

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Surveys and Inventories

Statewide Report
Harvest Year 2016



BLACK BEAR

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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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, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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 calendar year 2016, 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 2016. It is unknown how many of these individuals hunted black bear. A total of 3,550 houndhunter permits were sold in 2016, 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 2016. 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. The 2016 harvest of 2,636 bears was slightly below the 2015 kill, but above the previous 10-year averaged. Sixty-two percent of the annual harvest occurs during the spring bear season (2014–2016). The dominant method for hunting black bears is with the use of bait (46% of the annual harvest, 2014–2016).

Typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of females in the harvest averaged 36% during 2015. Also typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of 5 year old and older bears within the male harvest averaged 32% during 2016.

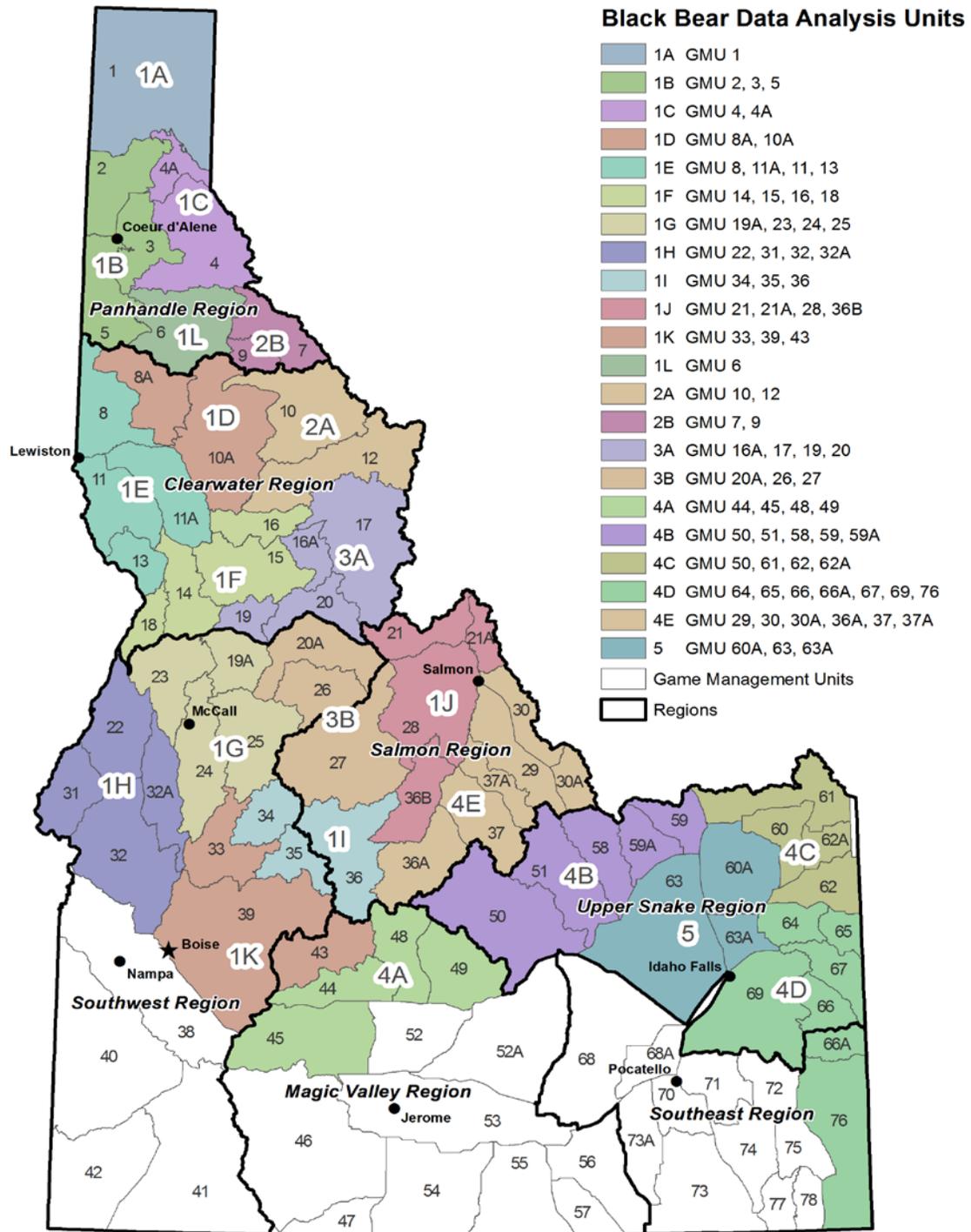


Figure 1. Twenty-two Data Analysis Units (DAU) for black bear management in Idaho.



Statewide

2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)		
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	
57,555	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.6
	Percent Females	36%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	32%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	2,670	2,171	2,089	2,513	2,250	2,496	2,215	2,490	2,814	2,636
	Males										
	0-4 years	1,024	884	909	1,004	860	1,038	909	990	1,241	0
	5+ years	595	441	454	527	500	521	447	511	522	0
	Unknown	77	45	41	85	56	67	49	56	64	1,682
	Subtotal	1,696	1,370	1,404	1,616	1,416	1,626	1,405	1,557	1,827	1,682
Females	0-4 years	488	369	345	441	347	437	372	432	487	0
	5+ years	420	387	310	394	439	389	397	450	454	0
	Unknown	66	45	30	62	48	44	41	51	46	954
	Subtotal	974	801	685	897	834	870	810	933	987	954
Season²	Spring	1,419	1,109	1,128	1,359	1,201	1,463	1,373	1,547	1,778	1,770
	Fall	1,257	1,072	970	1,161	1,050	1,038	845	954	1,051	873
Method³	Bait	1,010	753	818	980	858	1,093	945	1,076	1,286	1,224
	BaitHounds	40	22	30	36	28	31	26	32	31	29
	Hounds	329	325	276	338	322	360	343	383	471	425
	Incidental	445	363	281	381	313	283	228	272	310	261
	PredCall	8	4	2	5	2	5	5	4	5	7
	Still/Stalk	784	673	621	727	679	667	612	679	678	669

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods listed

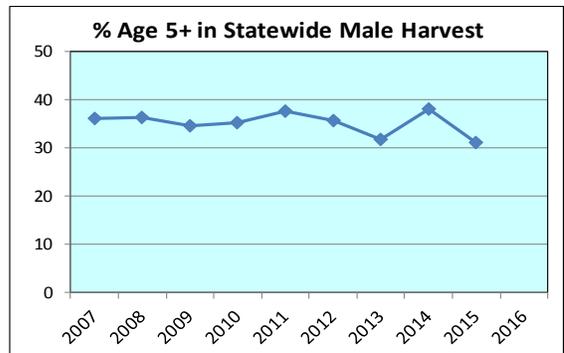
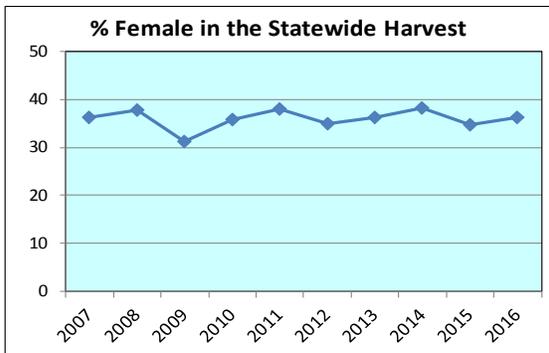
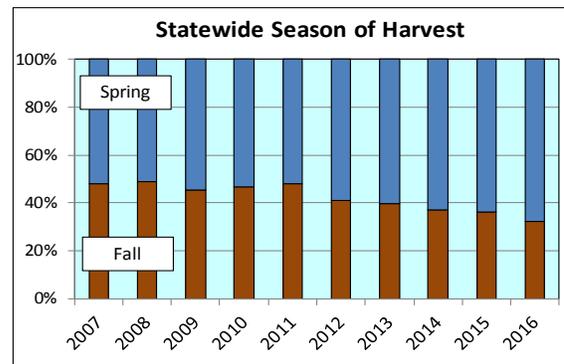
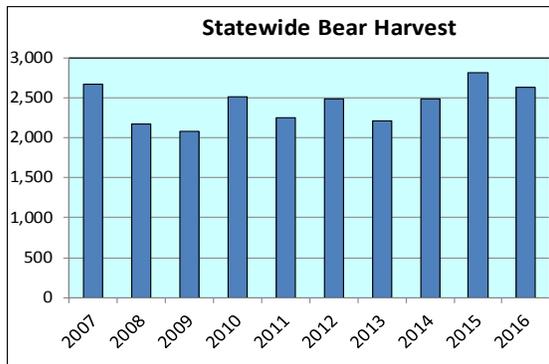


Figure 2. Statewide Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

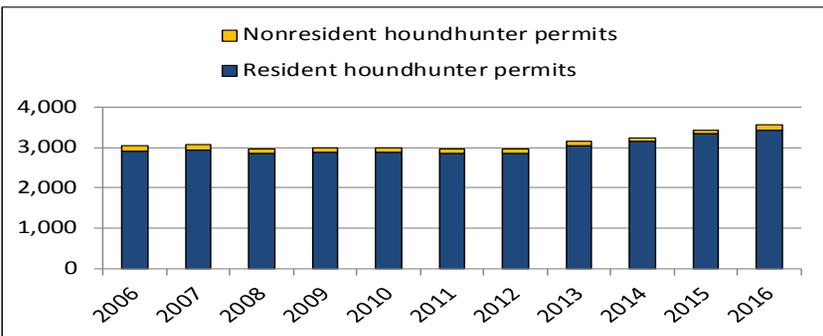
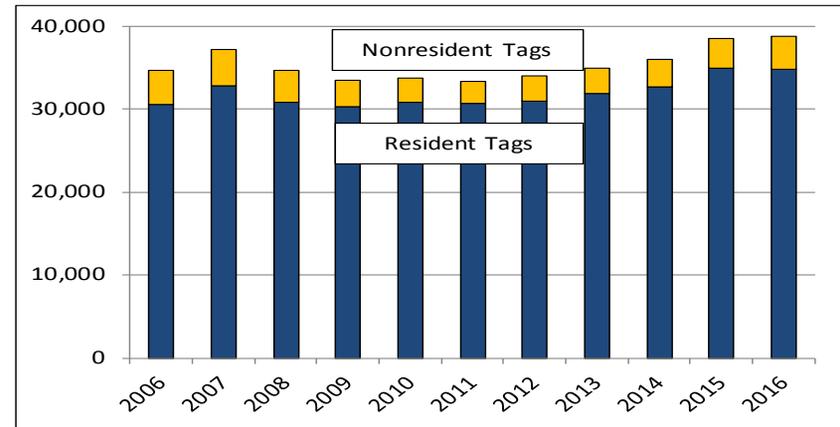
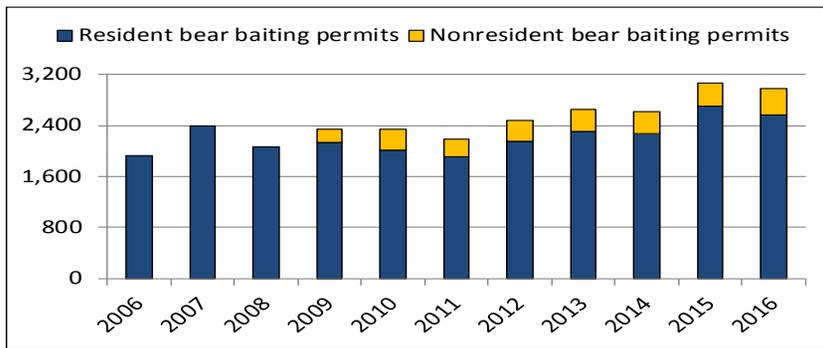


Figure 3. Statewide Black Bear Tags and Permits.

PANHANDLE REGION

AREA 1

Management Direction

The Department will offer a variety of hunting opportunities in Area 1. DAUs within the area include all harvest categories as defined in the 2000–2010 Black Bear Management Plan. The “reservoir concept” is not a major influence affecting Area 1. That is, harvest data 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 171 during 2016, approximately 3% above the 2013–2015 average. The harvest composition has changed little during the past 10 years. The percentage of females in the harvest averaged 32% from 2014–2016, and the percentage of males in age classes 5+ is 37% from 2013–2015 (Figure 4; 2016 age data is not currently available). The 2016 huckleberry crop was “average-above average”, however patchy in some areas.

Management Direction

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

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-four percent of the 2016 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 spring season in 2016; with 57% percent of the harvest in the spring, however, on average most harvest has occurred during the fall season.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2014–2016 harvest was composed of 32% females on average, slightly higher than the target of <30% females in the harvest. However, from 2012–2016 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; 2016 age data is not currently available).

Dog-training Seasons

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

Management Implications

No changes in hunting seasons are indicated by examination of management criteria. The 3-year average of 32% females in the harvest is slightly higher than the management objective but, as noted, the 2012–2016 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; however if the trend of 2015 harvest of males 5 years or older (29%) continues, then this metric also warrants watching. There are no known problems with low calf elk or fawn deer ratios in this DAU at this time.



DAU 1A (GMU 1)

2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages			Goal
2,475	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :			7.4
	Percent Females			32%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*			37%
				NA
				<30%
				>35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	208	145	130	179	147	151	123	152	224	171	
	Males	0-4 years	59	47	55	53	43	58	44	59	102	0
		5+ years	62	46	28	47	38	41	40	39	39	0
		Unknown	17	1	5	12	8	8	1	5	9	121
	Subtotal	138	94	88	112	89	107	85	103	150	121	
Females	0-4 years	33	20	17	29	16	17	22	18	34	0	
	5+ years	34	28	20	25	36	23	13	27	35	0	
	Unknown	3	3	5	13	6	4	3	4	5	50	
	Subtotal	70	51	42	67	58	44	38	49	74	50	
Season²	Spring	98	70	71	69	70	73	76	74	100	98	
	Fall	111	78	59	110	78	78	47	79	126	73	
Method³	Bait	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	
	BaitHounds											
	Hounds	2	6	3	6	7	6	5	6	5	4	
	Incidental	16	15	9	16	16	17	5	13	47	18	
	PredCall	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	StillStalk	182	121	115	148	121	116	110	124	159	144	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

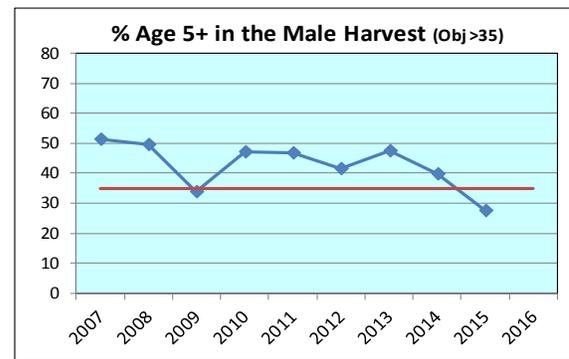
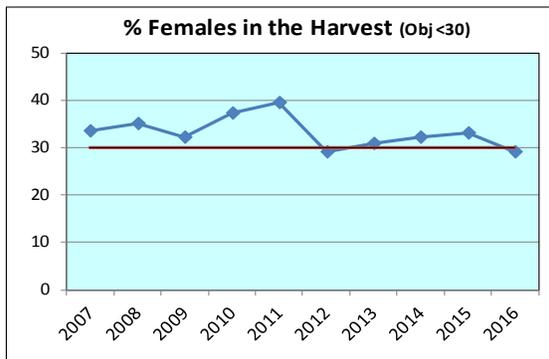
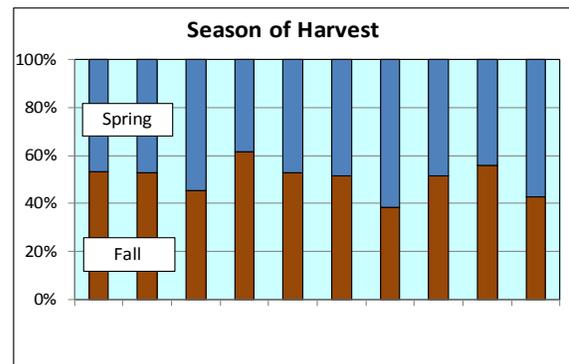
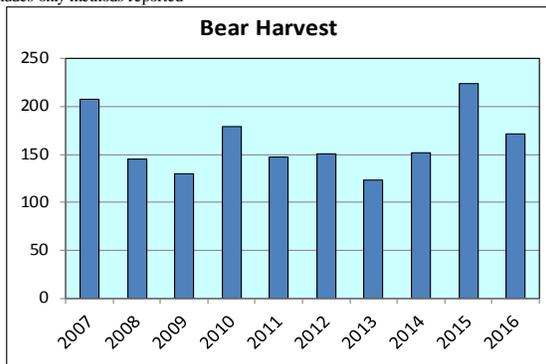


Figure 4. DAU1A Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1B (GMUs 2, 3, 5)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1B was 122 during 2016, a 15% increase over the 2013–2015 average of 106 bears (Figure 5). Males 5+ years of age made up 17% of the harvest over the past 3 years (2013–2015; 2016 age data is not currently available), 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 2015, harvest using bait was the most predominant method (54%) followed by hound hunting (30%). Still/stalk accounted for 9% of harvest in 2016 and incidental harvest was 6% (Figure 5). The use of hounds has increased over the years in this DAU, while still/stalk has decreased. In 2016, 56% of the harvest occurred in the spring, which is the highest spring harvest in the last 10 years.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2014–2016 harvest was 40%. In 2015, 18% of the males that were harvested were 5+ years old (2016 age data is not currently available). 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 16%, 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages			Objective
1,963	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :		6.0	NA
	Percent Females		40%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		17%	<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	153	126	131	120	96	129	86	100	132	122	
	Males	0-4 years	67	61	63	52	43	53	45	48	63	0
	5+ years	21	10	12	17	12	17	5	12	14	0	
	Unknown	3	1	6	4	3	6	0	4	1	69	
	Subtotal	91	72	81	73	58	76	50	64	78	69	
Females	0-4 years	34	22	30	26	19	30	18	21	22	0	
	5+ years	26	30	17	18	18	21	17	15	29	0	
	Unknown	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	0	3	53	
	Subtotal	62	54	50	47	38	53	36	36	54	53	
Season²	Spring	36	12	30	30	13	31	32	29	61	69	
	Fall	117	114	103	90	84	98	54	72	73	55	
Method³	Bait	52	40	52	56	49	54	44	48	71	66	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	Hounds	21	24	30	17	16	23	17	18	34	37	
	Incidental	28	21	9	11	16	18	6	10	11	7	
	PredCall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	StillStalk	48	35	36	30	10	22	17	20	16	11	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

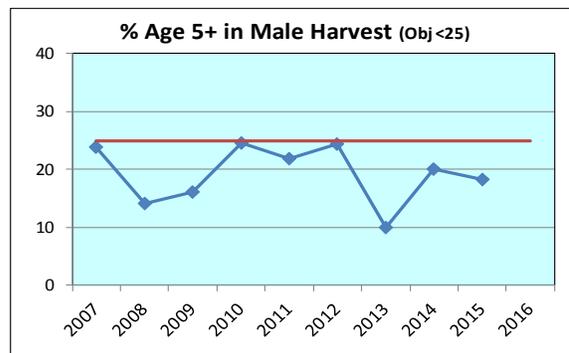
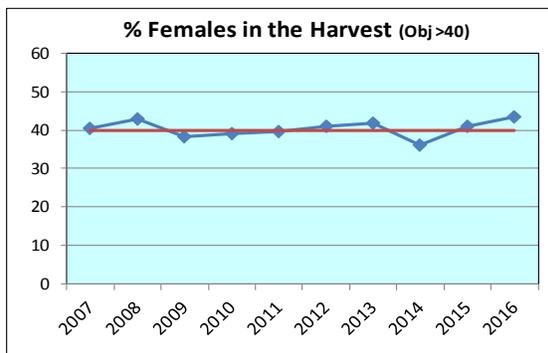
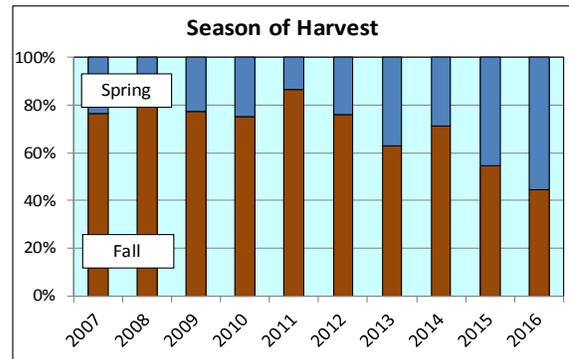
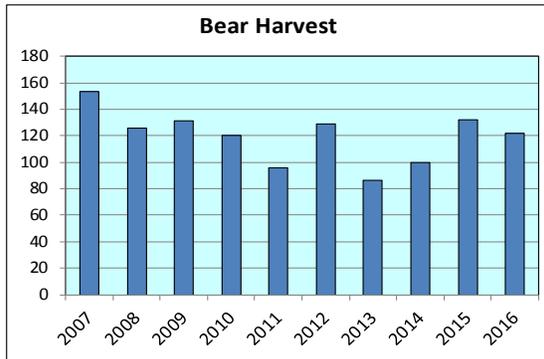


Figure 5. DAU1B Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)

Abstract

Reported black bear harvest in DAU 1C was 194 during 2016, a 14% 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

Sixty-four percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2016, a 45% increase from the previous 10-year average. Baiting (46%) and hound hunting (24%) were the primary methods used to harvest bears in DAU 1C followed by still/stalk (18%). Incidental kills (10%) made up the remaining harvest (Figure 6).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2014–2016 harvest was 36%, 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% (2016 age data is not currently available). This criterion has not been achieved in the previous 10 years (Figure 6).

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season in DAU 1C was 1 July–31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

Hunting seasons were altered twice since the 1999–2010 black bear plan was initiated in an attempt to change the population composition with more liberal seasons. During 2000, the fall hunting season was opened 30 August rather than 15 September as it was during 1999. During 2004, two weeks were added to the spring season, closing 31 May rather than 15 May. No response has been seen in management indicators. Management indicators have changed little since 1994. 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 20 June. Spring 2016 harvest was extended to 30 June. The extension of the spring season likely has contributed to a larger proportion of bears taken during the spring, coupled with favorable spring weather conditions for mountain access.

DAU 1C (GMUs 4, 4A)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
1,523	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	12.7	NA
	Percent Females	35%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	35%	<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	168	107	136	160	148	163	126	151	233	194
	0-4 years	52	40	57	61	59	67	41	66	90	0
	5+ years	47	19	33	31	17	26	33	22	52	0
	Unknown	5	4	5	12	4	8	6	4	9	130
	Subtotal	104	63	95	104	80	101	80	92	151	130
Females	0-4 years	27	22	16	19	19	30	17	22	43	0
	5+ years	34	21	21	30	43	29	23	34	31	0
	Unknown	3	1	4	7	6	3	6	3	8	64
	Subtotal	64	44	41	56	68	62	46	59	82	64
Season²	Spring	77	28	47	71	44	64	61	70	141	124
	Fall	92	79	90	89	104	100	65	83	93	71
Method³	Bait	47	25	29	55	43	49	44	45	91	90
	BaitHounds	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	3
	Hounds	26	16	31	44	26	38	38	41	52	47
	Incidental	34	29	13	16	28	17	10	17	26	20
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	58	36	51	42	36	55	29	44	58	35

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

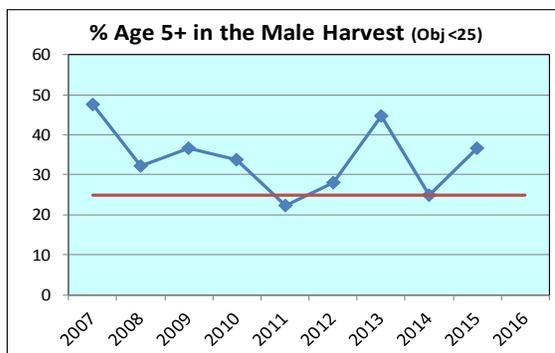
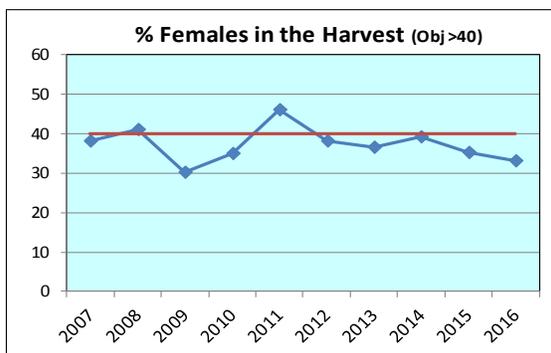
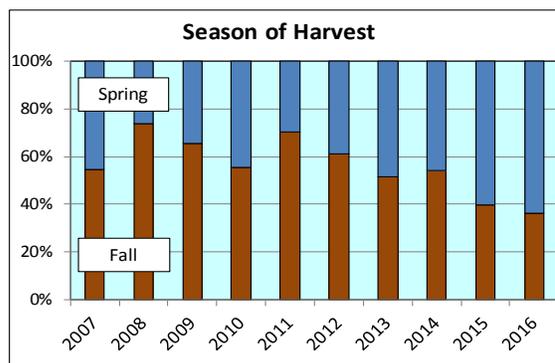
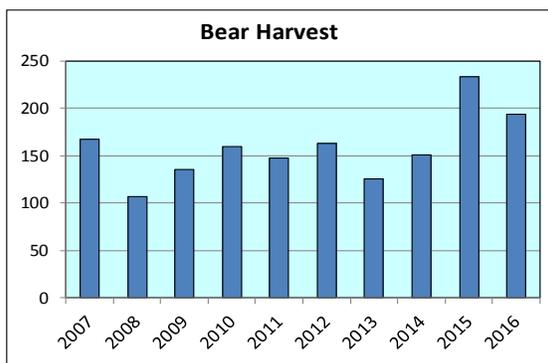


Figure 6. DAU1C Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1L (GMU 6)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 1L was 100 in 2016, 25% below the 2013–2015. Sixty-five percent of the harvest occurred during spring in 2016(Figure 7). Females made up 38% of the 3-year harvest average from 2014–2016, which is slightly below the objectives established for this DAU. The 3-year average for the percentage of males ≥ 5 years from 2013–2015 was 25% (2016 age data is not currently available), 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 additions of bait and a 30 August opener instead of 15 September (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 30 June 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; 40% of successful hunters used this method in 2016. Spotting/stalking had traditionally been the primary method used to hunt bears but is now third at 16% (2016). The use of hounds accounted for 35% (2016) of the harvest, the second most used method (Figure 7).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty-nine percent of the 2014–2016 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, age data for 2016 was not available).

Dog-training Seasons

The 2016 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 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. Spring harvest has been the largest proportion of harvest since the season was extended to June 30, while historically most harvest occurred during the fall season on average. 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
1,053	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	11.6	NA
	Percent Females	39%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	25%	>35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	97	62	71	81	74	115	136	150	117	100	
	Males	0-4 years	43	29	31	34	40	51	53	53	59	0
		5+ years	16	9	17	14	7	18	23	18	14	0
		Unknown	3	3	1	0	0	3	3	8	0	71
	Subtotal	62	41	49	48	47	72	79	79	73	71	
Females	0-4 years	18	11	9	23	15	17	16	34	20	0	
	5+ years	15	8	13	9	10	25	40	33	23	0	
	Unknown	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	4	1	29	
	Subtotal	35	21	22	33	27	43	57	71	44	29	
Season²	Spring	38	18	30	44	38	44	95	102	76	65	
	Fall	59	44	42	37	36	71	41	49	42	35	
Method³	Bait	18	10	16	23	21	41	45	56	46	40	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hounds	19	9	14	11	14	22	40	46	32	35	
	Incidental	24	16	9	8	8	11	11	12	16	8	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
	Still/Stalk	36	27	29	36	29	34	31	32	23	16	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

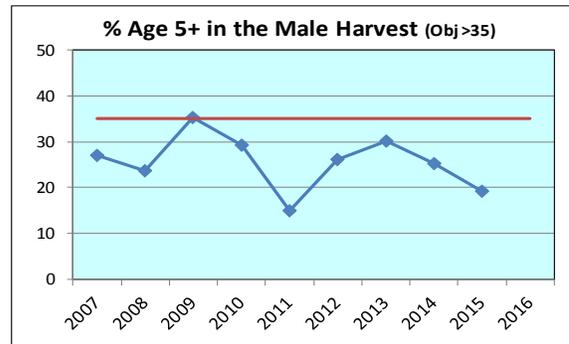
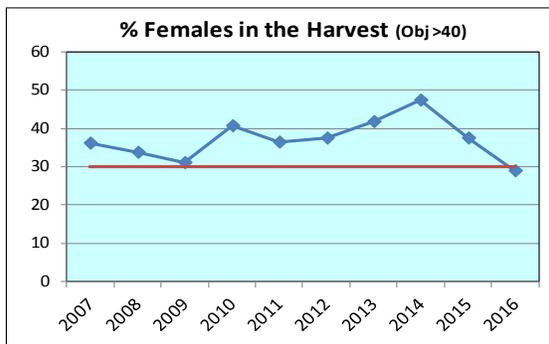
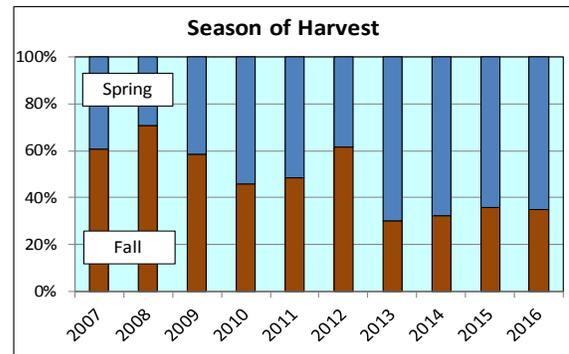
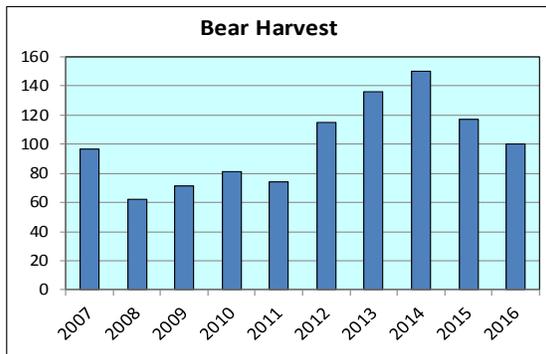


Figure 7. DAU1L Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 2

DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in DAU 2B was 95 bears during 2016, 38% above the 2013–2015 average. Spring harvest is predominant in this DAU (91% of the 2016 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 2013–2016 was 37%, which falls within the moderate category. Male age structure (36% 5+ years old in 2015) still puts this DAU well into the light harvest level (Figure 8; 2016 age data is not currently available).

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 31 July and an additional bear tag was added in the fall of 2012. For five 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 2016 harvest of 95 bears was 38% above the previous 3 year average. Ninety-one percent of the 2016 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Figure 8).

Eighty-one percent of the 2016 harvest was taken with the use of bait, the highest percentage in Panhandle Region. Incidental harvest accounted for 13% and still/stalk harvest accounted for 4% of the harvest.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The percentage of females in the 2013–2016 harvest was 37% and 34%, 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% in 2015 (2016 age data is not currently available) of the 3-year harvest average, above the objective of 25–35%. This DAU is slated for moderate harvest; female harvest criterion was in this range but male harvest remains in the light category (Figure 8).

Dog-training Seasons

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

Management Implications

The proportion of females was in the moderate harvest category for the last five 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
765	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	10.7	NA
	Percent Females	37%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	35%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	60	48	47	69	40	61	55	76	75	95
	0-4 years	27	18	22	28	14	22	22	26	34	0
	5+ years	18	14	13	19	8	19	17	18	10	0
	Unknown	1	0	4	5	1	1	2	3	3	60
Subtotal		46	32	39	52	23	42	41	47	47	60
Males	0-4 years	7	8	3	4	7	10	7	10	14	0
	5+ years	6	8	5	10	10	8	7	14	13	0
	Unknown	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	5	1	35
	Subtotal	14	16	8	17	17	19	14	29	28	35
Season²	Spring	51	38	30	54	25	46	49	67	63	86
	Fall	9	10	17	16	15	15	6	9	12	9
Method³	Bait	43	35	27	55	23	43	40	50	51	77
	BaitHounds	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0
	Incidental	5	7	10	5	6	8	2	10	8	12
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	9	4	9	8	11	8	5	5	5	4

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

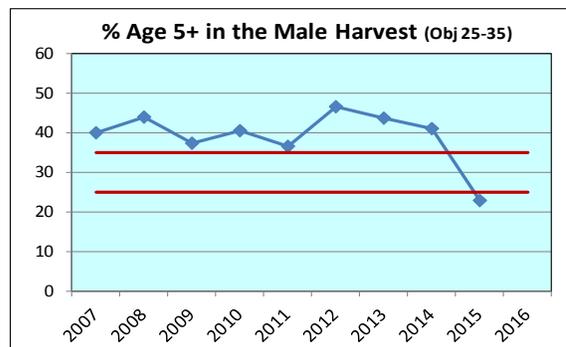
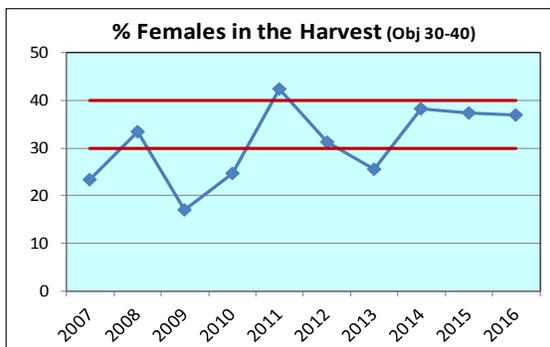
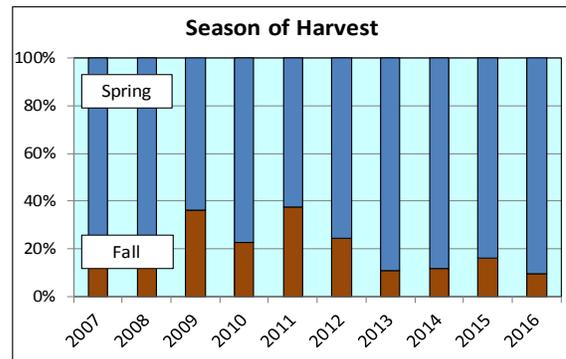
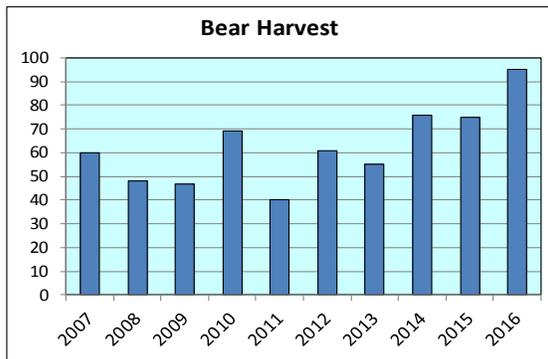


Figure 8. DAU2B Black Bear Status and Objectives

CLEARWATER REGION

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 2016, 51% of bears were harvested in the spring and 49% were harvested in the fall. The most common method of take in 2016 was by hound hunters (50%), followed by still/stalk hunters (27%), and incidental take (20%; Figure 9). High road densities in this DAU 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, but we are still awaiting the age results to determine the percent males ≥ 5 years of age in 2016.

Management Direction

DAU 1D has historically exhibited signs of high black bear harvest. Heavy harvest objectives for the female category were met in 2016. Although the female harvest objective has consistently been met over the last 8 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 intense 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, 2015, and 2016, 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 2016, 126 black bears were harvested in DAU 1D, compared to the 3-year average of 120 black bears. Females accounted for 43% of the harvest in 2016 (Figure 9). Slightly more black bears (51%) were harvested during the spring than fall season in 2016. We are still awaiting age analysis results for the 2016 harvest.

The primary method of harvest in 2016 was hound hunting, which accounted for 50% of the total harvest, followed by incidental harvest (20%) and still-hunting (27%). This represents a shift from 1990–1992, when baiting was the most common method used.

Depredations

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1D in 2016.

Dog-training Seasons

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

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)

2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,287	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	5.8	NA
	Percent Females	43%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	27%	<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest ¹	TOTAL	149	151	121	126	99	116	86	128	145	126
	Males										
	0-4 years	71	74	56	45	40	43	28	61	57	0
	5+ years	25	17	12	20	15	24	16	12	25	0
	Unknown	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	0	70
	Subtotal	98	92	70	68	56	69	45	74	82	70
Females	0-4 years	30	31	31	31	21	27	24	30	42	0
	5+ years	16	24	17	24	22	17	17	21	21	0
	Unknown	5	4	3	3	0	3	0	3	0	56
	Subtotal	51	59	51	58	43	47	41	54	63	56
Season ²	Spring	74	41	44	48	33	50	44	44	72	64
	Fall	77	110	77	78	66	66	42	84	73	62
Method ³	Bait	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	4
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	80	70	49	51	41	59	37	62	82	63
	Incidental	36	53	39	48	34	29	24	37	16	25
	PredCall	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	32	24	32	24	23	23	21	26	46	34

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

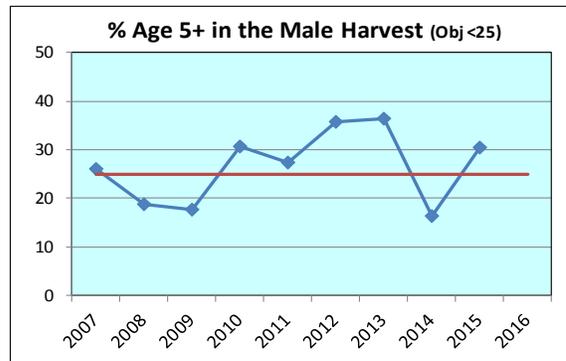
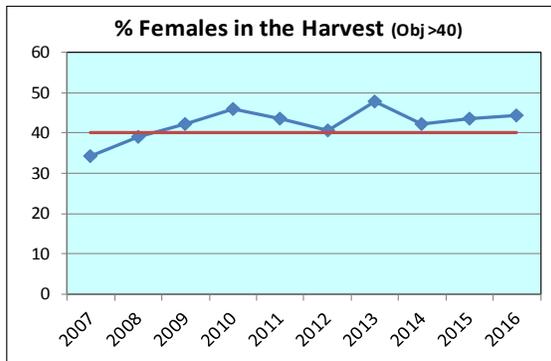
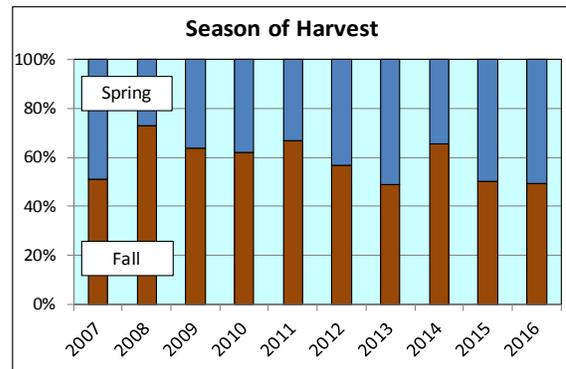
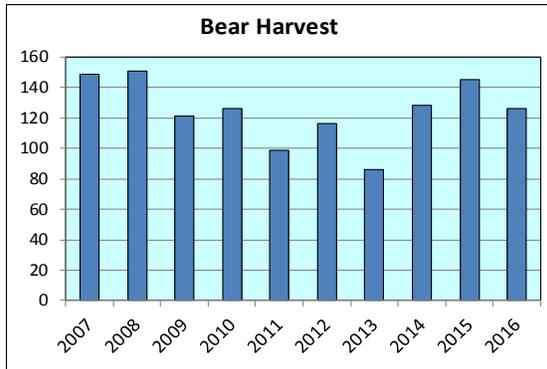


Figure 8. DAU1D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1E harvested a total of 129 black bears during 2016, compared to 104 black bears harvested during 2015, and the previous 3-year average of 94 (2013–2015). Females accounted for 40% of harvested bears in 2016. Most black bears were harvested in the spring (61%) with still/stalk hunting (36%) and baiting (43%) 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 2016 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2016 was 47 days.

Population Surveys

Bait station surveys were discontinued in this DAU in 2008.

Harvest Characteristics

There were 129 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2016. This compares to a previous 3-year average of 94 bears. Sixty-one percent and 39% were taken in the spring and fall of 2016, respectively. The current 2000–2010 Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1E is to be managed for harvest at the “heavy” level; female harvest criteria were met in 2016 (% female bears = 40%). The most frequent methods of harvest were bait and still/stalk hunting in 2016 (Figure 10).

Depredations

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1E in 2016.

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. 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,698	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.1	NA
	Percent Females	40%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	18%	<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest ¹	TOTAL	62	73	77	85	80	88	76	102	104	129	
	Males	0-4 years	24	27	34	35	35	39	46	46	48	0
		5+ years	7	13	9	15	17	17	4	12	15	0
		Unknown	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	75
	Subtotal	31	42	44	51	53	56	51	59	66	75	
Females	0-4 years	20	15	22	20	16	24	14	27	27	0	
	5+ years	9	13	10	9	11	8	11	15	9	0	
	Unknown	2	3	1	5	0	0	0	1	2	54	
	Subtotal	31	31	33	34	27	32	25	43	38	54	
Season ²	Spring	29	33	34	38	39	52	39	58	63	79	
	Fall	33	40	43	47	41	36	37	44	42	50	
Method ³	Bait	19	18	20	26	26	30	24	30	47	55	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hounds	8	10	11	17	15	11	14	12	21	12	
	Incidental	11	17	22	19	10	15	13	18	15	14	
	PredCall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Still/Stalk	21	27	24	22	27	29	24	40	22	46	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

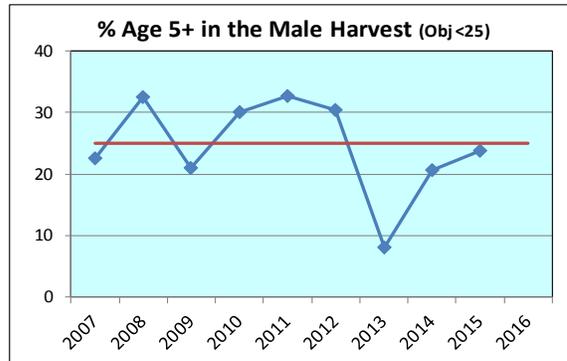
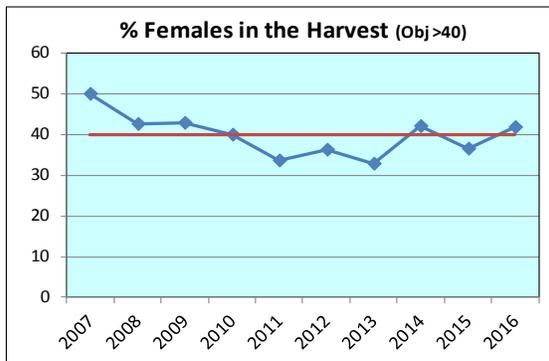
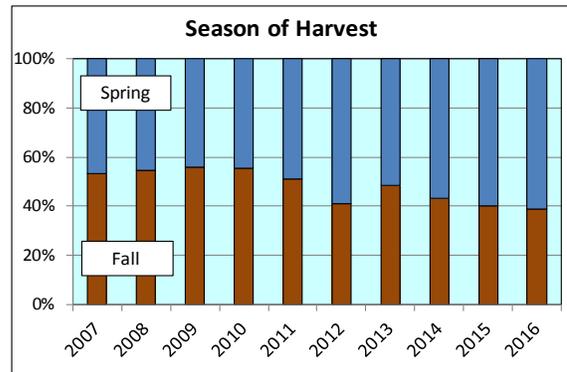
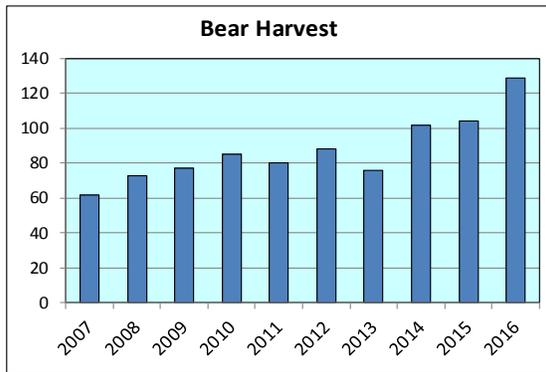


Figure 10. DAU1E Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 192 black bears during 2016, compared to 183 in 2015, and a previous 3-year average of 175. More black bears were harvested during the spring in 2016 (58%) than in the fall. The most frequent harvest methods in 2016 were bait (52%), hounds (21%), and still/stalk hunting (17%). Females accounted for 46% of harvested bears in 2016. We are awaiting age analysis results for the 2016 harvest.

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 2015 and 2016 harvest results, current harvest is at the “moderate” level although we are still awaiting age analysis results from bears harvested in 2016. 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 in 2004.

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. This longer season remained in place in 2016.

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 192 black bears harvested in DAU 1F during 2016 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 2016 harvest period (Figure 11). The most common harvest methods in 2016 were bait (53%), hounds (21%), still/stalk hunting (17%), and incidental (9%).

Depredations

There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1F in 2016.

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season ran from 1 June–31 July in GMUs 14 and 18 and 1–31 July in GMUs 15 and 16 (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 1F has historically received intensive hound hunting activity because of its proximity to population centers and easy road access. Most of the DAU is on national forest lands with high road densities.

Harvest objectives in this DAU are set at “heavy” for both male and female harvest. The 2016 harvest results indicated that percent females (40%) did not meet the objective of >40% and in 2015 percent males ≥ 5 years old (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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,121	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	8.8	NA
	Percent Females	40%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years	28%	<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest ¹	TOTAL	150	142	159	179	140	148	155	187	183	192	
	Males	0-4 years	65	72	71	78	61	66	72	77	90	0
	5+ years	29	29	31	46	23	27	30	36	25	0	
	Unknown	2	1	0	1	2	4	1	1	3	104	
	Subtotal	96	102	102	125	86	97	103	114	118	104	
Females	0-4 years	27	17	34	28	30	24	27	36	33	0	
	5+ years	24	21	23	24	22	22	24	32	31	0	
	Unknown	3	2	0	2	2	5	1	5	1	88	
	Subtotal	54	40	57	54	54	51	52	73	65	88	
Season ²	Spring	54	48	52	92	69	79	80	108	95	112	
	Fall	96	94	107	88	71	69	75	79	88	80	
Method ³	Bait	53	51	60	80	57	70	68	87	91	101	
	BaitHounds	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
	Hounds	30	18	26	31	28	38	47	43	42	41	
	Incidental	34	22	34	24	19	11	11	22	17	17	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	29	51	37	45	35	27	28	32	32	33	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

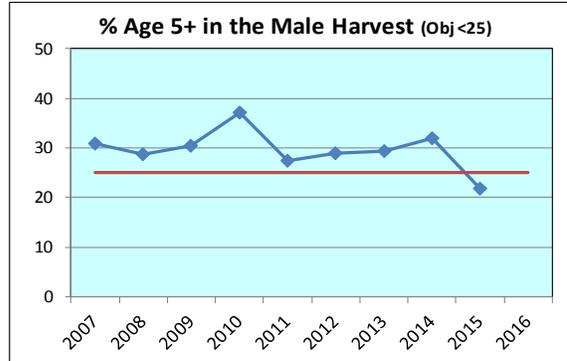
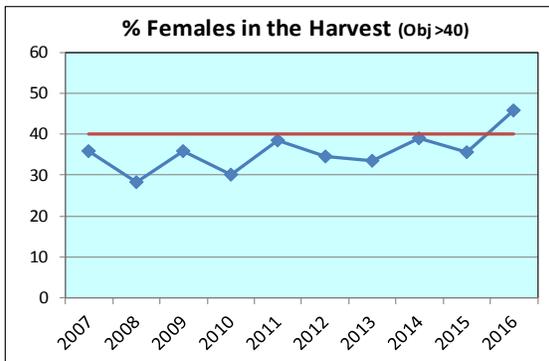
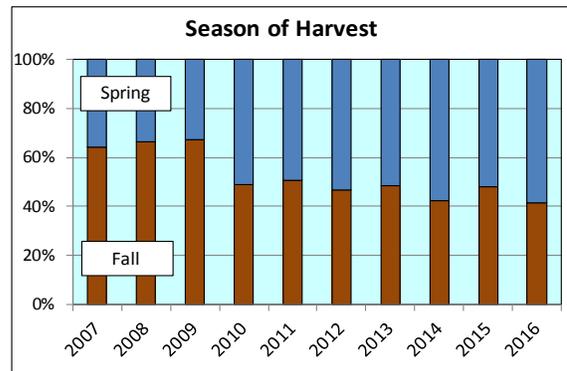
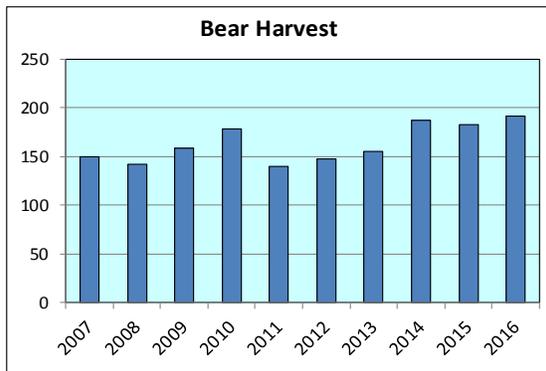


Figure 11. DAU1F Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 2

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)

Abstract

In 2016, 239 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 279 in 2015, and a 3-year average of 258. The 2016 harvest consisted of 31% females, failing to meet the criteria for “heavy” harvest. We are awaiting age analysis results for the 2016 harvest. Eighty-eight percent of the total harvest occurred during the spring season in 2016 (Figure 12). Baiting was the primary method of the harvest (85%).

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 in 2014 and stayed in place through the 2016 season. The spring season was 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 the 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 2016, 239 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, compared to 279 in 2015, and a previous 3-year average of 258. Eighty-eight percent of these black bears were harvested during the 2016 spring season. Harvest contained 34% females in 2016. 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 85% of the harvest in DAU 2A in 2016, followed by still/stalk (7%).

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 2016.

Dog-training Seasons

Dog-training season occurred from 1–31 July (Appendix A).

Management Implications

DAU 2A receives moderate hunting pressure. The DAU is characterized by roadless habitats, public land, healthy black bear populations, and liberal hunting season frameworks. Harvest was slightly below the previous 3-year average in 2016 and did not meet the desired objective of heavy harvest of female bears (Figure 12). We are awaiting age analysis results for the 2016 harvest.

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 (88% in 2016).

DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,373	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :		10.7
	Percent Females		31%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		27%
			NA
			>40%
			<25%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	319	238	250	308	285	305	248	246	279	239	
	Males	0-4 years	124	119	123	159	121	151	95	116	159	0
	5+ years	70	34	47	50	72	52	59	43	35	0	
	Unknown	6	7	6	5	2	5	6	11	3	157	
	Subtotal	200	160	176	214	195	208	160	170	197	157	
Females	0-4 years	55	40	32	52	31	53	37	37	41	0	
	5+ years	54	35	42	41	51	41	48	33	35	0	
	Unknown	10	3	0	1	8	3	3	6	6	82	
	Subtotal	119	78	74	94	90	97	88	76	82	82	
Season²	Spring	262	194	206	244	222	260	221	215	228	210	
	Fall	57	44	44	64	64	45	28	34	51	29	
Method³	Bait	259	168	181	232	208	261	197	214	235	202	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Hounds	11	12	6	2	11	5	4	6	4	11	
	Incidental	21	14	17	17	16	4	8	6	6	6	
	PredCall	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	Still/Stalk	26	40	37	48	47	32	34	21	27	16	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

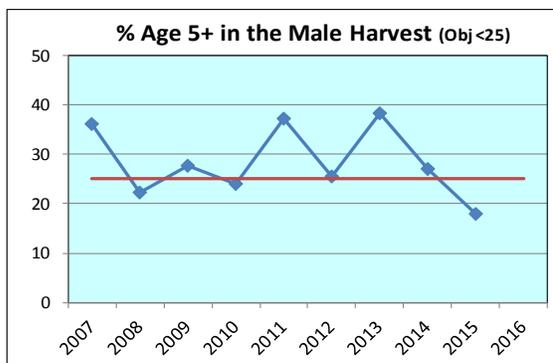
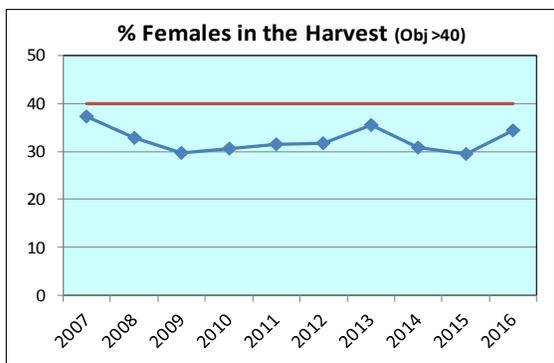
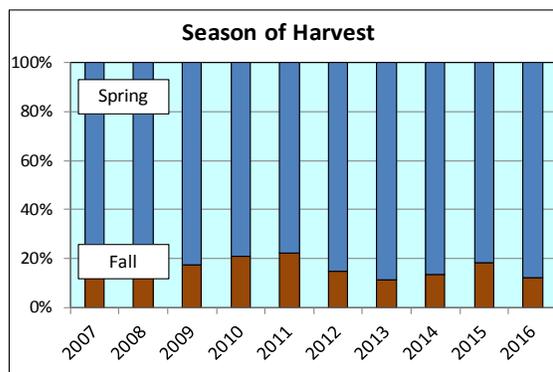
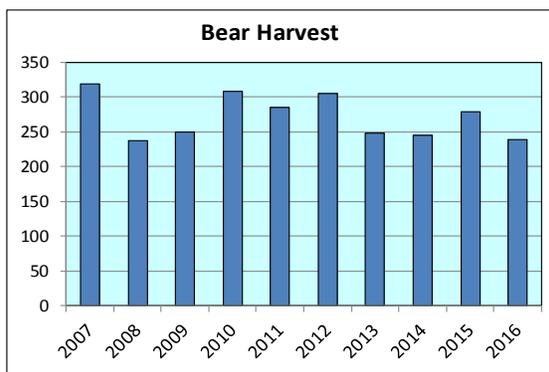


Figure 12. DAU2A Black Bear Status and Objectives

AREA 3

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

Abstract

During 2016, a total of 117 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A, compared to the 2015 harvest of 111, and the previous 3-year average (2013–2015) of 104. Harvest consisted of 23% females in 2016. We are awaiting age analysis results from the 2016 harvest season. The majority of harvest occurred during the spring season in 2016 (79%) (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. Seventy-three percent of the black bears taken in 2016 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 2016. 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 2016, 117 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A compared to 111 in 2015 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 117 bears

harvested in 2016, 23% were females. Spring harvest accounted for 79% of the total harvest. 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 2016 were taken over bait (73%) followed by still/stalk (19%).

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 2016.

Dog-training Seasons

No dog-training season is offered in DAU 3A (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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,527	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.4	NA
	Percent Females	29%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	42%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	136	127	142	130	121	118	93	107	111	117
	Males										
	0-4 years	45	42	53	50	40	51	36	39	49	0
	5+ years	48	39	44	43	43	38	33	30	28	0
	Unknown	0	3	4	1	3	0	1	3	0	90
	Subtotal	93	84	101	94	86	89	70	72	77	90
Females	0-4 years	22	14	14	15	8	14	9	14	15	0
	5+ years	18	23	27	19	24	15	13	18	17	0
	Unknown	3	6	0	2	3	0	1	3	2	27
	Subtotal	43	43	41	36	35	29	23	35	34	27
Season²	Spring	92	98	100	84	85	91	81	80	79	93
	Fall	44	30	43	46	36	27	12	27	33	24
Method³	Bait	89	90	86	74	71	91	55	63	67	82
	BaitHounds	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	5	4	1
	Incidental	10	7	11	17	3	4	2	9	8	8
	PredCall	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Still/Stalk	31	27	40	34	42	22	31	28	31	22

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

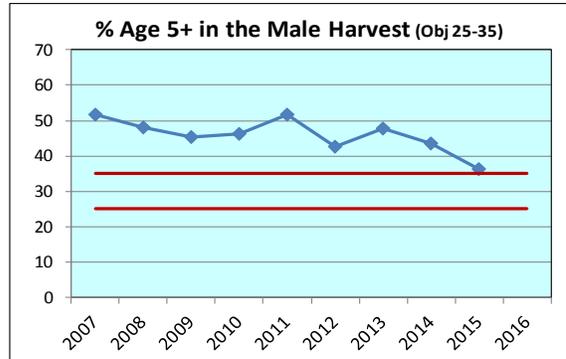
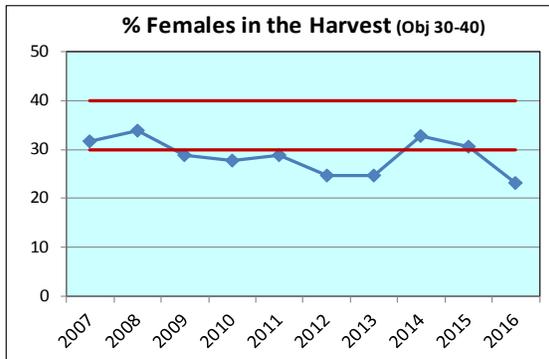
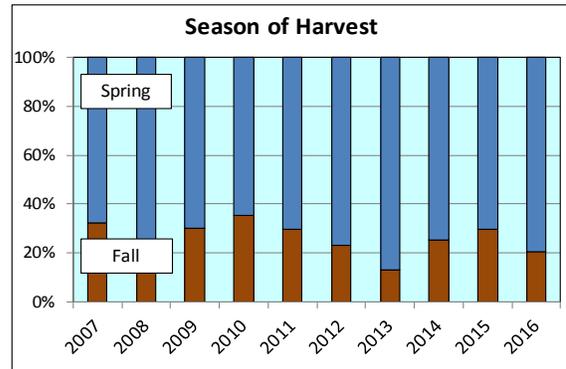
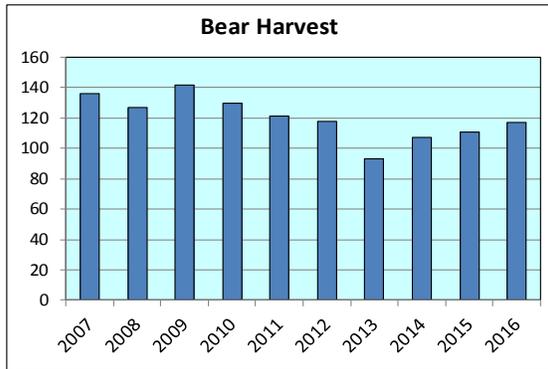


Figure 13. DAU3A Black Bear Status and Objectives

SOUTHWEST REGION

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears (of known sex) in 1G was 202 in 2016, 23% above the previous 3-year average. Over half the bear harvest occurred in the spring season (58%). Females made up 32% of the 3-year harvest average (2014–2016) 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 2016 harvest of 202 black bears is 23% above the previous 3-year average. The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than the fall, consistent with 2014 and 2015, but a change from the prior 8 years. Hunting over bait was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1G in 2016; 51% 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-two percent of the 2014–2016 harvest was female bears, within the moderate harvest target of 30–40% females for this DAU. Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. 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. One bear was killed in this DAU in 2016 (GMU 24) due to conflict with humans. One probable bear-caused livestock depredation incident was reported in DAU 1G in 2016 (one ewe, GMU 24). No bears were controlled in response to livestock depredations in this DAU in 2016.

Dog-training Seasons

The dog training seasons in this DAU was 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 2014–2016 harvest parameters for this DAU, which continue to appear stable and within or near objectives.

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



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,984	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	5.9	NA
	Percent Females	32%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	36%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	170	123	116	134	144	160	165	151	178	202	
	Males	0-4 years	55	59	49	55	67	66	78	58	82	0
		5+ years	41	17	31	26	32	42	33	50	39	0
		Unknown	8	2	0	6	1	1	2	1	0	133
	Subtotal	104	78	80	87	100	109	113	109	121	133	
Females	0-4 years	32	21	23	25	21	29	22	18	26	0	
	5+ years	32	20	11	20	23	21	28	23	28	0	
	Unknown	2	4	2	2	0	1	2	1	3	69	
	Subtotal	66	45	36	47	44	51	52	42	57	69	
Season²	Spring	58	26	49	43	45	71	77	85	103	117	
	Fall	113	98	68	91	99	89	88	68	76	85	
Method³	Bait	70	37	60	48	61	69	81	92	93	100	
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
	Hounds	18	18	14	16	28	28	25	18	35	40	
	Incidental	37	36	17	32	37	31	28	19	25	30	
	PredCall	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	
	Still/Stalk	39	32	24	35	16	28	27	22	24	26	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

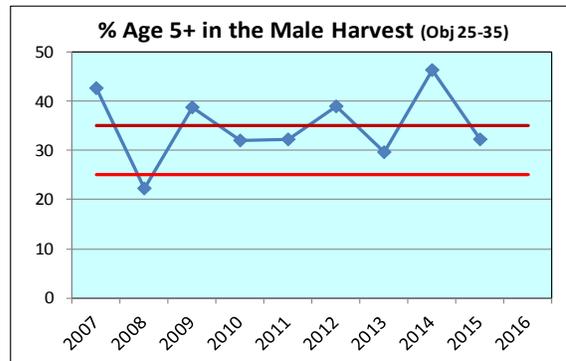
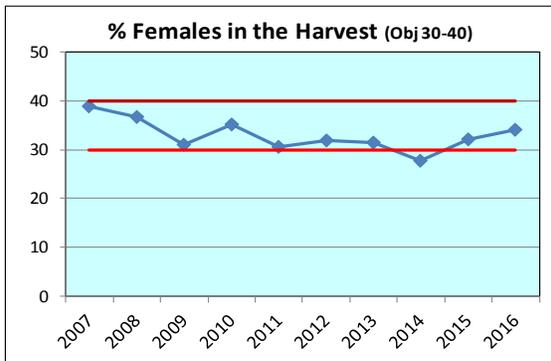
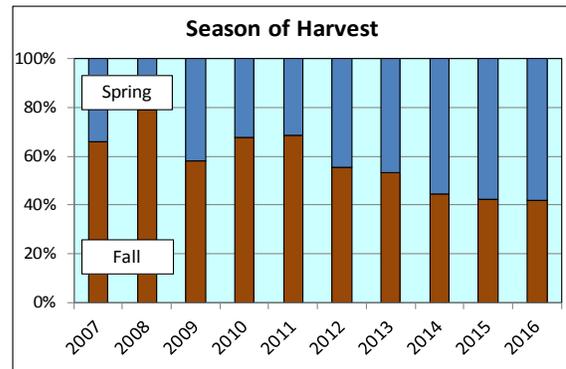
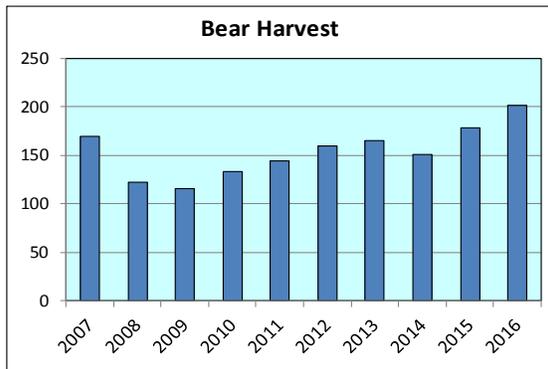


Figure 14. DAU1G Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 1H was 136 in 2016, up 4% from the previous 3-year average. Well over half the harvest occurred during the fall season (57%). Females made up 39% of the 3-year harvest average (2014–2016), exceeding the light harvest target for this DAU of $\leq 30\%$ females in the harvest. The 3-year average (2013–2015) 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 2016 harvest of 136 black bears exceeds the previous 3-year average by 4%. Harvest in this DAU was greater in the fall (57%) than in the spring season, consistent with previous years. Still hunting (stalking) was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1H in 2016; 60% of successful hunters used this method. Hunting with hounds accounted for the vast remainder of the harvest (37%). Hunting over bait is prohibited in these units. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during the spring season in these GMUs.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Thirty-nine percent of the 2014–2016 harvest was female bears, greater than the light harvest target of $\leq 30\%$ females. Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. The percent of males ≥ 5 years in the 2013–2015 harvest was 39%, meeting the objective of $\geq 35\%$. 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 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. Three confirmed or probable bear-caused livestock depredations were reported in DAU 1H in 2016. All occurred in GMU 22 and involved a total of 5 calves. Two black bears were removed in response to these depredations.

Dog training Seasons

The dog training season in this DAU was 23 May – 31 July in 2016.

Management Implications

Data for DAU 1H indicate an 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 at or above 35%; maintain percent females in the harvest at or below 30%; and to maintain a 30% or higher hunter success rate (2014–2016 average success rate was 33%). 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 significant 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)					
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages			Objective	
3,494	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :			3.9	NA
	Percent Females			39%	<30%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*			39%	>35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Males	TOTAL	87	115	95	122	120	130	115	158	120	136
	0-4 years	27	37	41	39	42	42	36	50	47	0
	5+ years	15	32	24	30	25	36	23	40	22	0
	Unknown	4	1	0	5	4	3	6	2	3	88
	Subtotal	46	70	65	74	71	81	65	92	72	88
Females	0-4 years	18	20	11	23	27	13	22	27	20	0
	5+ years	19	23	14	21	18	35	26	38	27	0
	Unknown	4	2	5	4	4	1	2	1	1	48
	Subtotal	41	45	30	48	49	49	50	66	48	48
Season ²	Spring	35	57	40	57	56	69	43	68	45	58
	Fall	52	59	56	65	64	62	72	91	75	78
Method ³	Bait	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	29	40	35	40	40	36	36	50	45	50
	Incidental	3	4	2	7	3	4	3	3	4	4
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
	Still/Stalk	53	69	56	72	74	88	71	101	68	81

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

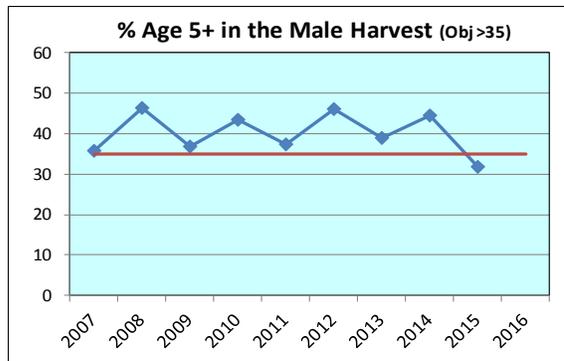
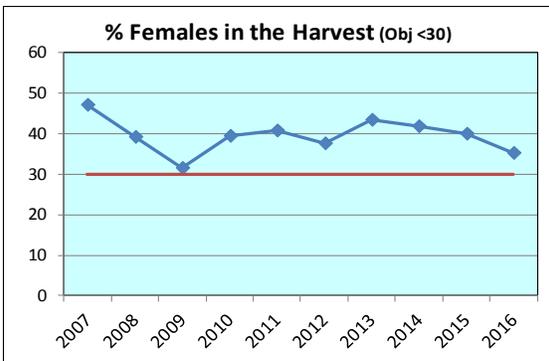
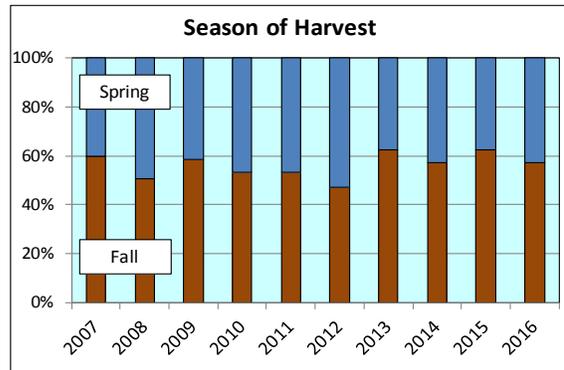
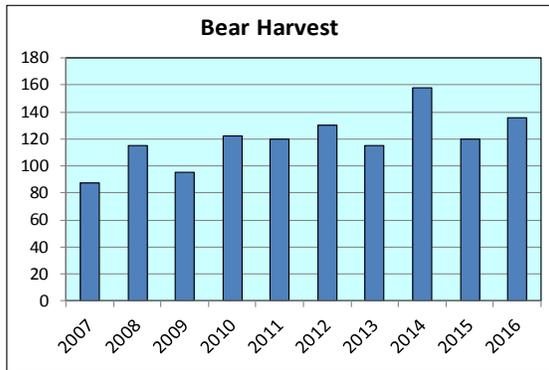


Figure 15. DAU1H Black Bear Status and Objectives

DAU 1K (GMUs 33, 39, 43)

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 1K was 285 in 2016, a 6% increase from the previous 3-year average. More than 80% of the harvest occurred in the spring season in 2016. Females made up 40% of the 3-year harvest average (2014–2016), consistent with the moderate harvest target of 30–40%. The 3-year average (2013–2015) for percent males ≥ 5 years in the male harvest 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 2016 harvest of 285 black bears is 6% above the previous 3-year average. More than 80% of the harvest in this DAU in 2016 occurred during the spring season, consistent with recent years, but part of an increasing trend over the last 10 years. Baiting was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1H in 2016; 54% of successful hunters used this method. Still hunting (stalking) was the second most used method in the 2016 season, accounting for 25% of the harvest.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Forty percent of the 2014–2016 harvest was female bears, meeting the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. 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. Two confirmed bear-caused livestock depredation incidents were recorded in DAU 1K in 2016. Both incidents occurred in GMU 39, involving a total of 73 ewes and lambs. One bear was removed in response to these depredations.

Dog Training Seasons

The dog training season in this DAU 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,814	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	7.4	NA
	Percent Females	40%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	31%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	287	222	184	280	263	262	250	250	310	285
	Males										
	0-4 years	116	95	82	102	105	115	97	107	119	0
	5+ years	55	41	36	54	62	41	42	42	61	0
	Unknown	10	5	1	9	5	8	8	3	5	170
	Subtotal	181	141	119	165	172	164	147	152	185	170
Females	0-4 years	53	45	41	50	35	48	54	47	68	0
	5+ years	38	33	23	57	53	43	41	47	52	0
	Unknown	15	3	1	8	3	7	8	4	5	115
	Subtotal	106	81	65	115	91	98	103	98	125	115
Season²	Spring	172	152	119	179	183	194	178	186	239	233
	Fall	116	74	67	104	82	69	72	64	74	56
Method³	Bait	125	88	86	111	97	143	119	131	179	154
	BaitHounds	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	2
	Hounds	32	44	18	43	42	35	36	35	49	34
	Incidental	32	39	24	43	37	39	24	29	21	22
	PredCall	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	88	53	48	81	82	41	69	55	58	72

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

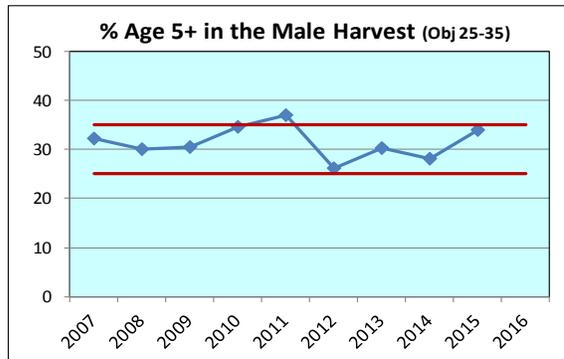
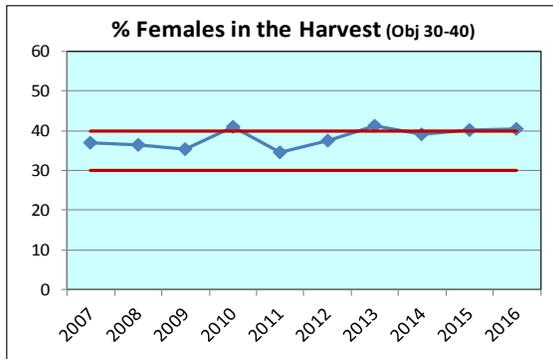
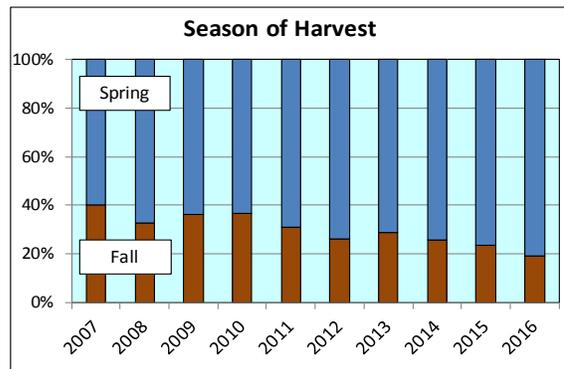
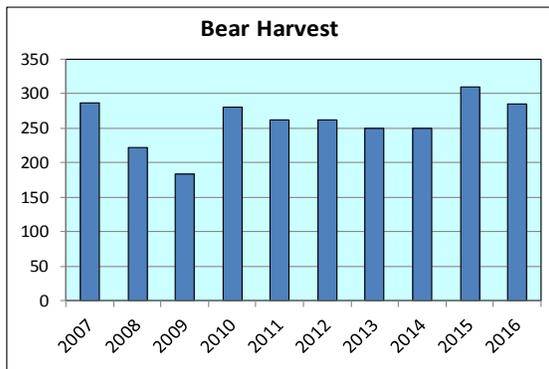


Figure 16. DAU1K Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

Abstract

Harvest of black bears in 3B was 57 in 2016, consistent with the previous 3-year average. The majority of the harvest occurred in the spring season for 2016 (53%). Females made up 291% of the 3-year harvest average (2014–2016), slightly below 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 (2014) 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 2016 harvest of 57 black bears is consistent with the previous 3-year average. The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than in the fall season for 2016, consistent with 2013–2015, 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 2016, accounting for 53% of the harvest. Baiting accounted for the vast remainder of the harvest (30%).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

Twenty-nine percent of the 2014–2016 harvest was female bears, slightly below the moderate harvest target of 30–40%. Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. 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, followed closely by males > 5 years.

Depredations

No bear-caused livestock depredations were recorded in DAU 3B in 2016. One bear was removed for protection of private property/conflict with humans in this DAU in 2016.

Dog Training Seasons

The dog training season in this DAU was 1 July–31 July (GMUs 26 and 27).

Management Implications

Harvest parameters for DAU 3B are near moderate objectives of 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,885	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	2.1	NA	
	Percent Females	29%	30-40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	45%	25-35%	

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
¹	TOTAL	54	50	42	46	50	56	50	54	69	57
	Males										
	0-4 years	17	11	13	12	13	20	22	16	23	0
	5+ years	18	14	20	17	19	18	9	20	21	0
	Unknown	2	3	1	4	3	3	2	1	5	42
	Subtotal	37	28	34	33	35	41	33	37	49	42
Females	0-4 years	7	3	3	7	7	8	4	7	12	0
	5+ years	10	17	5	6	7	6	12	8	7	0
	Unknown	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	15
	Subtotal	17	22	8	13	15	15	17	17	20	15
² Season	Spring	16	22	12	17	26	19	28	35	38	30
	Fall	38	28	30	31	24	37	23	20	31	27
³ Method	Bait	7	17	12	13	19	19	23	23	40	17
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hounds	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Incidental	21	10	11	10	8	14	7	7	9	9
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	21	21	15	23	21	21	21	24	20	30

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

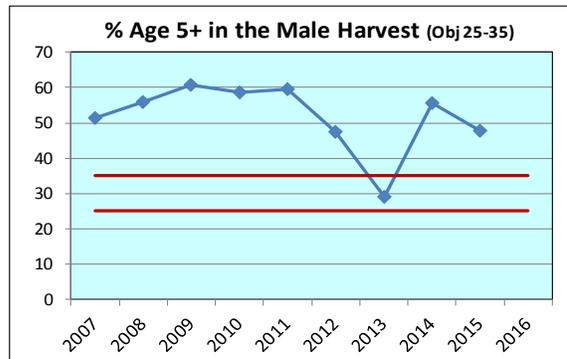
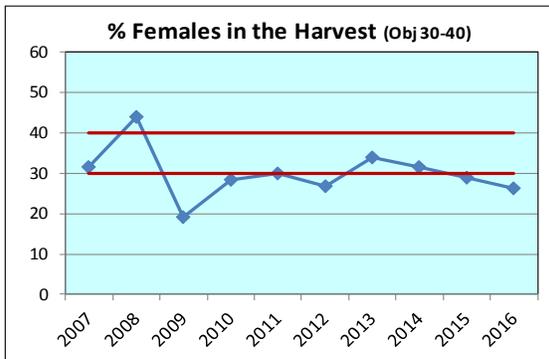
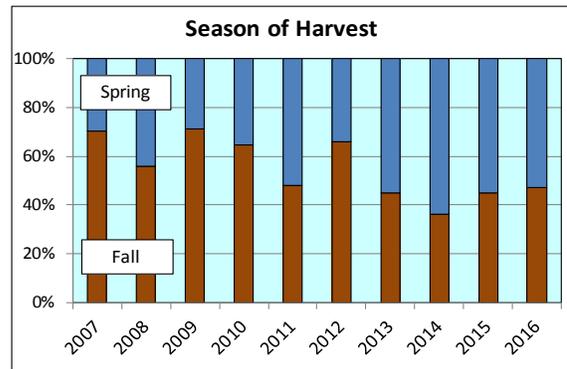
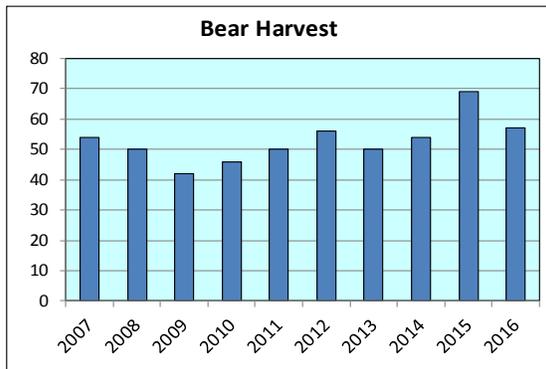


Figure 17. DAU3B Black Bear Status and Objectives

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

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 2016 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2015. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 2000-2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A). Fifty-six black bears were harvested in 2016, 19% less than the average of the previous 3 years for this DAU. Seventy-nine percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. Baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 60%, 24%, 7%, 9% of the total hunter harvest of black bears in DAU 4A, (Figure 18).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2016 harvest was composed of 38% females, 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 16 June–31 July was implemented in 2003.

Management Implications

Though it appears somewhat cyclical, black bear harvest in DAU 4A has increased steadily over the past 25 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.

Black bear depredation problems remain at tolerable levels Wildlife Services reported that 3 lambs were killed by a black bear in GMU 49. Other complaints from residents in the Big Wood River Valley and conflicts with campers in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area north of Ketchum, generally, have 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,241	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	2.1	NA
	Percent Females	40%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	26%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest ¹	TOTAL	60	69	39	67	62	65	63	64	80	56
	Males										
	0-4 years	26	26	22	25	22	29	30	23	33	0
	5+ years	13	19	5	11	13	6	4	13	14	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	3	6	5	1	1	2	35
	Subtotal	39	45	27	39	41	40	35	37	49	35
Females	0-4 years	13	11	6	16	9	17	16	13	16	0
	5+ years	7	13	5	11	11	7	9	12	14	0
	Unknown	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	21
	Subtotal	21	24	12	28	21	25	28	27	31	21
Season ²	Spring	41	34	26	44	39	46	37	40	61	44
	Fall	19	35	13	23	23	20	27	24	19	12
Method ³	Bait	26	11	19	29	31	34	32	32	45	33
	BaitHounds	8	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	5	1
	Hounds	2	15	3	7	9	3	3	8	6	3
	Incidental	5	21	5	10	8	8	5	7	11	5
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	19	16	9	18	12	19	20	16	13	14

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

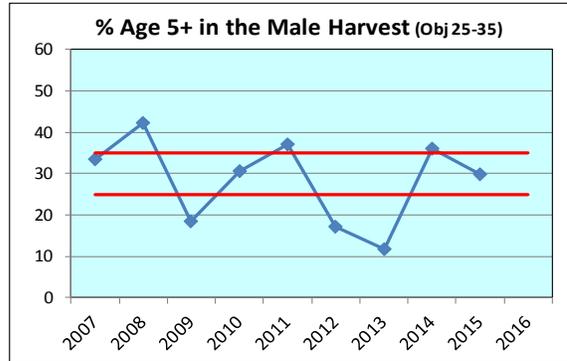
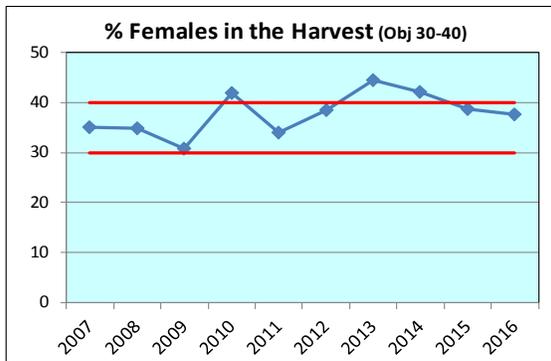
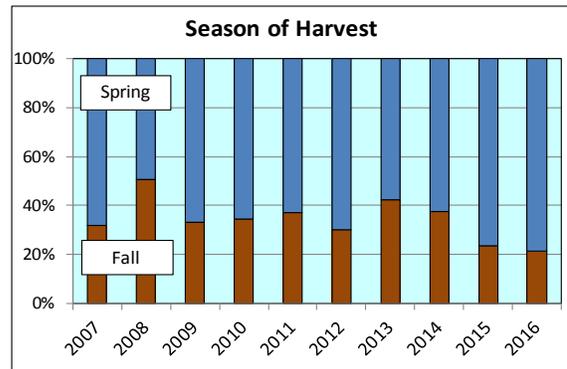
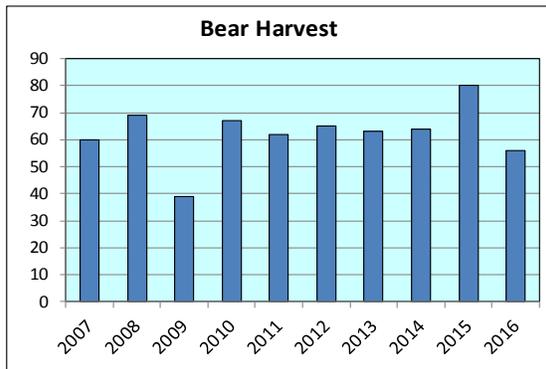


Figure 18. DAU4A Black Bear Status and Objectives

UPPER SNAKE REGION

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 36 black bears in DAU 4B in 2016 (Figure 19). The 2016 harvest was composed of 50 % females, above the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. From 2013–2015, 42% of the males harvested were ≥ 5 .

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 36 black bears in DAU 4B in 2016. This was slightly below the 3-year average for 2013–2015 of 45 (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 2016.

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The 2016 harvest was composed of 50 % females, 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.

Management Implications

The objectives for DAU 4B is to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range. Harvest for the 2013–2015 for males ≥ 5 years old was 42%, which suggests light harvest. The percentage of females harvested (45%), during the 2014–2016 period indicates a heavy harvest. The discrepancy is likely due to the small sample size of bears harvested in this GMU.

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



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,955	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	1.1	NA
	Percent Females	45%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	42%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	58	44	42	52	45	36	43	42	50	36
	Males										
	0-4 years	23	15	18	20	15	11	17	8	20	0
	5+ years	10	7	9	12	7	9	7	15	10	0
	Unknown	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	18
	Subtotal	33	23	28	34	23	21	25	23	30	18
Females	0-4 years	12	8	6	10	7	3	7	9	9	0
	5+ years	12	13	8	7	14	12	10	10	11	0
	Unknown	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	18
	Subtotal	25	21	14	18	22	15	18	19	20	18
Season²	Spring	43	31	34	35	33	29	26	34	39	33
	Fall	15	13	8	17	12	7	17	8	11	3
Method³	Bait	16	13	17	14	22	5	13	12	18	17
	BaitHounds	14	8	11	14	9	12	8	9	8	7
	Hounds	11	12	8	11	6	12	6	11	13	7
	Incidental	8	5	3	11	5	2	6	7	6	3
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Still/Stalk	6	4	2	2	3	4	8	2	4	2

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

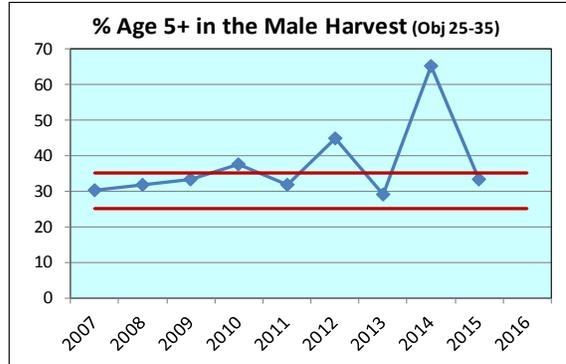
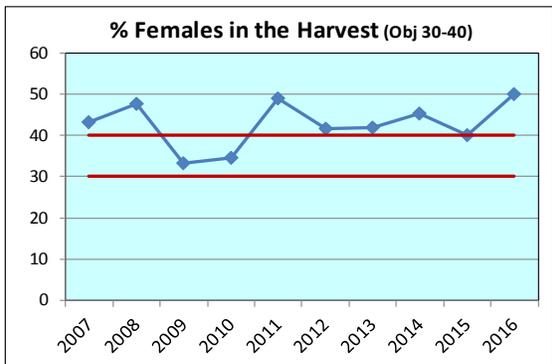
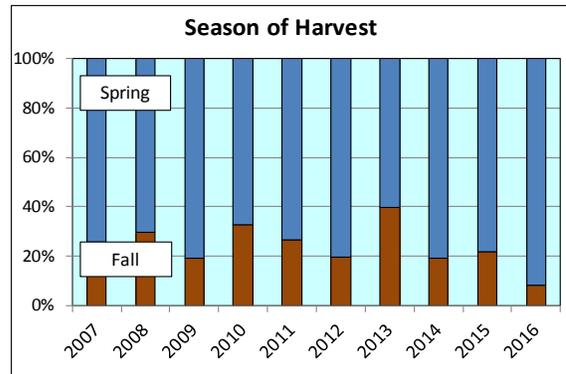
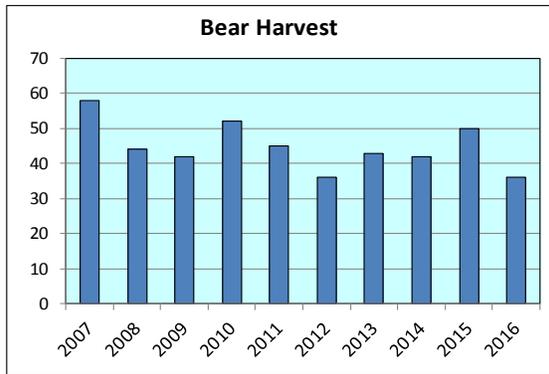


Figure 19. DAU4B Black Bear Status and Objectives

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. Hunters harvested 74 black bears in 2016. The percentage of females harvested from 2014–2016 was 28%. During 2013–2015, 29% of the males harvested were ≥ 5 years old.

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 80 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 was within the desired level for males ≥ 5 years old (29%). The percentage of females harvested (28%) during the 2014–2016 period indicates a light-moderate harvest (Figure 20).

Dog-training Season

The 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 2013–2015 seasons was within objective for males ≥ 5 years old. Harvest was below the level for percent females during 2013–2015, 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)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
1,966	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.1	NA
	Percent Females	28%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	29%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest	TOTAL	87	73	40	50	64	91	60	86	80	74
	0-4 years	47	29	22	19	24	41	28	46	36	0
	5+ years	15	25	11	11	17	20	13	14	17	0
	Unknown	2	5	2	3	1	2	2	0	3	56
	Subtotal	64	59	35	33	42	63	43	60	56	56
Males	0-4 years	14	8	4	7	13	17	12	12	10	0
	5+ years	7	6	1	9	9	7	4	14	12	0
	Unknown	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	2	18
	Subtotal	23	14	5	17	22	28	17	26	24	18
Females	0-4 years	14	8	4	7	13	17	12	12	10	0
	5+ years	7	6	1	9	9	7	4	14	12	0
	Unknown	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	2	18
	Subtotal	23	14	5	17	22	28	17	26	24	18
Season²	Spring	23	34	25	27	26	44	28	49	39	38
	Fall	65	39	15	23	38	47	32	37	41	36
Method³	Bait	16	13	13	17	9	21	18	22	17	11
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0
	Hounds	2	3	3	2	4	4	1	1	10	4
	Incidental	48	15	12	16	19	16	15	20	17	20
	PredCall	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	15	37	11	10	30	47	23	35	35	37

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

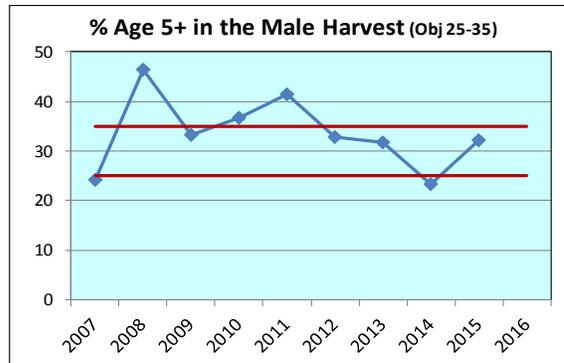
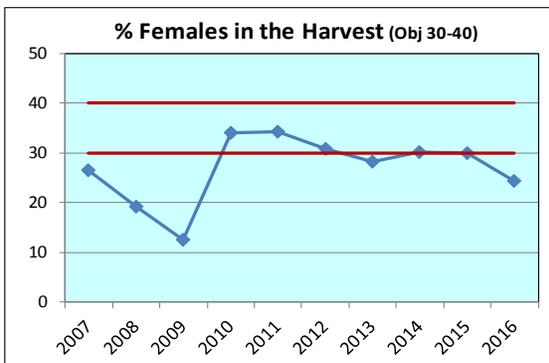
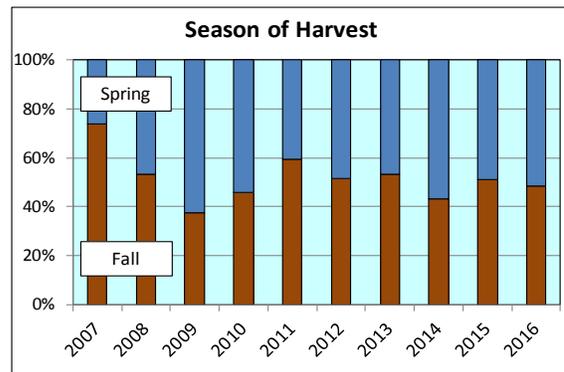
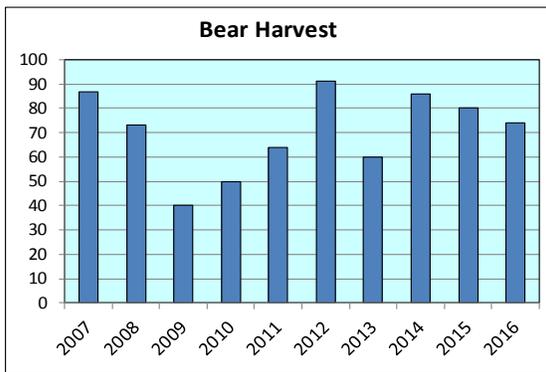


Figure 20. DAU4C Black Bear Status and Objectives

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. There were 97 black bears harvested in this unit in 2016. The percentage of males ≥ 5 harvested (25%) in 2013–2015, and the percentage of females harvested (34%) in 2014–2016 suggest a moderate level of 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 97 black bears were checked from DAU 4D in 2016. Harvest has fluctuated from 50 to 117 in the last ten years and is influenced by weather. The average annual harvest for the 2014–2016 seasons was 99 (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 2014–2016 harvest was composed of 34% females, within the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a young male segment of the population, with 25% of the 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. The percentage of females and males ≥ 5 harvested during this reporting period indicate harvest levels fall within the recommended harvest levels.



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

2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
4,449	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	2.2	NA
	Percent Females	34%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	25%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Harvest¹	TOTAL	97	50	82	89	74	116	84	95	107	97
	Males										
	0-4 years	45	22	37	42	23	49	41	38	50	0
	5+ years	11	10	21	17	16	14	8	18	16	0
	Unknown	3	1	0	3	5	3	2	2	9	64
	Subtotal	59	33	58	62	44	66	51	58	75	64
Females	0-4 years	22	12	17	13	17	24	16	22	16	0
	5+ years	14	4	6	12	12	24	16	14	15	0
	Unknown	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	33
	Subtotal	38	17	24	27	30	50	33	37	32	33
Season²	Spring	40	17	35	27	16	50	38	62	63	48
	Fall	57	33	48	62	58	67	46	33	44	49
Method³	Bait	36	15	31	27	28	49	30	51	57	48
	BaitHounds	6	3	8	8	6	9	6	6	6	7
	Hounds	16	6	13	19	16	18	13	9	17	15
	Incidental	22	14	15	25	10	18	15	7	18	16
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	12	11	11	8	10	21	12	15	9	10

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

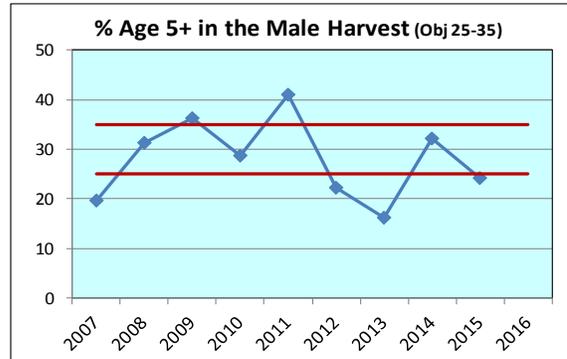
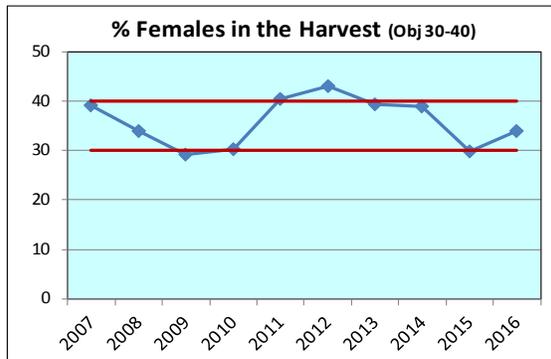
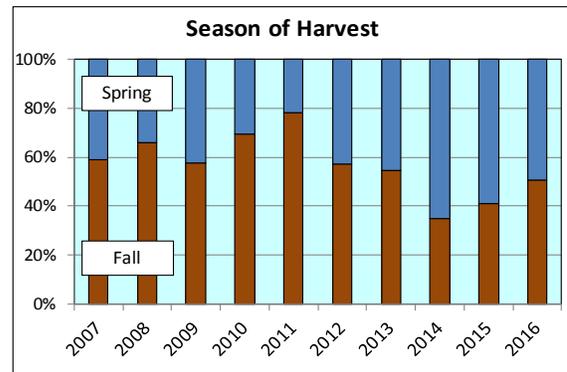
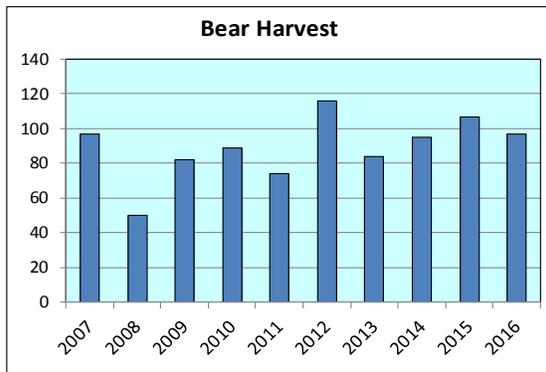


Figure 21. DAU4D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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. There were no bears harvested in this unit in 2016.

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 or 2016 seasons.

Dog-training Season

The 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

DAU II (GMUs 34, 35, 36)

Management Direction

Management direction for DAU II is to maintain a heavy harvest rate of <25% males \geq 5 years old and >40% females in the harvest (Figure 22).

Background

DAU II is bordered by the Frank Church Wilderness on the north and includes part of the Sawtooth Wilderness in the south. Virtually all of DAU II 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 (31 males, 11 females) were harvested in DAU II during the 2015 season, and 46 black bears (33 males, 13 females) were harvested during the 2016 season (Figure 22). The 2015 harvest represented an 11% decrease from the previous 3 year average harvest (2012–2014; 47). The 2016 bear harvest represented a 5% increase from the previous 3 year average harvest (2013–2015; 44). The current three-year average harvest of 43 black bears for 2014–2016 appears relatively stable and a midpoint value compared to the prior 10 years of harvest data (range = 39 [2008–2010] – 47 [2012–2014]).

Most black bears harvested in this DAU were taken over bait, with 79% and 72% of bears harvested by this method in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The remainder was taken either by the use of hounds, still hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Most bear harvest occurred in spring 2015 and 2016 (88% and 83%, respectively).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The current three-year average of female black bears in the harvest (2014–2016; 29%) is the lowest rate reported over the prior ten years of harvest data, and has been in steady decline (range = 29% [2014–2016] – 37% [2008–2010]). Female harvest on a three-year average basis has not met DAU objectives of >40% over the prior ten years of harvest data.

Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2013–2015) indicated that 55% of harvested males were in the \geq 5 year-old age class. Harvest of male bears > 5 years old has not met DAU objective over the prior 10 years of harvest data.

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. There were no complaints received in 2015–2016.

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). Current harvest indicator criteria suggest a light harvest rate. This DAU has historically exhibited light bear harvest characteristics and additional hunting opportunity has been implemented to attempt to increase harvest (most recently in 2000), but a heavy harvest rate has yet to be achieved. Selection for older male bears and against female bears may be facilitated by the relatively large proportion of bears harvested over bait, such that additional season structure changes may be needed to significantly increase the proportion of females in the harvest.

DAU 11 (GMUs 34, 35, 36)



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages			Objective
1,871	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	2.3	NA	
	Percent Females	29%	>40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	55%	<25%	

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	69	40	30	46	37	51	48	42	42	46	
	Males	0-4 years	21	6	12	16	13	18	18	7	14	0
	5+ years	24	16	13	10	10	18	14	18	15	0	
	Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	33	
	Subtotal	48	22	25	26	23	38	33	28	31	33	
Females	0-4 years	7	5	1	10	2	8	2	3	2	0	
	5+ years	13	10	4	9	8	3	12	10	9	0	
	Unknown	1	3	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	13	
	Subtotal	21	18	5	20	14	13	15	14	11	13	
Season²	Spring	40	34	23	36	25	46	41	33	38	38	
	Fall	29	6	7	10	12	6	7	9	5	8	
Method³	Bait	25	22	15	26	18	38	33	34	33	33	
	BaitHounds	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hounds	7	8	1	5	3	4	6	0	3	6	
	Incidental	11	2	0	5	6	3	3	5	3	3	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	24	7	12	6	8	6	6	6	2	4	3

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

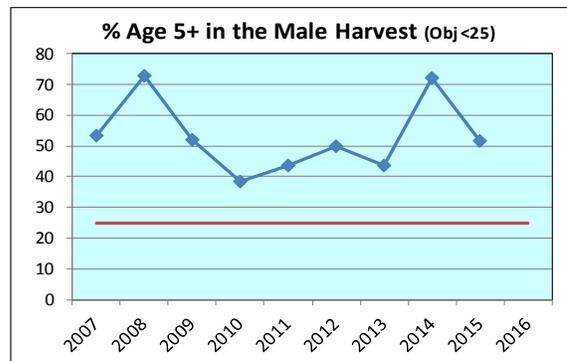
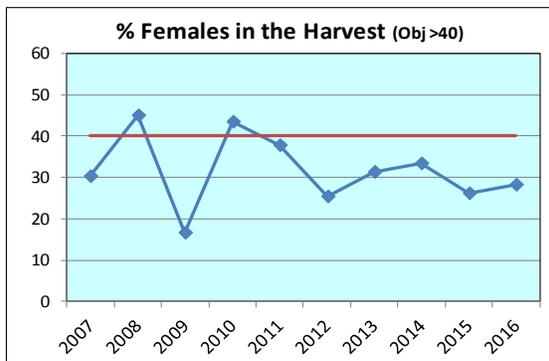
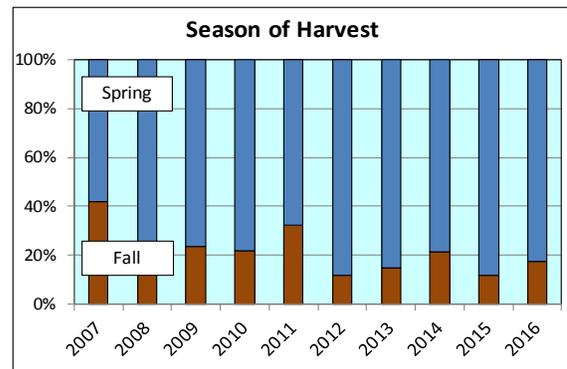
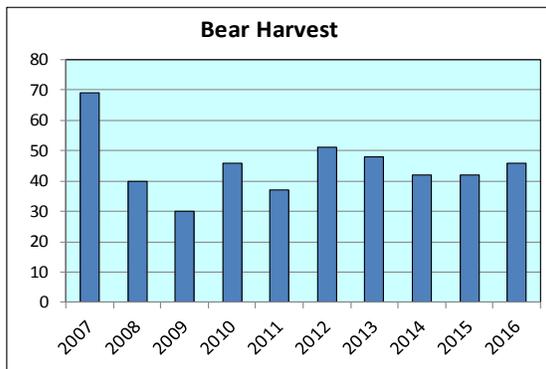


Figure 22. DAU 11 Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

Management Direction

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 forest, with a large portion of the area composed of dry to moderately moist coniferous forests. Most of DAU 1J is public land, primarily USFS, with some BLM and Idaho state lands. Private property is primarily associated with valley bottoms or patented mining claims. Although much of the area within the DAU is good quality bear habitat, a significant portion of the DAU is moderate-to-heavily roaded making the black bear population susceptible to over-harvest.

Annual harvests vary considerably due to weather fluctuations that influence hunter access and food availability and distribution. Black bear season structure mirrors the rest of the region outside the Wilderness area boundary (Appendix A).

Population Surveys

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

Harvest Characteristics

One hundred seven black bears (77 males, 30 females) were harvested in DAU 1J during the 2015 season, and 109 black bears (73 males, 36 females) were harvested during the 2016 season (Figure 22). The 2015 harvest represented a 19% increase from the previous 3 year average harvest (2012–2014; 90). The 2016 bear harvest represented a 10% increase from the previous 3 year average harvest (2013–2015; 99). The current three-year average harvest of 106 black bears for 2014–2016 has increased steadily over the past 4 years and is the second highest over the past 10 years of harvest data (range = 84 [2011–2013] – 108 [2007–2009]).

Bait was the primary method of harvest in this DAU, with 65% and 62% of bears harvested by this method in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The remainder was taken either by the use of hounds, still hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Most bear harvest occurred in spring 2015 and 2016 (76% and 82%, respectively).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The current three-year average of female black bears in the harvest (2014–2016; 32%) has exhibited a steady decline (range = 32% [2013–2015 and 2014–2016] – 41% [2008–2010]) and is the lowest three-year rate reported over the prior ten years of harvest data, but still remains within the DAU objective of 30–40% female harvest.

Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2013–2015) indicated that 41% of harvested males were in the ≥ 5 year-old age class. Harvest of male bears > 5 years old has exhibited a recent upward trend, and

has exceeded DAU objectives on a three-year average basis (range = 38% [2012–2014] – 50% [2009–2011]) over the prior 10 years of harvest data.

Depredations

Black bear depredation complaints in past years were primarily related to fruit trees and garbage along Salmon River below North Fork. Since 1995, complaints have fluctuated widely from 0 to 23. A total of 2 complaints were received (2015= 2, 2016 = 0) during 2015–2016 in this DAU, with 1 confirmed domestic calf depredation.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25–35% males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest and 30–40% females in the total harvest). Female harvest has remained at the low end of the objective for the previous 5 years, which may be correlated to the high proportion of bears (>60% over the prior 2 years) taken over bait which facilitates the selection for larger bears which tend to be comprised mostly of males. The current trend of relatively low female harvest coupled with older male bear harvest slightly above objectives suggest a light-to-moderate harvest rate for this DAU..

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



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,651	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	4.0	NA
	Percent Females	32%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	41%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	129	103	92	101	83	81	89	101	107	109	
	Males	0-4 years	38	33	30	37	17	32	37	40	41	0
	5+ years	36	20	24	32	29	22	21	25	35	0	
	Unknown	5	3	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	73	
	Subtotal	79	56	55	71	48	54	59	66	77	73	
Females	0-4 years	29	22	14	15	12	13	15	14	13	0	
	5+ years	20	23	21	14	21	13	13	17	16	0	
	Unknown	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	1	36	
	Subtotal	50	47	37	30	35	27	30	35	30	36	
Season²	Spring	89	71	72	68	64	64	60	71	83	89	
	Fall	40	32	20	33	19	17	29	30	26	20	
Method³	Bait	71	61	56	52	40	46	47	61	70	68	
	BaitHounds	3	0	2	4	0	4	3	1	2	0	
	Hounds	0	4	3	6	5	7	3	2	4	8	
	Incidental	21	12	12	18	12	9	18	10	16	10	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	31	23	16	19	26	15	18	27	17	22	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

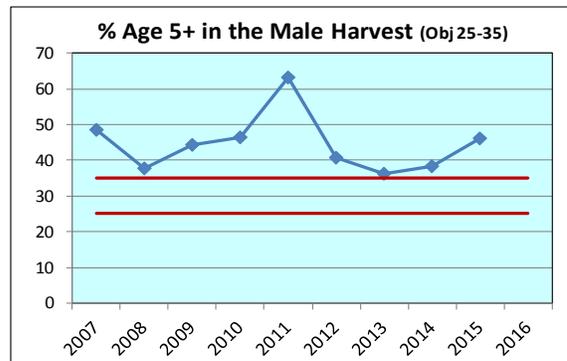
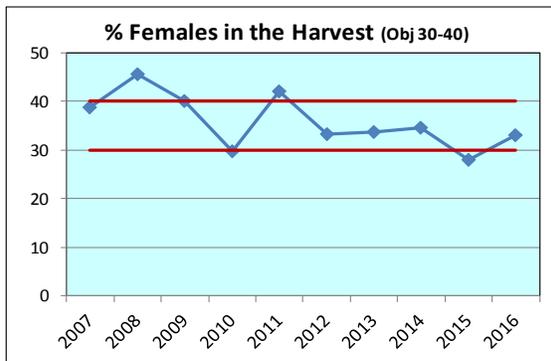
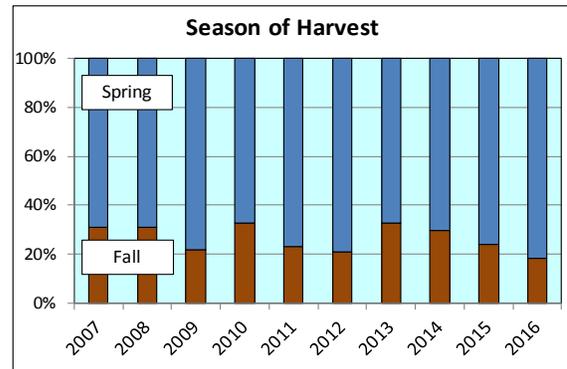
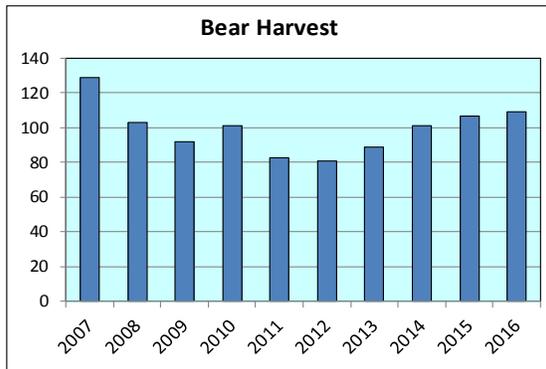


Figure 23. DAU 1J. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

Management Direction

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 in portions of this DAU due to 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

Sixty eight black bears (43 males, 25 females) were harvested in DAU 4E during the 2015 season, and 53 black bears (23 males, 30 females) were harvested during the 2016 season (Figure 22). The 2015 harvest represented a 24% increase from the previous 3 year average harvest (2012–2014; 55). The 2016 bear harvest represented a 12% decrease from the previous 3 year average harvest (2013–2015; 60). The current three-year average harvest of 56 black bears for 2014–2016 has exhibited a declining trend over the prior 5 years and is the second lowest three-year average over the past 10 years of harvest data (range = 55 [2012–2014] – 75 [2009–2011]).

Use of bait accounted for approximately half of the bear harvest in this DAU (52% and 47% in 2015 and 2016, respectively), with the remainder harvested with the use of hounds, still hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Most bear harvest occurred in spring 2015 and 2016 (76% and 79%, respectively).

Sex Ratio/Age Structure

The current three-year average of female black bears in the harvest (2014–2016; 48%) has fluctuated very little (range = 42% [2007–2009] – 48% [2014–2016]) over the prior ten years of harvest data, and is currently exceeding the DAU objective of 30–40% females.

Age data for the 2016 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2013–2015) indicated that 44% of harvested males were in the ≥ 5 year-old age class. Harvest of male bears ≥ 5 years old has exhibited an increasing trend (range = 26% [2008–2010] – 51% [2012–2014]), and has exceeded DAU objectives on a three-year average basis since the 2013 harvest season.

Depredations

There were two depredation complaints (2015 = 0; 2015 = 2) within this DAU, resulting in two confirmed cattle losses.

Management Implications

Management direction for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25–35% males ≥ 5 years old in the male harvest and 30–40% females in the total harvest). Harvest levels for this DAU indicate harvest is exceeding DAU objectives, particular with regard to female take, which may account for the declining three-year average harvest rate. 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. Even with the shortened season, with the exception of 2015, annual female harvest has exceeded 40% since 2008. Continued female harvest in excess of DAU objectives may warrant additional season restrictions.

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



2016 Season (Spring 2016-Fall 2016)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,207	Harvest per 100 Mi ² :	1.7	NA
	Percent Females	48%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	44%	25-35%

* Within male harvest 2013-2015

Harvest Statistics		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Harvest¹	TOTAL	69	63	62	89	73	53	64	47	68	53	
	Males	0-4 years	32	22	18	42	21	13	23	6	25	0
	5+ years	13	10	14	5	18	16	13	14	15	0	
	Unknown	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	23	
	Subtotal	46	33	33	51	41	31	37	21	43	23	
Females	0-4 years	8	14	11	18	15	11	11	10	4	0	
	5+ years	12	14	16	19	15	9	13	15	19	0	
	Unknown	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	30	
	Subtotal	23	30	29	38	32	22	27	26	25	30	
Season²	Spring	51	51	49	52	50	41	39	37	52	42	
	Fall	18	12	13	37	24	12	25	10	16	11	
Method³	Bait	37	38	37	39	31	25	30	20	35	25	
	BaitHounds	3	4	5	2	5	6	6	7	7	6	
	Hounds	7	8	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	7	
	Incidental	17	4	7	23	12	5	12	3	9	4	
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Still/Stalk	4	8	7	16	16	9	7	8	6	11	

¹ Does not include unknown sex

² Includes unknown sex

³ Includes only methods reported

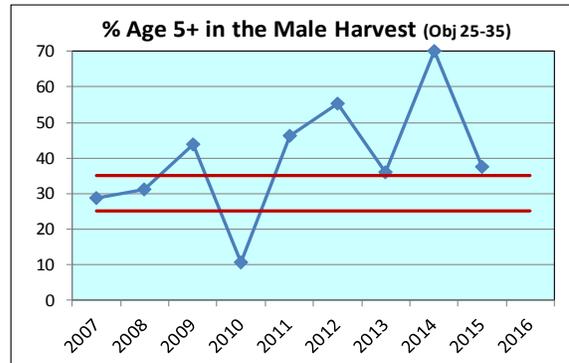
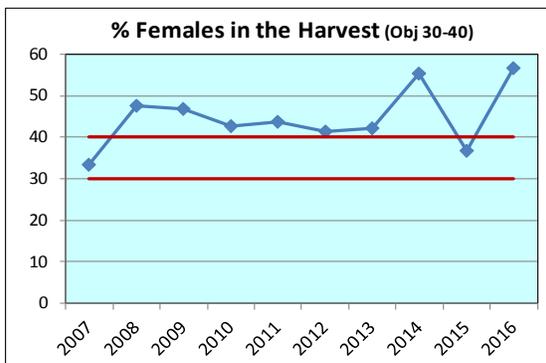
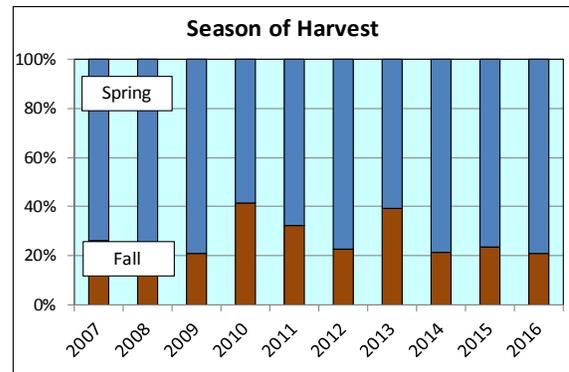
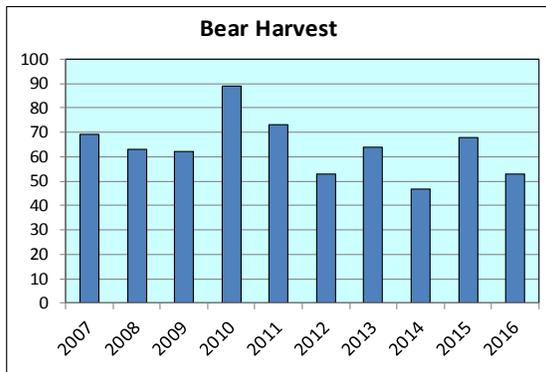


Figure 24. DAU 4E. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2016 SEASON
BLACK BEAR RULES

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	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
2, 3, 5	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	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 30	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - April 30	July 1 - 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	

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:

- 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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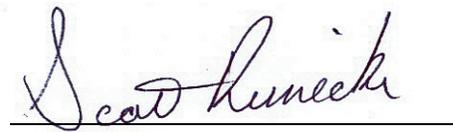
Zach Lockyer
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Curtis Hendricks
Regional Wildlife Manager

Greg Painter
Regional Wildlife Manager

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


Toby Boudreau, Asst. Chief
Bureau of Wildlife


Scott Reinecker, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

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.

