles in venison may be too small to detect by sight, feel or taste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use non-lead, copper or other high-weight retention ammunition. • Liberally trim around the wound channel. • Discard meat that is bruised, discolored or contains hair, dirt, bone fragments, or plant material. • Use caution when rinsing the carcass to avoid spreading lead fragments. • Ground venison has more lead fragments than steaks and chops. • Ask commercial processors not to combine meat from other hunters with yours. • Avoid cooking venison with acidic substances like vinegar or wine. • Practice good marksmanship. • Practice clean field handling techniques.

 Fall 2014 / 2015 Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
2, 3, 5	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	<i>Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
4, 4A	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 15 - June 20	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	June 21 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
6	Aug 30 - Nov 30 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 - Nov 30 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 31	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 30 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 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	None	
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	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 30 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	
20A	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	<i>Second bear tag may be used Electronic calls may be used</i>
21, 21A, 28, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	

 Fall 2014 / 2015 Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 32 & 32A, See Pages 103-105</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 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used Electronic calls 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 103-105</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 & 49, See Pages 103-105</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 103-105</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 only .	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - 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 & 76, See Pages 103-105, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Units 64, 65, 66 & 67</i>
75, 77, 78	None		June 1 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Participants - If interested in helping with infor- mation collection in this area please contact the Southeast Regional Office before pursuing bears.</i>

Fall 2014 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (215 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8501	1 ^b (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 ^a (see pg 74)	100	Aug 15 - Aug 31	<i>Bait prohibited Private land only, excluding corporate timber lands, See note 1, Page 74</i>
			Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 74</i>
8503	32 ^a (see pg 74)	100	Aug 15 - Aug 31	<i>Bait prohibited Private land only, excluding corporate timber lands, See note 1, Page 74 Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
			Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>

Spring 2015 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (150 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8001	22 ^a (see pg 74)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	32 ^a (see pg 74)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</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. Bears may not be pursued during this controlled hunt without having a controlled hunt tag in possession.

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

^b This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 108-111.

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.

2015 & 2016 BIG GAME Seasons & Rules



Controlled Hunt Application Periods

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Fall Black Bear: May 1 – June 5
Spring Black Bear: January 15 – February 15

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn Seasons: August 2015 - February 2016 & August 2016 - February 2017
Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2015 - June 2016 & August 2016 - June 2017
Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2015 - June 2016 & July 2016 - June 2017
Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear



First Edition, 2015



2015 & 2016 Fall / 2016 & 2017 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 bears, 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 statement required, see page 100.
- **Please thaw your black bear hide and skull before bringing it in for tagging or staff members 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 Monday through Friday, 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 black bears at any time within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump ground or sanitary landfill.

Discounted Nonresident Tags

Nonresidents may purchase two (2) reduced-price black bear tags for Units 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27, that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River, and those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness at the discounted price of \$41.75; or may purchase one (1) full priced bear tag (\$186.00) to hunt black bear anywhere outside the areas listed above and one (1) reduced priced bear tag valid in areas listed above.

Nonresident Deer or Elk tags: A nonresident deer or elk tag, **excluding** Nonresident Junior Mentored/DAV deer and elk tags, may be used to tag a black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf. See page 110 for details.

Bait

Bait for hunting is any substance placed to attract game animals. Bait may be used to hunt black bears 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 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. The number of bait sites maintained by licensed 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 99.

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.

2015 & 2016 Fall / 2016 & 2017 Spring Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
2, 3, 5	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
4, 4A	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 15 - June 30	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	July 1 - July 31	Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
6	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
7, 9	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 15 - July 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31	None	Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
8	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	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	Bait prohibited
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered
11	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	None	

2015 & 2016 Fall / 2016 & 2017 Spring Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	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 - June 30	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	July 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 30 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	
20A	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
21A, 36B	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	
21, 28	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Oct 10 - Nov 8	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used and electronic calls may be used in those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness only. Remainder of Units: 1 bear tag</i>
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 32 & 32A, See Pages 101 - 103</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 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls 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 101 - 103</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 & 49, See Pages 101 - 103</i>

2015 & 2016 Fall / 2016 & 2017 Spring Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
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 101 - 103</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 only.	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - 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 & 76, See Pages 101 - 103 Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Units 64, 65, 66 & 67</i>
75, 77, 78	None		June 1 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited, Participants - If interested in helping with information collection in this area please contact the Southeast Regional Office before pursuing bears.</i>

got ear tag?

Please Contact Us

- Immobilizing drugs are sometimes used to capture and restrain a variety of wildlife for management, research, and public safety purposes in situations where other methods of capture are not practical. These animals are always marked with an ear tag.

- If you harvest an animal with an ear tag, please contact Fish and Game's wildlife health laboratory at **208-454-7638** or the nearest Fish and Game office.

- Bear, mountain lion and wolf hunters who do not intend to consume the meat should also contact Idaho Fish and Game.



Fall 2015 & 2016 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (240 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8501	1-1 ^b (See pg 71)	15	Sep 15 - Oct 9	<i>Bait prohibited. See note 1, Page 70, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
8502	22-1 ^a (See pg 71)	100	Aug 15 - Aug 31	<i>Bait prohibited Private land only, excluding corporate timber lands, See note 1, Page 70</i>
			Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited Sep 1 - Oct 31, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 70</i>
8503	32-1 ^a (See pg 71)	100	Aug 15 - Aug 31	<i>Bait prohibited Private land only, excluding corporate timber lands, See note 1, Page 70 Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
			Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited Sep 1 - Oct 31, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 70, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>

Youth only Fall 2015 & 2016 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (Females with young are protected!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8504	22-1 ^a (See pg 71)	25	Aug 15 - Aug 31	<i>Bait prohibited Private land only, excluding corporate timber lands, See note 1, Page 70</i>
			Sep 1 - Oct 31	<i>Bait prohibited Sep 1 - Oct 31, Dogs prohibited Oct 1 - Oct 31, See note 1, Page 70</i>

Spring 2016 & 2017 Black Bear Controlled Hunts (150 Tags) (Females with young are protected!)				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
8001	22-1 ^a (See pg 71)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited</i>
8002	32-1 ^a (See pg 71)	75	Apr 1 - May 22	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</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. Bears may not be pursued during this controlled hunt without having a controlled hunt tag in possession.

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

^b This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 109.

Submitted by:

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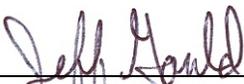
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Jeff Gould, Chief
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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

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.

