

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Ed Schriever, Director

Surveys and Inventories

Statewide Report

Harvest Year 2018



**BLACK BEAR**

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

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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, 2018 to December 31, 2018

### **STATEWIDE**

#### **Abstract**

##### **Historical Perspective**

Black bear was classified as a game animal in 1943. Few protective laws were passed until 1973 when resident hunters were required to have a tag. In 1983 females accompanied by 2 cubs were protected during the spring and fall seasons. Also in 1983, the Department implemented the Mandatory Harvest Check, requiring hunters to bring in their harvest bear skull and hide to an official check site. Year round hunting seasons were eliminated in 1986. The goal of the Department's 1999-2010 Black Bear Management Plan was to ensure the long-term viability of black bear populations and provide recreational opportunity for hunting and non-hunting resource users.

##### **Management Objectives**

Department biologist's use 22 Data Analysis Units (DAU) comprised of multiple game management units (GMUs) (Figure 1) for black bear management and analysis of harvest data. 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). To evaluate population trend in the DAUs, the Department monitors the percent of males  $\geq 5$  years old and the percent of females in the harvest on a 3-year running average.

##### **Biological Objectives**

###### ***Capture, Radio-Mark and/or Telemetry***

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry occurred in this DAU during the reporting period. While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts.

###### ***Population Survey and Monitoring***

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

Black bears were monitored incidentally to camera trap surveys for wolf distribution during this reporting period. Department personnel deployed a total of 416 unbaited cameras in the field  
Black Bear 2018

during the summer of 2018, and data cards were retrieved in the fall. Black bear images obtained from wolf cameras are currently being analyzed in cooperation with our research program.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

No changes to harvest season were made during this reporting period.

During calendar year 2018, 40,156 black bear tags were sold, a 4% increase over the prior 3-year average. During 2018, 3,762 hound hunter permits were sold, an increase to the number sold in 2017 and 7% above the previous 3-year average. Of these, 134 hound hunter permits were issued to non-residents (4%). The number of black bear baiting permits sold during 2017 was 3,144, above that for 2017, and 12% above the previous 5-year average. Nonresidents were issued 493 of these baiting permits (15%).

Hunters are required to report black bears harvested within 10 days of kill. The 2018 harvest of 2,603 bears was only slightly below the 2017 harvest, but above the previous 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the annual harvest occurs during the spring bear season (2016–2018). The dominant method for hunting black bears is with the use of bait (46% of the annual harvest, 2016–2018). Typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of females in the harvest averaged 36% during 2018. Also typically ranging between 30% and 40%, the percentage of 5 year old and older bears within the male harvest averaged 32% during 2016-2018 (the most recent 3-year period for which ages were available).

### **Depredation Issues**

In northern Idaho DAUs forest managers reported an increase quantity and degree in bear damage to managed private and State endowment timber lands; particularly pole-sized and small saw-timber stands. IDFG has directed hunters to problem areas from 2016–2018; however, Idaho Department of Lands continues to report problems.

Black bear depredation complaints to orchards, apiaries and livestock are uncommon, but do occasionally occur. Two complaints related to property encroachment and fruit trees were received in 2018. Wildlife Services reported that a black bear killed multiple sheep in GMU 43 during this reporting period.

Most reported complaints are nuisance issues associated with poor garbage disposal practices and outdoor placement of domestic pet food or wild birdseed within predominately USFS land. Education and better garbage management practices were used to alleviate these conflicts.

### **Management Discussion**

The popularity of black bear as a big game animal to hunters using a variety of hunting techniques, and the concerns of some citizens about the use of those methods of take have combined to generate some controversy in the management of this species. The Department recognizes and addresses these conflicting demands and concerns.

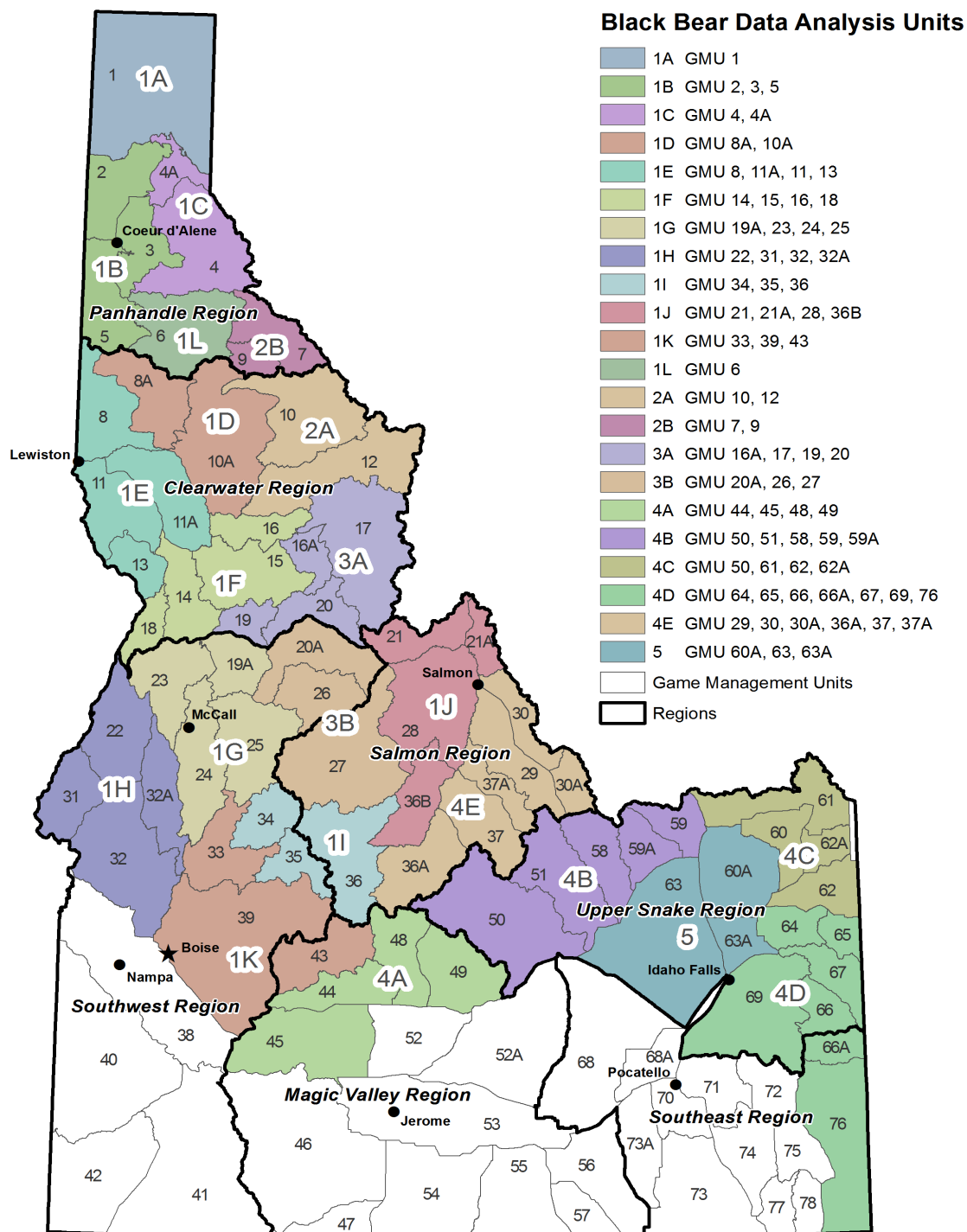
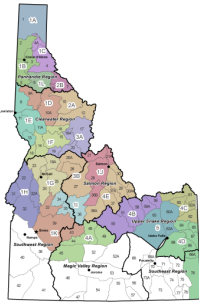


Figure 1. Twenty-two Data Analysis Units (DAU) for black bear management in Idaho.



## Statewide

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)		
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages	
57,555	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	4.6
	Percent Females	36%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	31%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>2,603</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	909	1,004	860	1,038	909	991	1,251	1,147	1,117	0
	5+ years	454	528	500	521	447	511	523	514	517	0
	Unknown	41	84	56	67	49	55	54	54	62	1,656
Females	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,656</b>
	0-4 years	345	441	347	437	372	432	490	459	480	1
	5+ years	310	396	439	389	397	450	454	486	441	0
	Unknown	30	60	49	44	41	51	45	26	42	946
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>947</b>
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	1,128	1,359	1,205	1,464	1,373	1,548	1,779	1,801	1,802	1,724
	Fall	971	1,161	1,052	1,039	845	954	1,053	892	863	885
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	818	980	858	1,093	945	1,076	1,288	1,254	1,218	1,200
	BaitHounds	30	36	28	31	26	32	31	29	20	20
	Hounds	276	338	322	360	343	383	471	429	409	457
	Incidental	281	381	314	283	228	272	309	267	273	218
	PredCall	2	5	2	5	5	4	4	7	5	2
	Still/Stalk	621	727	679	667	612	679	679	676	695	549

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods listed

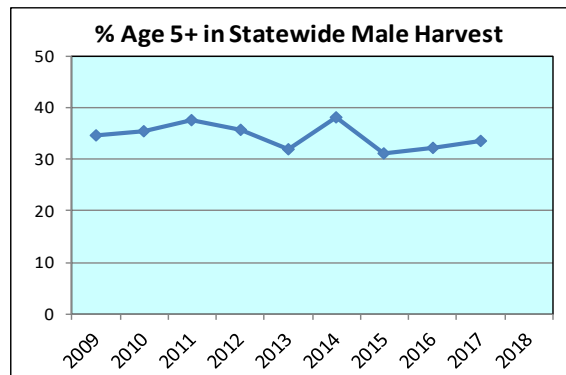
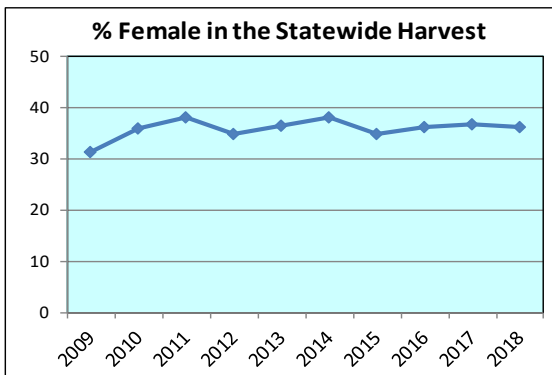
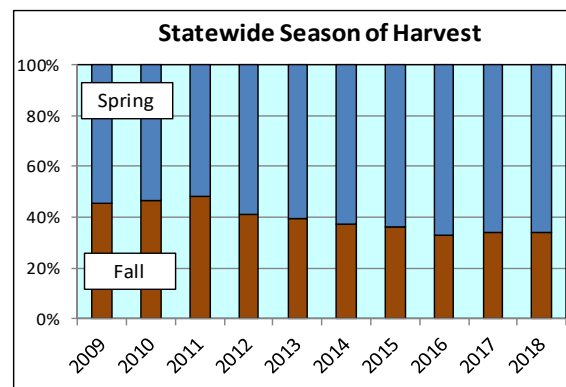
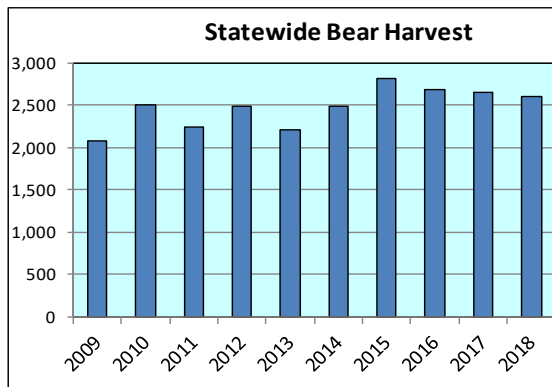


Figure 2. Statewide Black Bear Status and Objectives.



## Statewide Tags and permits

Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Resident bear tags	30,058	30,566	30,304	30,606	31,507	32,378	34,587	34,460	34,218	34,888
Nonresident bear tags	3,191	2,858	2,704	3,043	3,106	3,273	3,568	3,966	4,430	5,268
<b>Total Bear Tags</b>	<b>33,249</b>	<b>33,424</b>	<b>33,008</b>	<b>33,649</b>	<b>34,613</b>	<b>35,651</b>	<b>38,155</b>	<b>38,426</b>	<b>38,648</b>	<b>40,156</b>
Resident houndhunter permits	2,894	2,886	2,863	2,858	3,039	3,145	3,340	3,436	3,428	3,628
Nonresident houndhunter permits	108	98	100	97	104	96	97	114	119	134
<b>Total Houndhunter permits</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>2,984</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>3,762</b>
Resident bear baiting permits	2,135	2,022	1,912	2,150	2,307	2,274	2,651	2,519	2,362	2,651
Nonresident bear baiting permits	207	327	279	324	350	347	361	406	445	493
<b>Total Bear baiting permits</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>3,144</b>

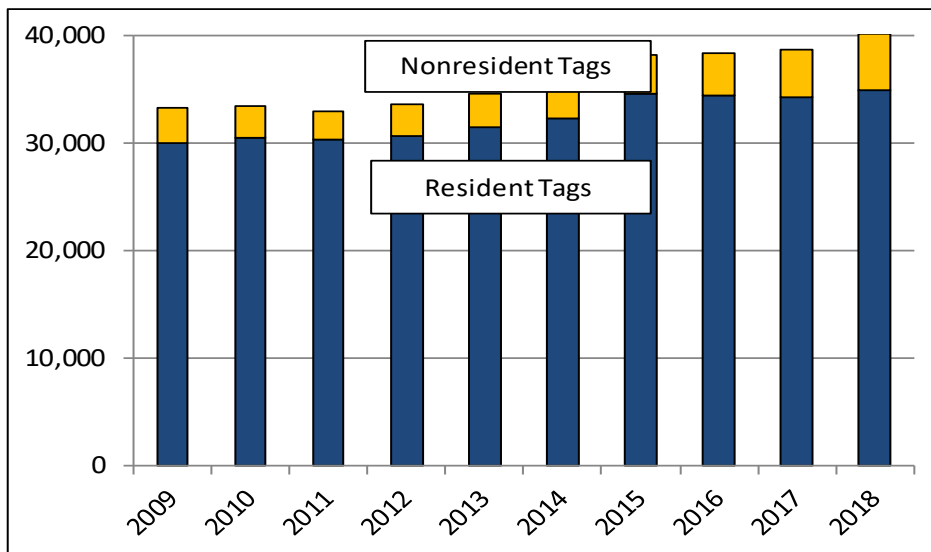
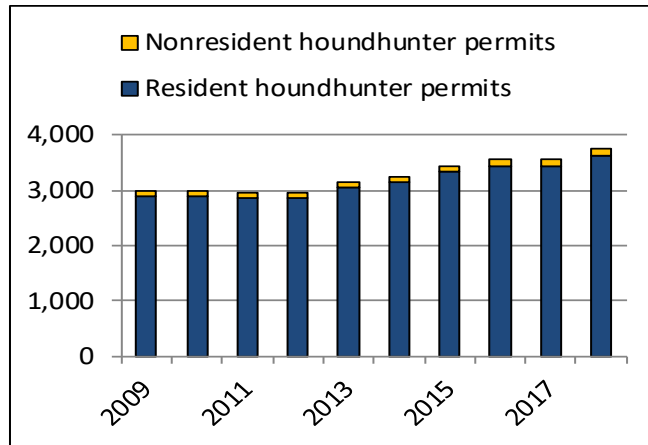
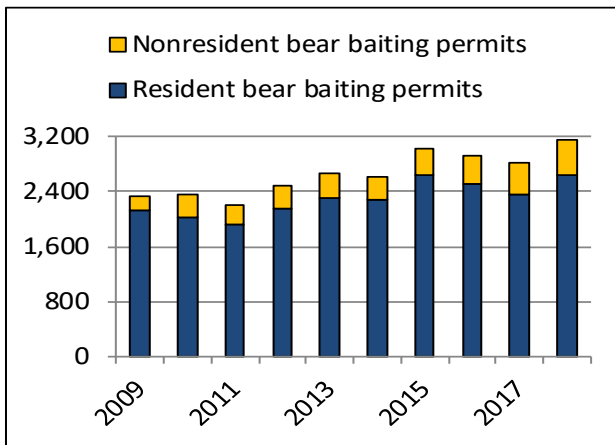


Figure 3. Statewide Black Bear Tags and Permits.

## **PANHANDLE REGION**

### **DAU 1A (GMU 1)**

#### **Historical Perspective**

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.

#### **Management Objectives**

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 a moderate harvest level.

#### **Capture, Radio-Mark and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Survey and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears for this reporting period.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Because bait is prohibited in this DAU and hounds are restricted to a small controlled hunt, most of the harvest is by still or stalk hunting. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the 2018 black bear harvest in DAU 1A was by hunter's specifically seeking and stalking black bear (Figure 4).

Slightly higher harvest occurred during the spring season in 2018 with 52% percent of the harvest in the spring. Depending upon spring and fall conditions, the majority of harvest often vacillates between the two seasons.

The 2016–2018 harvest was composed of 32% females on average, slightly higher than the target of <30% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 37% of the 2015–2017 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older and an

average of 41% over the last ten years (Figure 4; 2018 age data was not available at time of report).

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

### **Predation Issues**

In the near future, a deer research project will be initiated in GMU 1 which may help shed light on the effects of black bear predation on fawns in the area.

### **Depredation Issues**

During the past decade, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) forest managers have noticed a marked increase in bear damage to managed timber stands on Priest Lake endowment lands. The quantity and degree of damage to some pole-sized and small sawtimber stands has expanded well beyond the more sporadic bear damage that has been historically observed.

Idaho Department of Lands initiated consultation with IDFG to explore what management options might be available to reduce the extent of bear damage at Priest Lake. A reduction in bear damage will help IDL fulfill its mandate to maximize revenue from State endowment lands.

It is presumed that the majority of the tree damage is being caused by black bears, and that their preference for tree sapwood as a food source (over that of other alternatives) may be, at least partly, a learned behavior, more common to some bear families than others.

IDFG directed hunters to problem areas from 2016–2018, however, IDL continues to report problems.

### **Management Discussion**

The 3-year average (2016-2018) of 32% females in the harvest is slightly higher than the management objective. This component of the harvest warrants watching. Three year average (2015-2017) male harvest 5+ years of age averaged 37%, meeting management objectives for the 1999-2010 Black Bear Management Plan and have been relatively stable since 1994.



## DAU 1A (GMU 1)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Goal	
2,475	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	6.5	NA	
	Percent Females	32%	<30%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	37%	>35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	130	179	147	151	123	152	224	175	167	138
	0-4 years	55	53	43	58	44	59	104	72	46	0
	5+ years	28	47	38	41	40	39	39	44	46	0
	Unknown	5	12	8	8	1	5	7	5	12	103
	Subtotal	88	112	89	107	85	103	150	121	104	103
Females	0-4 years	17	29	16	17	22	18	34	20	23	0
	5+ years	20	25	36	23	13	27	35	29	34	0
	Unknown	5	13	6	4	3	4	5	5	6	35
	Subtotal	42	67	58	44	38	49	74	54	63	35
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	71	69	70	73	76	74	100	98	111	72
	Fall	59	110	78	78	47	79	126	77	56	67
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
	BaitHounds										
	Hounds	3	6	7	6	5	6	5	4	12	1
	Incidental	9	16	16	17	5	13	47	18	17	1
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	StillStalk	115	148	121	116	110	124	159	147	126	1

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

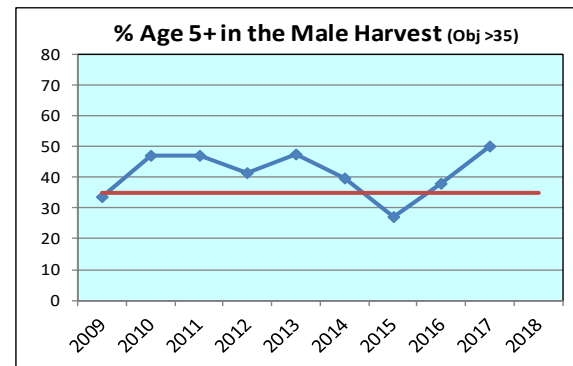
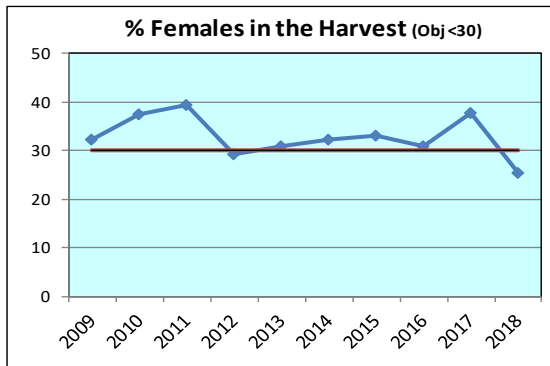
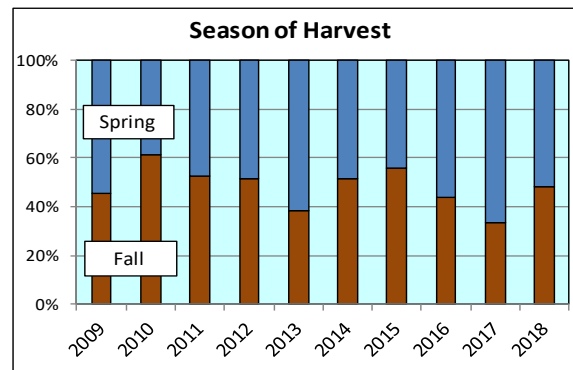
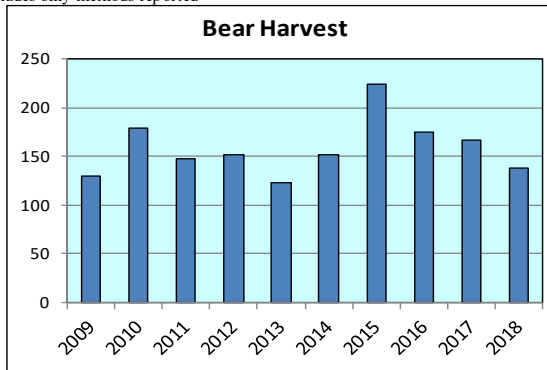


Figure 4. DAU1A Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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 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.

### **Management Objectives**

To address depredation concerns in this relatively highly-populated area, DAU 1B is managed to maintain the heavy harvest targets of <25% age 5+ black bears in the male harvest and >40% females in the total harvest. Current indicators demonstrate a heavy harvest level.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

During 2018 harvest using bait was the most predominant method (48%) followed by hound hunting (24%). Still/stalk accounted for 16% of harvest in 2018 and incidental harvest was 11% (Figure 5). The use of hounds has generally increased over the years in this DAU, while still/stalk has decreased. In 2018 58% of the harvest occurred in the spring.

The percentage of females in the 2016–2018 harvest was 49%. In 2017, 23% of harvested males were 5+ years old and the 3-year average from 2015-2017 was 22% (2018 age data is not currently available). Historically this DAU has had the youngest age structure in the region.

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.

### **Predation Issues**

We don't survey herd comp of deer or elk in any of these GMUs in this DAU at this time

**Depredation Issues**

Although no depredations have been reported the past few years, historically some depredations have occurred in this DAU, particularly in GMU 2, which consists largely of second-growth coniferous forest under private ownership.

**Management Discussion**

The 3 year average (2016-2018) of 49% females in the harvest is above the management criteria (>40%). Three year average (2015-2017) male harvest 5+ years of age averaged 22%, achieving the range for the heavy harvest targets in the 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan.



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

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
1,963	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	5.5	NA	
	Percent Females	49%	>40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	22%	<25%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	131	120	96	129	86	100	132	124	118	79
	Males										
	0-4 years	63	52	43	53	45	48	63	49	41	0
	5+ years	12	17	12	17	5	12	15	17	12	0
Females	Unknown	6	4	3	6	0	4	0	4	1	41
	Subtotal	81	73	58	76	50	64	78	70	54	41
	0-4 years	30	26	19	30	18	21	22	19	31	0
	5+ years	17	18	18	21	17	15	29	34	32	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	3	3	1	2	1	0	3	1	1	38
	Subtotal	50	47	38	53	36	36	54	54	64	38
	Spring	30	30	13	31	32	29	61	69	74	46
	Fall	103	90	84	98	54	72	73	57	44	33
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	52	56	49	54	44	48	71	68	56	38
	BaitHounds	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Hounds	30	17	16	23	17	18	34	37	32	19
	Incidental	9	11	16	18	6	10	11	7	11	9
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	StillStalk	36	30	10	22	17	20	16	11	17	13

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

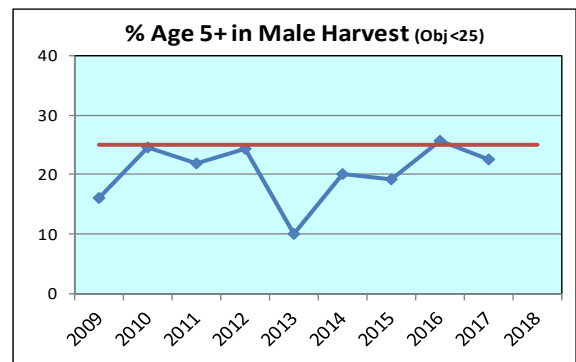
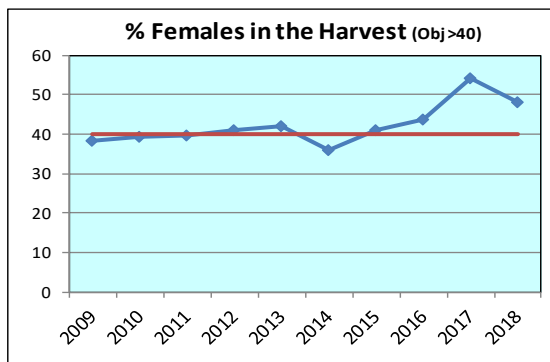
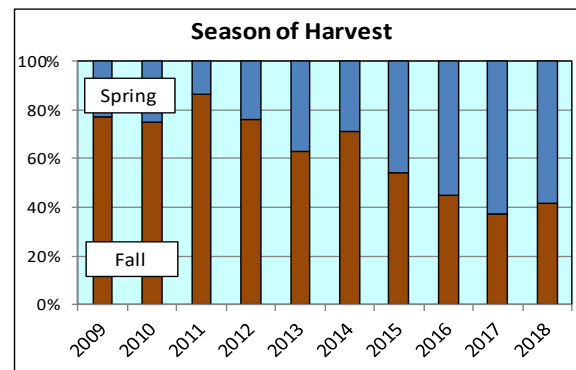
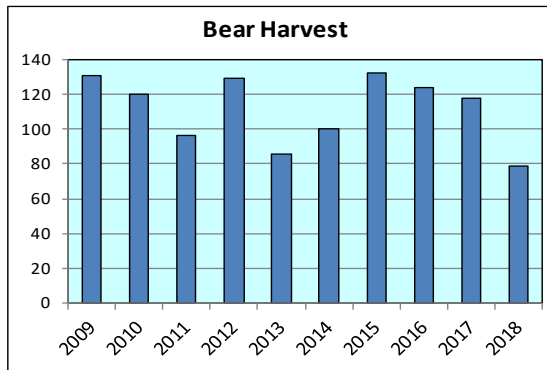


Figure 5. DAU1B Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

DAU 1C consists mainly of USFS property and a belt of private property in Silver Valley. It is a popular hunting area for Coeur d'Alene and Silver Valley big game hunters. Road densities are moderate to very high.

### **Management Objectives**

To test the validity of the black bear harvest indicators, DAU 1C is 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 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 GMUs using this strategy.

### **Capture, Radio-mark and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

For this reporting period, population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Seventy-three percent of the harvest occurred in the spring during 2018, a 70% increase from the previous 10-year average. Baiting (53%) was the primary method used to harvest bears in DAU 1C followed by hound hunting (19%), and still/stalk (18%). Incidental kills (6%) made up the remaining harvest (Figure 6).

The percentage of females in the 2016–2018 harvest was 35%, relatively close to the 40%+ objective. The percentage of males 5+ years old was 29% from 2015–2017 average harvest, above the desired age criterion of <25% (2018 age data is not currently available). This criterion has not been achieved in the averages of the previous 10 years (Figure 6).

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

### **Predation Issues**

Low calf elk survival rates and calf:cow ratios are present in a large portion of this DAU. Mountain lion predation has been the predominate cause of mortality of collared 6-month old calves in GMU 4.



## **Depredation Issues**

No known depredation issues in this DAU during this reporting period.

## **Management Discussion**

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)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
1,523	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	12.9	NA	
	Percent Females	35%	>40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	29%	<25%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	136	160	148	163	126	151	233	197	199	195
	Males										
	0-4 years	57	61	59	67	41	66	91	95	92	0
	5+ years	33	32	17	26	33	22	52	36	28	0
	Unknown	5	11	4	8	6	4	8	2	8	122
	Subtotal	95	104	80	101	80	92	151	133	128	122
Females	0-4 years	16	19	19	30	17	22	43	24	20	0
	5+ years	21	30	43	29	23	34	31	36	46	0
	Unknown	4	7	6	3	6	3	8	4	5	73
	Subtotal	41	56	68	62	46	59	82	64	71	73
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	47	71	44	64	61	70	141	124	143	144
	Fall	90	89	104	100	65	83	93	74	56	52
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	29	55	43	49	44	45	91	91	90	104
	BaitHounds	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	3	3	1
	Hounds	31	44	26	38	38	41	52	47	43	38
	Incidental	13	16	28	17	10	17	26	22	9	12
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	51	42	36	55	29	44	58	35	48	35

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

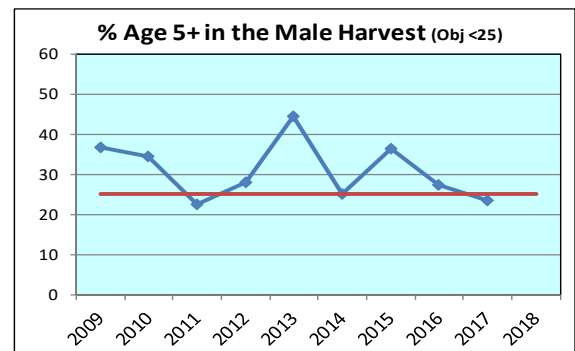
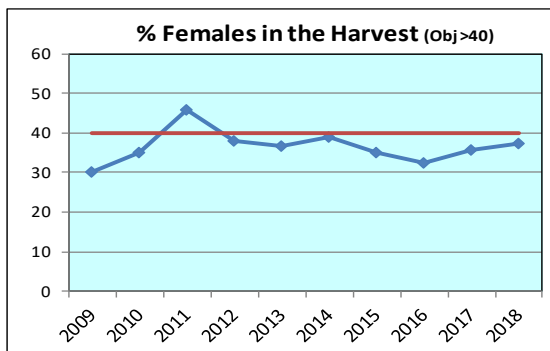
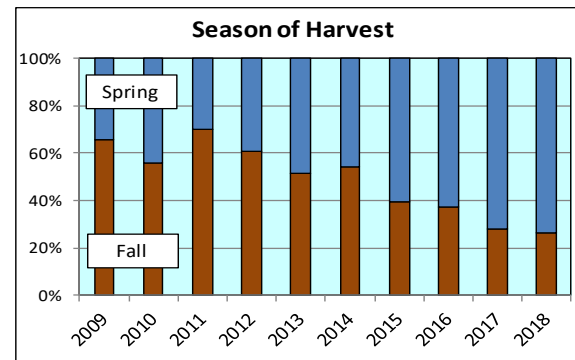
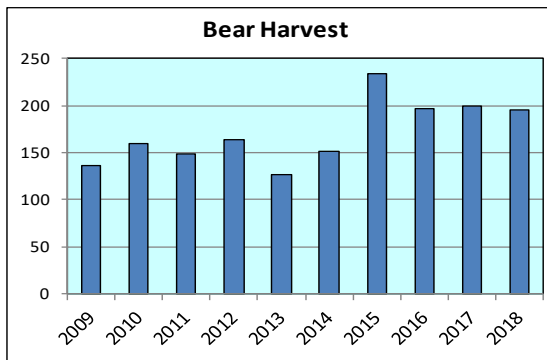


Figure 6. DAU1C Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **DAU 1L (GMU 6)**

### **Historical Perspective**

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). In 2013, the spring season was extended until 30 June and a second bear tag may be used in this DAU.

### **Management Objectives**

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 males and nearly for females. Baiting has been allowed within this DAU since 2000.

### **Capture, Radio-mark and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

For this reporting period, population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Most 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 this DAU; 64% of successful hunters used this method in 2018. Spotting/stalking had traditionally been the primary method used to hunt bears but is now third at 10% (2018). The use of hounds accounted for 17% of the harvest in 2018 (Figure 7).

Thirty-three percent of the 2016–2018 harvest was female bears, reflective of a moderate harvest regime. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years in the male harvest was 20%, which is meeting the objective of  $<25\%$  old males in the harvest (Figure 7, age data for 2018 was not available).

The 2017 dog-training season in this DAU was 1 July–31 July (Appendix A).

**Predation Issues**

Moderately low calf elk survival rates and calf:cow ratios have been present in this DAU in recent years. Mountain lion predation has been the predominate cause of mortality of collared 6-month old calves in GMU 6.

**Depredation Issues**

No known depredation issues at this time in DAU 1L.

**Management Discussion**

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 males  $\geq 5$  years harvested is within the heavy harvest level now prescribed for this DAU after implementing a Predation Management Plan (2014); the percent females currently lies within the moderate management criterion. Low elk calf:cow ratios have been present in this DAU, however 2015 and 2016 aerial composition surveys showed an increase in calf:cow numbers.



## DAU 1L (GMU 6)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
1,053	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	10.3	NA	
	Percent Females	33%	>40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	20%	>35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	71	81	74	115	136	150	117	102	105	117
	0-4 years	31	34	40	51	53	53	59	60	50	0
	5+ years	17	14	7	18	23	18	14	11	18	0
	Unknown	1	0	0	3	3	8	0	2	2	75
	Subtotal	49	48	47	72	79	79	73	73	70	75
Males	0-4 years	9	23	15	17	16	34	20	14	18	0
	5+ years	13	9	10	25	40	33	23	15	16	0
	Unknown	0	1	2	1	1	4	1	0	1	42
	Subtotal	22	33	27	43	57	71	44	29	35	42
Females	0-4 years	9	23	15	17	16	34	20	14	18	0
	5+ years	13	9	10	25	40	33	23	15	16	0
	Unknown	0	1	2	1	1	4	1	0	1	42
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	30	44	38	44	95	102	76	65	85	90
	Fall	42	37	36	71	41	49	42	37	21	27
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	16	23	21	41	45	56	46	40	50	75
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	14	11	14	22	40	46	32	35	17	20
	Incidental	9	8	8	11	11	12	16	9	13	10
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	29	36	29	34	31	32	23	17	24	10

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

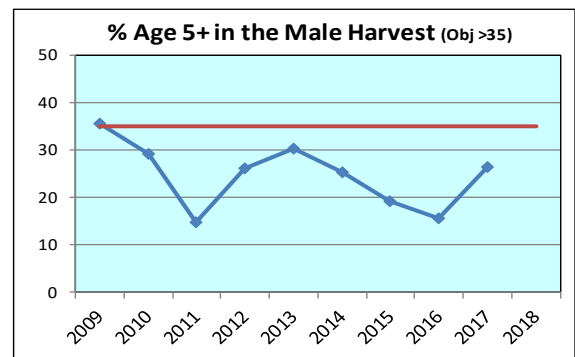
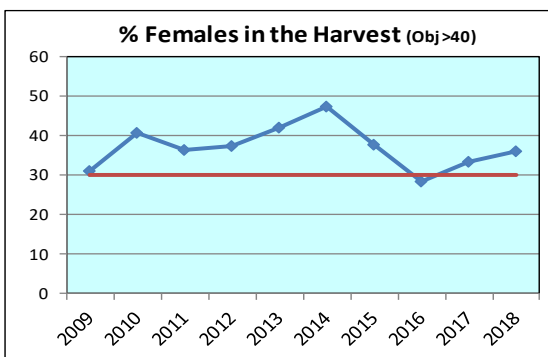
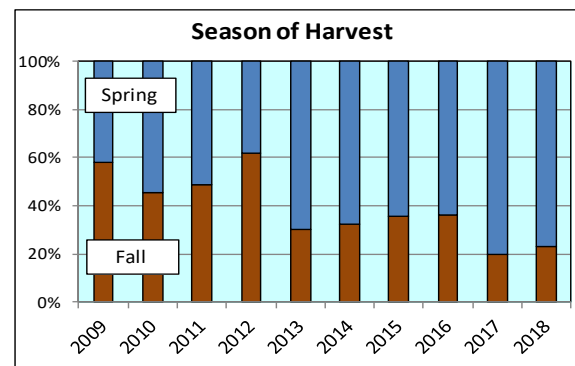
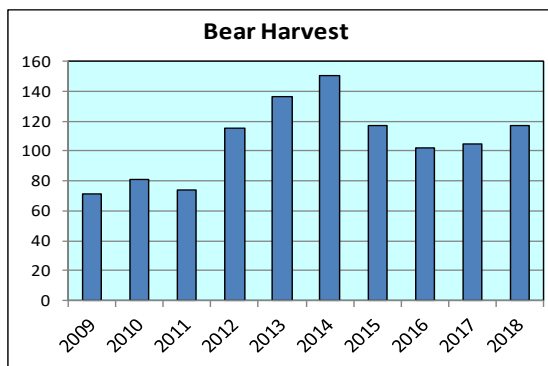


Figure 7. DAU1L Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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 1999–2010 Black Bear Plan, the Department targeted a moderate harvest objective to allow for additional hunting opportunities.

### **Management Objectives**

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 six years straight the moderate category was achieved for females; it had previously been in the light harvest category. Males have remained in the light harvest category until 2015 and 2016 harvest seasons.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 harvest of 87 bears was 18% above the previous 10-year average. Eighty-three percent of the 2018 bear harvest in this DAU took place during spring, a pattern similar to that of prior years (Figure 8).

Fifty-seven percent of the 2018 harvest was taken with the use of bait. Incidental harvest accounted for 14% while still/stalk and hound harvest accounted for 10% of the harvest.

The percentage of females in the 2015–2018 harvest was 33%, 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 28% in 2017 and averaged 26% from 2015–2017 (2018 age data is not currently available), meeting the objective of 25–35%. This DAU is slated for moderate harvest; which both the female and male harvest criteria are currently meeting (Figure 8).

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

### **Predation Issues**

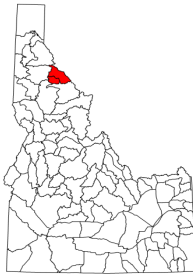
Low calf elk survival rates and calf:cow ratios are present in this DAU. Mountain lion predation has been the predominate cause of mortality of collared 6-month old calves in GMU 7, no calves have been collared in GMU 9 to date.

### **Depredation Issues**

No known depredation issues at this time in this DAU.

### **Management Discussion**

For the first time, this DAU is meeting moderate harvest objectives. Seasons have been extended in this DAU and a second bear tag can be used. A predation management plan has been written for this DAU.



## DAU 2B (GMUs 7, 9)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
765	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	11.8	NA
	Percent Females	33%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	26%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	47	69	40	61	55	76	75	98	86	87
	0-4 years	22	28	14	22	22	26	34	44	38	0
	5+ years	13	19	8	19	17	18	10	15	15	0
	Unknown	4	5	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	64
	Subtotal	39	52	23	42	41	47	47	62	55	64
Males	0-4 years	3	4	7	10	7	10	14	13	16	0
	5+ years	5	10	10	8	7	14	13	22	13	0
	Unknown	0	3	0	1	0	5	1	1	2	23
	Subtotal	8	17	17	19	14	29	28	36	31	23
Females	0-4 years	30	54	25	46	49	67	63	89	76	72
	Fall	17	16	15	15	6	9	12	9	10	15
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	27	55	23	43	40	50	51	77	67	50
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	9
	Incidental	10	5	6	8	2	10	8	12	8	12
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	9	8	11	8	5	5	5	5	6	9

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

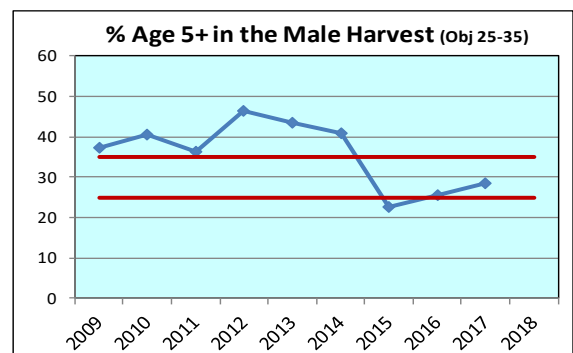
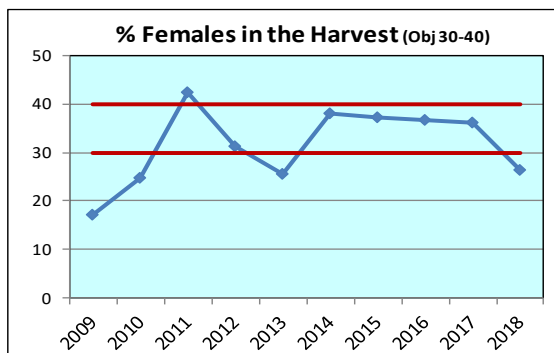
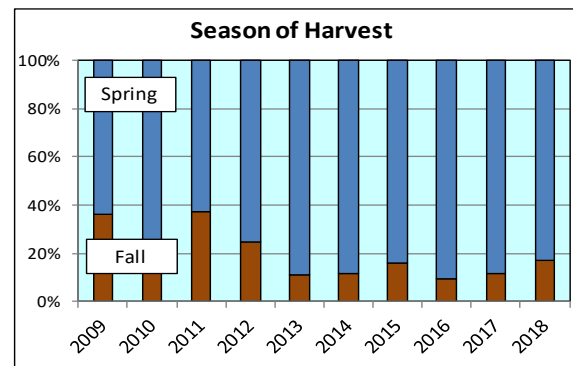
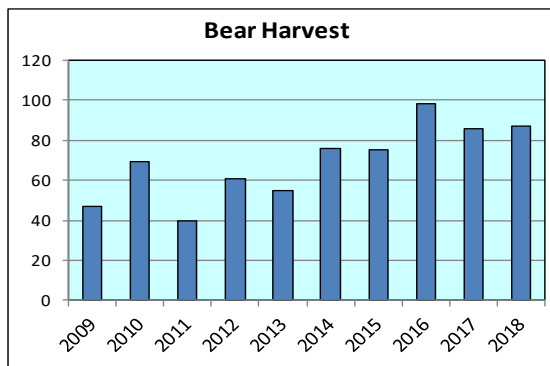


Figure 8. DAU2B Black Bear Status and Objectives



## **CLEARWATER REGION**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

DAU 1D was historically one of the most heavily-harvested DAUs in the Clearwater region and exceeded black bear management plan harvest criteria. All 4 harvest criteria were exceeded 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 increased to levels higher than those observed prior to the regulation change.

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 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 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan, but in 2000 the fall season was extended 2 weeks earlier for archery hunters. The general spring and fall seasons were 47 and 63 days, respectively, for the 2018 season. Although black bear baiting was not allowed in 2018, it was authorized beginning spring 2019.

#### **Management Objectives**

The current (1999–2010) Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1D is to be managed for harvest at the “heavy” level and 3-year average harvest data met this objective. Note however, that percent males  $\geq 5$  years old is based on age data from 2015–2017 because 2018 age results are not available (Figure 8). Although the female harvest objective has consistently been met over the last 9 years, the percentage of males  $\geq 5$  years of age has only met objectives in 4 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.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark and/or Telemetry**

While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts. We do not have any current collar or telemetry data for bears in the Clearwater Region. No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

## **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

## **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

During 2018 harvest increased to the second highest level since 2009, with 142 black bears harvested, compared to the 3-year average of 132 black bears. Females accounted for 42% of the harvest in 2018 (Figure 8). Slightly more black bears (54%) were harvested during the fall than spring season in 2018. We were still awaiting age analysis results for the 2018 harvest at the time of this report.

The primary method of harvest in 2018 was similar to past years, with hound hunting accounting for 59% of the total harvest, followed by still-hunting (24%), and incidental harvest (16%). This represents a shift from 1990–1992, when baiting was the most common method used (Figure 9). High road densities in this DAU have allowed hunters to access most of the available black bear habitat.

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

## **Predation Issues**

Bears prey on neonate deer and elk, but the population level effect of predation likely varies between herds, potentially in relation to where the population is relative to the carrying capacity of the area, weather, and habitat conditions. Based on cause-specific mortality data collected from collared elk, bears are not a substantial source of adult or +6 month-old calf mortality. We are not currently collecting data on neonate mortality rates, but a study conducted in a portion of DAU 2A and 1F between 1997 and 2004 identified black bears as the primary proximate cause of neonate elk mortality. It appeared that this source of mortality was additive and that an increase in black bear harvest contributed to higher calf survival.

## **Depredation Issues**

There were no depredation complaints in this DAU during this reporting period.

## **Management Discussion**

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 plan criteria, heavy harvest objectives have been met in DAU 1D.

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)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,287	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	5.7	NA	
	Percent Females	43%	>40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	23%	<25%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	121	126	99	116	86	128	145	126	126	142
	Males										
	0-4 years	56	45	40	43	28	61	57	53	61	0
	5+ years	12	20	15	24	16	12	25	14	11	0
Females	Unknown	2	3	1	2	1	1	0	3	1	82
	Subtotal	70	68	56	69	45	74	82	70	73	82
	0-4 years	31	31	21	27	24	30	42	33	25	0
	5+ years	17	24	22	17	17	21	21	23	27	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Unknown	3	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	60
	Subtotal	51	58	43	47	41	54	63	56	53	60
	Spring	44	48	33	50	44	44	72	64	59	77
	Fall	77	78	66	66	42	84	73	62	67	65
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	4	1	1
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	49	51	41	59	37	62	82	63	56	84
	Incidental	39	48	34	29	24	37	16	25	37	22
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	32	24	23	23	21	26	46	34	30	34

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

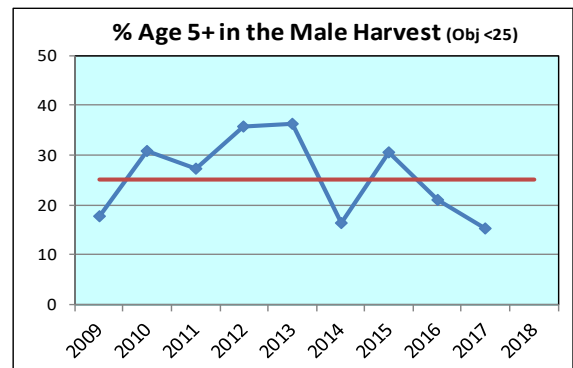
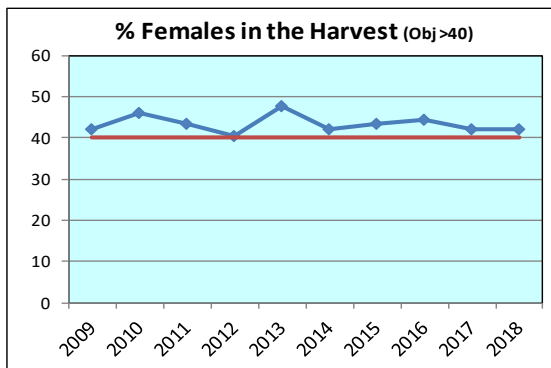
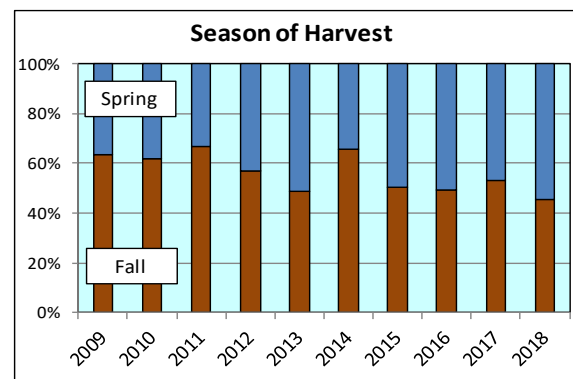
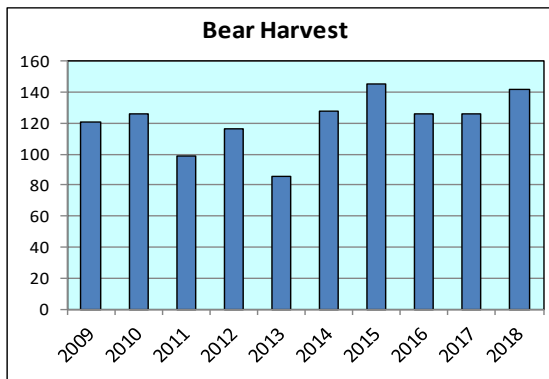


Figure 8. DAU1D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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.

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 2018 fall season length was 63 days (Appendix A), a reduction of 44 days from 1992. Spring general season in 2018 was 47 days.

### **Management Objectives**

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.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts. We do not have any current collar or telemetry data for bears in the Clearwater Region.

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

There were 120 black bears harvested in DAU 1E during 2018. This compares to a previous 3-year average of 124 bears and represents an overall increase in harvest since 2009. Fifty-nine percent and 41% were taken in the spring and fall of 2018, respectively. The current 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan specifies that DAU 1E is to be managed for harvest at the “heavy” level and 3-year average harvest data for percent females (40%) were just shy of this objective (>40%). The 3-year average (2015-2017) for percent males  $\geq 5$  years old was 23% (2018 age data is not currently available). The most common methods of harvest were still/stalk hunting (39%) followed by bait (33%) in 2018 (Figure 10).

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

### **Predation Issues**

Bears prey on neonate deer and elk, but the population level effect of predation likely varies between herds, potentially in relation to where the population is relative to the carrying capacity of the area, weather, and habitat conditions. Based on cause-specific mortality data collected from collared elk, bears are not a substantial source of adult or +6 month-old calf mortality in Idaho. We are not currently collecting data on neonate mortality rates, but a study conducted in a portion of DAU 2A between 1997 and 2004 identified black bears as the primary proximate cause of neonate elk mortality. It appeared that this source of mortality was additive and that an increase in black bear harvest contributed to higher calf survival.

### **Depredation Issues**

Most of the land in this DAU is privately owned. There were no depredation complaints in DAU 1E in 2018.

### **Management Discussion**

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)



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,698	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		4.6	NA
	Percent Females		40%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		23%	<25%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	77	85	80	88	76	102	104	129	124	120
	0-4 years	34	35	35	39	46	46	48	58	59	0
	5+ years	9	15	17	17	4	12	15	15	18	0
	Unknown	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	70
	Subtotal	44	51	53	56	51	59	66	75	77	70
Males	0-4 years	22	20	16	24	14	27	27	38	28	0
	5+ years	10	11	11	8	11	15	9	16	17	0
	Unknown	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	50
	Subtotal	33	34	27	32	25	43	38	54	47	50
Females	0-4 years	22	20	16	24	14	27	27	38	28	0
	5+ years	10	11	11	8	11	15	9	16	17	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	34	38	39	52	39	58	63	79	77	71
	Fall	43	47	41	36	37	44	42	50	47	49
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	20	26	26	30	24	30	47	55	55	40
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	11	17	15	11	14	12	21	12	24	23
	Incidental	22	19	10	15	13	18	15	14	14	10
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Still/Stalk	24	22	27	29	24	40	22	46	31	47

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

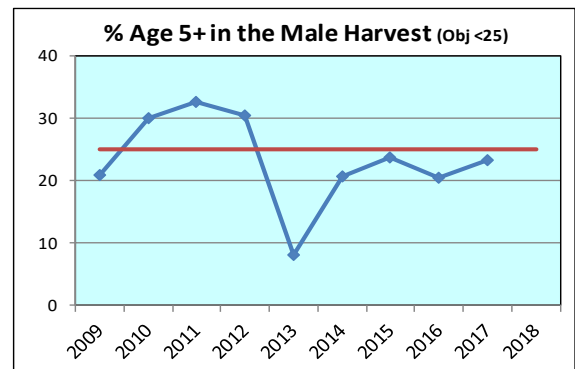
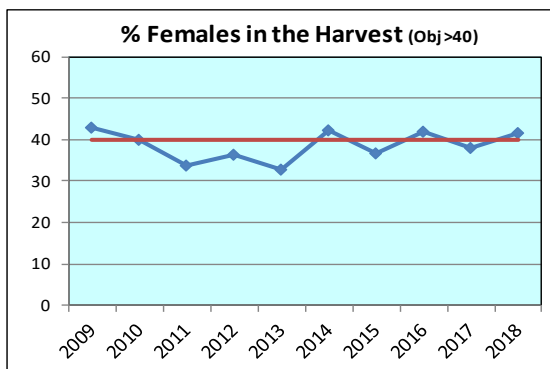
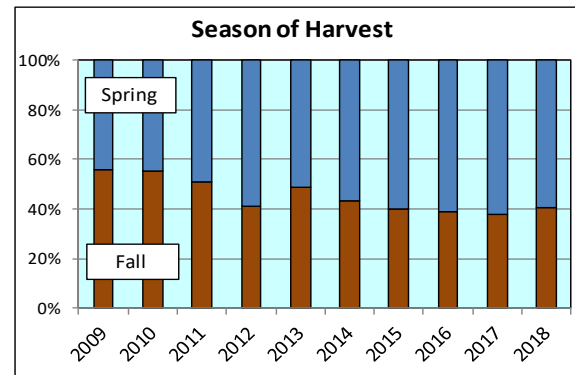
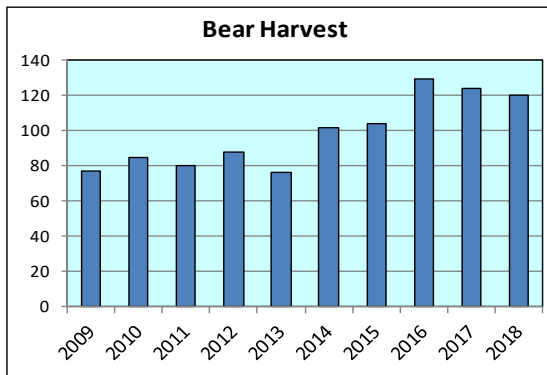


Figure 10. DAU1E Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

The season framework outlined in the 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan for DAU 1F is similar to that of the previous black bear plan. Plan objectives were to manage for heavy harvest objectives. Spring general season was 31 days in 2000 and fall general season was 47 days, excepting GMU 15, which had a 62-day fall season. Seasons have been liberalized since to maintain heavy harvest objectives. In 2018, the fall general season was 63 days, while the spring general season was 47 days in GMUs 14 and 18 and 77 days in GMUs 15 and 16.

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.

### **Management Objectives**

The current 1999–2010 Black Bear Management plan calls for maintaining heavy harvest levels in DAU 1F and 3-year average harvest data met this objective. Note however, that percent males  $\geq 5$  years old is based on age data from 2015–2017 because 2018 age results are not available.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts. We do not have any current collar or telemetry data for bears in the Clearwater Region.

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Hunters in DAU 1F harvested a total of 184 black bears during 2018, compared to 220 in 2017, and a previous 3-year average of 199. More black bears were harvested during the spring in 2018 (66%) than in the fall. The most frequent harvest methods in 2018 were bait (52%), hounds (22%), and still/stalk hunting (17%). Females accounted for 40% of harvested bears in 2018. Age analysis results for the 2018 harvest are not yet available.

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

### **Predation**

Bears prey on neonate deer and elk, but the population level effect of predation likely varies between herds, potentially in relation to where the population is relative to the carrying capacity of the area, weather, and habitat conditions. Based on cause-specific mortality data collected

from collared elk, bears are not a substantial source of adult or +6 month-old calf mortality in Idaho. We are not currently collecting data on neonate deer or elk mortality rates, but a study conducted in a portion of DAU 2A and 1F between 1997 and 2004 identified black bears as the primary proximate cause of neonate elk mortality. It appeared that this source of mortality was additive and that an increase in black bear harvest contributed to higher calf survival.

### **Depredation Issues**

There was no depredations in this DAU in 2018.

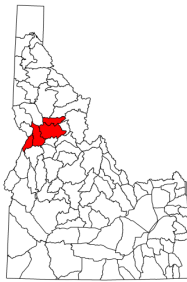
### **Management Discussion**

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.

Heavy harvest objectives were met in this DAU for both male and female harvest criteria. 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)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,121	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		9.4	NA
	Percent Females		42%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years		24%	<25%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	159	179	140	148	155	187	183	192	220	184
	0-4 years	71	78	61	66	72	77	90	75	96	0
	5+ years	31	46	23	27	30	36	25	29	29	0
	Unknown	0	1	2	4	1	1	3	0	5	111
	Subtotal	102	125	86	97	103	114	118	104	130	111
Males	0-4 years	34	28	30	24	27	36	33	51	51	1
	5+ years	23	24	22	22	24	32	31	37	37	0
	Unknown	0	2	2	5	1	5	1	0	2	72
	Subtotal	57	54	54	51	52	73	65	88	90	73
Females	0-4 years	34	28	30	24	27	36	33	51	51	1
	5+ years	23	24	22	22	24	32	31	37	37	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	52	92	69	79	80	108	95	111	137	122
	Fall	107	88	71	69	75	79	88	81	83	62
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	60	80	57	70	68	87	91	101	112	95
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Hounds	26	31	28	38	47	43	42	41	56	42
	Incidental	34	24	19	11	11	22	17	17	17	15
	PredCall	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	37	45	35	27	28	32	33	33	34	31

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

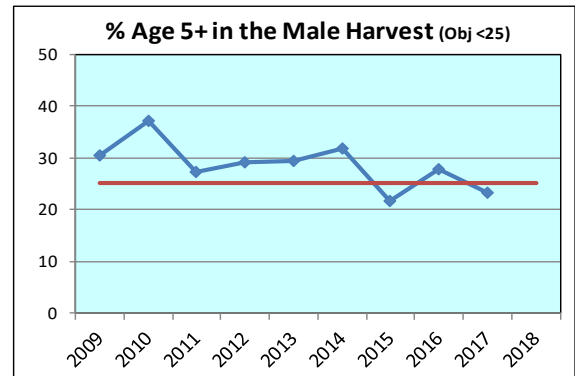
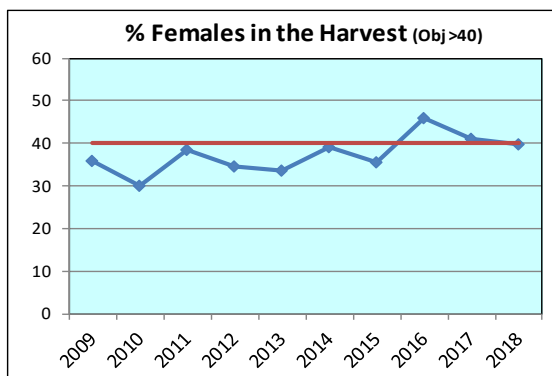
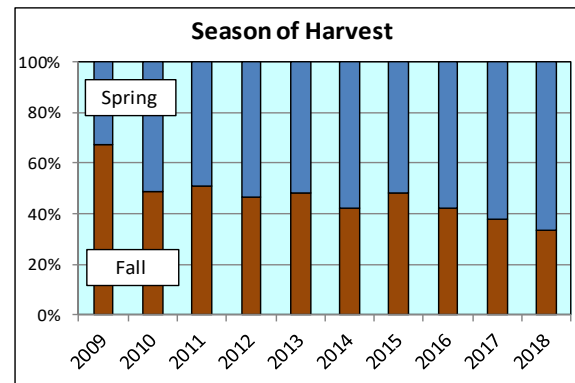
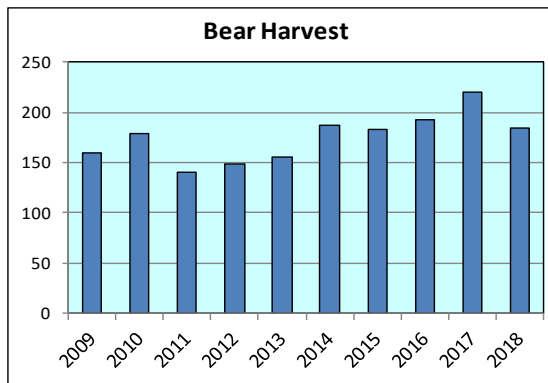


Figure 11. DAU1F Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **AREA 2**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

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.

#### **Management Objectives**

The 1999–2010 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 2018 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.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts. We do not have any current collar or telemetry data for bears in the Clearwater Region.

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

In 2018, 277 black bears were harvested in DAU 2A, down from 301 in 2017, but near the previous 3-year average of 282. Eighty-two percent of these black bears were harvested during the 2018 spring season and 39% were females. Harvest criteria set under the current management plan allow for increased harvest because harvest values were below management criteria. Although the percent females in the harvest in 2018 (39%) was the highest in the past 10 years, the 3-year average (34%) did not meet the harvest objective of >40%. The 3-year average (2015–2017) percent males  $\geq 5$  years old was 21% (2018 age data is not currently available). Hunting over bait accounted for 88% of the harvest in DAU 2A in 2018, followed by 6% still/stalk (Figure 12).

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

## **Predation Issues**

Bears prey on neonate deer and elk, but the population level effect of predation likely varies between herds, potentially in relation to where the population is relative to the carrying capacity of the area, weather, and habitat conditions. Based on cause-specific mortality data collected from collared elk, bears are not a substantial source of adult or 6+ month-old calf mortality in Idaho. We are not currently collecting data on neonate mortality rates, but a study conducted in a portion of DAU 2A between 1997 and 2004 identified black bears as the primary proximate cause of neonate elk mortality. It appeared that this source of mortality was additive and that an increase in black bear harvest contributed to higher calf survival.

## **Depredation Issues**

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 this DAU in 2018.

## **Management Discussion**

DAU 2A receives moderate hunting pressure. Roadless habitats, public land, healthy black bear populations, and liberal hunting season frameworks characterize the DAU. Harvest was below the previous 3-year average in 2018 and did not meet the desired objective of heavy harvest of female bears (Figure 12). Heavy harvest objectives for percent males  $\geq 5$  years old were met based on 2015-2017 age data.

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 occurs in the spring (88% in 2018).

## DAU 2A (GMUs 10, 12)



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:		3-Year Averages		Objective
2,373		Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	11.9	NA
		Percent Females	34%	>40%
		Males: Percent 5+ Years*	21%	<25%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	250	308	285	305	248	246	281	267	301	277
	0-4 years	123	159	121	151	95	116	159	125	161	0
	5+ years	47	50	72	52	59	43	35	43	42	0
	Unknown	6	5	2	5	6	11	4	9	12	169
	Subtotal	176	214	195	208	160	170	198	177	215	169
Males	0-4 years	32	52	31	53	37	37	43	42	58	0
	5+ years	42	41	51	41	48	33	35	44	23	0
	Unknown	0	1	8	3	3	6	5	4	5	108
	Subtotal	74	94	90	97	88	76	83	90	86	108
Females	0-4 years	32	52	31	53	37	37	43	42	58	0
	5+ years	42	41	51	41	48	33	35	44	23	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	206	244	222	260	221	215	228	235	261	228
	Fall	44	64	64	45	28	34	53	32	40	49
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	181	232	208	261	197	214	237	228	258	243
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Hounds	6	2	11	5	4	6	4	13	8	11
	Incidental	17	17	16	4	8	6	6	6	5	4
	PredCall	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
	Still/Stalk	37	48	47	32	34	21	27	16	22	17

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

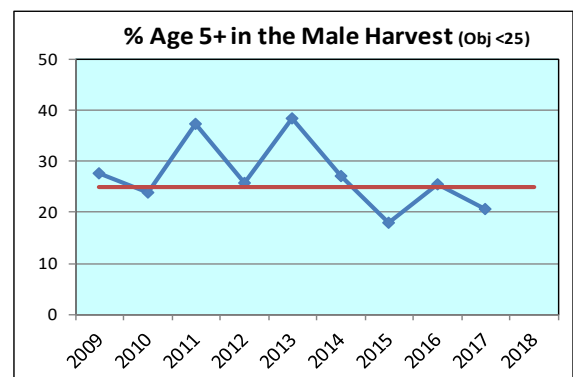
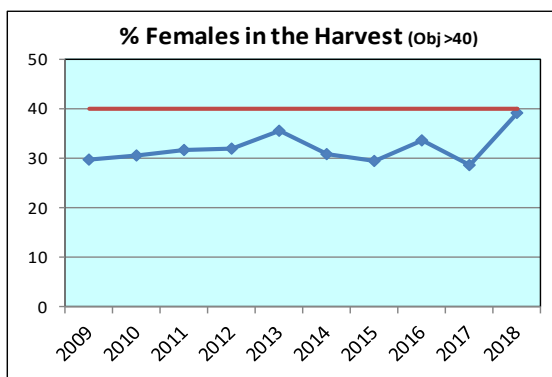
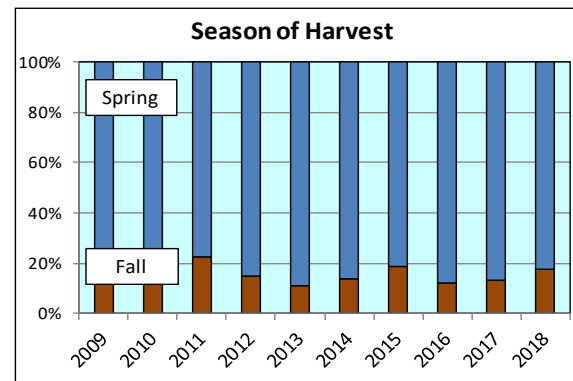
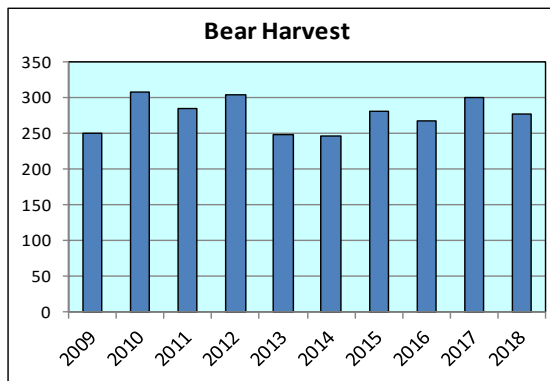


Figure 12. DAU2A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **AREA 3**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

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 2018. 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.

#### **Management Objectives**

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 Objectives. 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.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

While nuisance bears are occasionally relocated, black bears are not a focus of department-lead capture or collaring efforts. We do not have any current collar or telemetry data for bears in the Clearwater Region.

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

In 2018, 72 black bears were harvested in DAU 3A, which is substantially lower than the 2017 harvest of 109 bears and the previous 3-year average of 99. 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 72 bears harvested in 2018, 36% were females. Spring harvest accounted for 64% of the total harvest. The harvest management objective identified in the

current management plan is for moderate harvest and recent 3-year averages indicate light harvest levels. Most of the black bears harvested in 2018 were taken over bait (56%) followed by still-stalk (37%).

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.

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.

### **Predation Issues**

Bears prey on neonate deer and elk, but the population level effect of predation likely varies between herds, potentially in relation to where the population is relative to the carrying capacity of the area, weather, and habitat conditions. Based on cause-specific mortality data collected from collared elk, bears are not a substantial source of adult or 6+ month-old calf mortality in Idaho. We are not currently collecting data on neonate calf mortality rates, but a study conducted in a portion of DAU 2A between 1997 and 2004 identified black bears as the primary proximate cause of neonate elk mortality. It appeared that this source of mortality was additive and that an increase in black bear harvest contributed to higher calf survival.

### **Depredation Issues**

There were no depredation complaints in this DAU during 2018.

### **Management Discussion**

Black bear populations in this DAU are healthy and have consistently fallen at or below moderate harvest levels, especially the percent males  $\geq 5$  years old. Because of the amount of available habitat within this DAU and light hunting pressure, the season structure outlined in the 1999–2010 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)



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,527	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	3.9	NA	
	Percent Females	28%	30-40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	40%	25-35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	142	130	121	118	93	107	111	117	109	72
	Males										
	0-4 years	53	50	40	51	36	39	49	52	42	0
	5+ years	44	43	43	38	33	30	28	33	34	0
	Unknown	4	1	3	0	1	3	0	5	2	46
	Subtotal	101	94	86	89	70	72	77	90	78	46
Females	0-4 years	14	15	8	14	9	14	15	11	14	0
	5+ years	27	19	24	15	13	18	17	14	17	0
	Unknown	0	2	3	0	1	3	2	2	0	26
	Subtotal	41	36	35	29	23	35	34	27	31	26
	Subtotal	41	36	35	29	23	35	34	27	31	26
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	100	84	85	91	81	80	79	93	87	49
	Fall	43	46	36	27	12	27	33	24	22	27
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	86	74	71	91	55	63	67	82	73	42
	BaitHounds	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	1	2	2	1	4	5	4	1	1	0
	Incidental	11	17	3	4	2	9	8	8	9	5
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	40	34	42	22	31	28	31	22	26	28

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

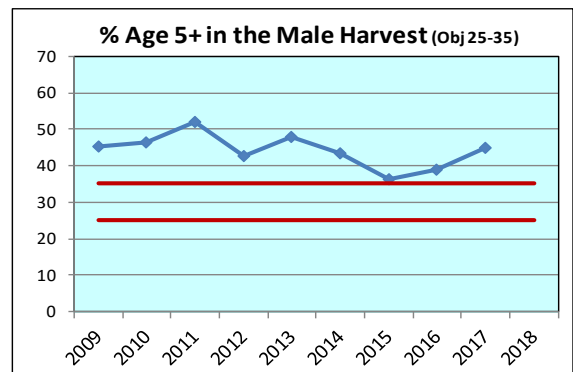
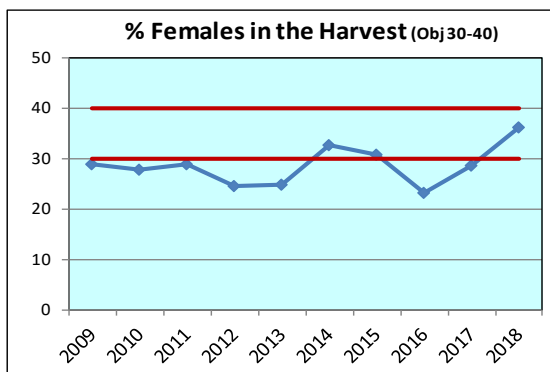
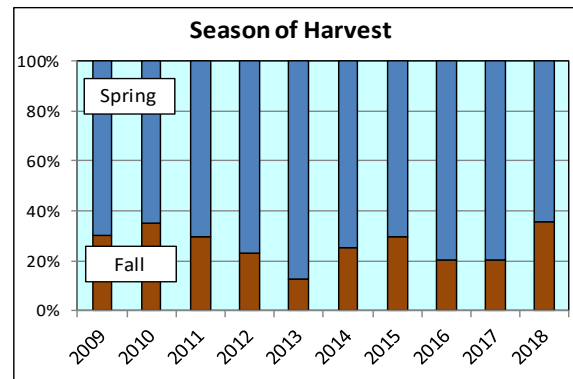
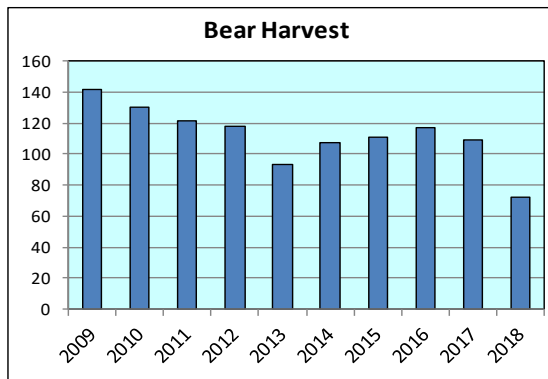


Figure 13. DAU3A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **SOUTHWEST REGION**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

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 (2017 season) included extending the spring season in the north half of GMU 24 by one week (15 June) to increase harvest in attempt to reduce nuisance bear complaints.

#### **Management Objectives**

DAU 1G is managed for moderate harvest targets of 25–35%  $\geq 5$  year old bears in the male harvest and 30–40% females in the total harvest.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry occurred in this DAU during the reporting period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 harvest of 203 black bears is 11% above the previous 3-year average (2015–2017). The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than the fall which has been a consistent trend since 2014 but is a change from the prior 8 years. Hunting over bait was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1G in 2018; 53% of successful hunters used this method. Just under half of the remainder of the harvest was taken by hounds, followed by still hunting, and then incidental harvest (Figure 14).

Thirty-three percent of the 2016–2018 harvest was female bears, within the moderate harvest target of 30–40% females for this DAU. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years in the 2015–2017 harvest was 32%, within the moderate objective of 25–35% (2018 age data is not currently available). Age data indicate 0–4 year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

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.



**Predation Issues**

There are no known problems with low calf elk or fawn deer ratios in this DAU at this time.

**Depredation Issues**

No depredations occurred in this DAU during the reporting period.

**Management Discussion**

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. In 2017 the season was again extended in the north half of GMU 24 to help reduce nuisance bear complaints in the north half of Valley County.

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



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
2,984	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	6.4	NA
	Percent Females	33%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	32%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	116	134	144	160	165	151	178	202	170	203
	0-4 years	49	55	67	66	78	58	82	89	76	0
	5+ years	31	26	32	42	33	50	39	42	34	0
	Unknown	0	6	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	139
	Subtotal	80	87	100	109	113	109	121	133	111	139
Males	0-4 years	23	25	21	29	22	18	27	36	33	0
	5+ years	11	20	23	21	28	23	28	33	22	0
	Unknown	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	0	4	64
	Subtotal	36	47	44	51	52	42	57	69	59	64
Females	0-4 years	23	25	21	29	22	18	27	36	33	0
	5+ years	11	20	23	21	28	23	28	33	22	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	49	43	45	71	77	85	103	117	111	121
	Fall	68	91	99	89	88	68	76	85	59	82
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	60	48	61	69	81	92	93	100	86	106
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	14	16	28	28	25	18	35	40	23	44
	Incidental	17	32	37	31	28	19	25	30	15	18
	PredCall	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
	Still/Stalk	24	35	16	28	27	22	24	26	42	31

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

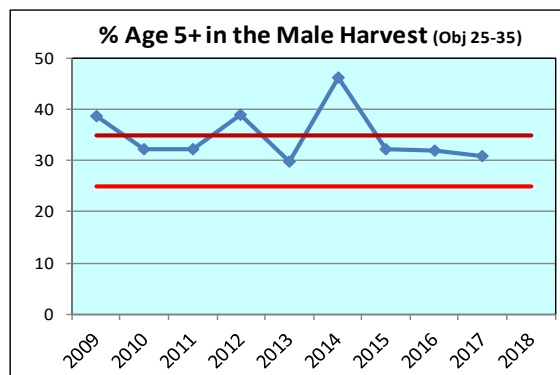
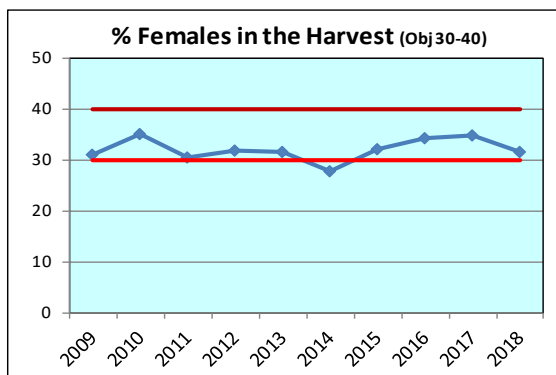
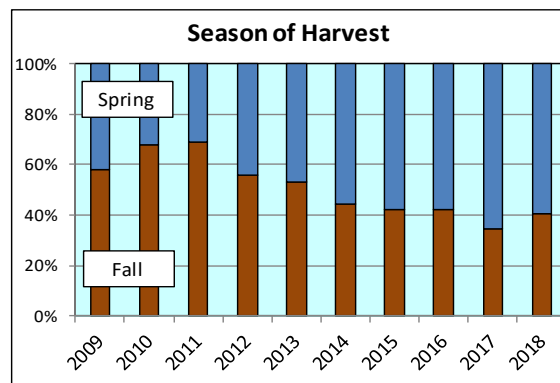
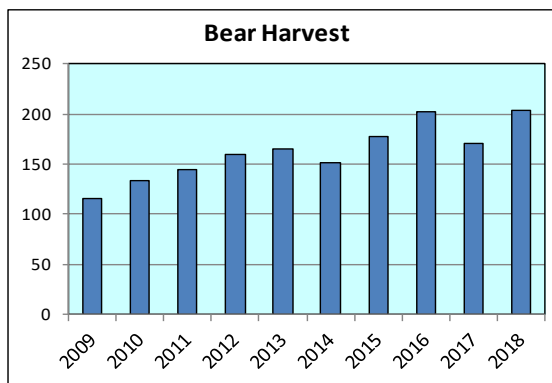


Figure 14. DAU1G Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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 shrub fields 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).

### **Management Objectives**

DAU 1H will continue to be managed as a high quality controlled hunt area with the goal of maintaining a 30% or greater hunter success rate. DAU 1H is managed for light harvest targets of >35% age  $\geq$ 5 year old bears in the male harvest and <30% females in the total harvest.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry occurred in this DAU during the reporting period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears..

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 harvest of 154 black bears exceeds the previous 3-year average by 16%. Harvest in this DAU was 52% greater in the fall than in the spring season, consistent with previous years. Hunting with hounds was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 1H in 2018; 56% of successful hunters used this method. Still hunting accounted for the vast remainder of the harvest (44%). Hunting over bait is prohibited in these GMUs. Hunting with dogs is prohibited during the spring season in these GMUs.

Forty percent of the 2016–2018 harvest was female bears, greater than the light harvest target of  $\leq$ 30% females. The percent of males  $\geq$ 5 years in the 2015–2017 harvest was 40%, meeting the objective of  $\geq$ 35% (2018 age data is not currently available). Age data indicate 0–4 year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group.

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

### **Predation Issues**

There are no known problems with low calf elk or fawn deer ratios in this DAU at this time.

## **Depredation Issues**

Wildlife Services reported that one domestic goat was killed by a black bear in this DAU during the reporting period.

## **Management Discussion**

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  $\geq 5$  years of age in the harvest at or above 35%; maintain percent females in the harvest at or below 30%; and to maintain a 30% or higher hunter success rate (2016–2018 average success rate was 39%). 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  $\geq 5$  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)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages			Objective
3,494	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	4.1	NA	
	Percent Females	40%	<30%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	40%	>35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<sup>1</sup>	<b>TOTAL</b>	95	122	120	130	115	158	120	137	141	154
	Males										
	0-4 years	41	39	42	42	36	50	47	48	44	0
	5+ years	24	30	25	36	23	40	22	38	34	0
	Unknown	0	5	4	3	6	2	3	2	0	95
	<b>Subtotal</b>	65	74	71	81	65	92	72	88	78	95
	Females										
	0-4 years	11	23	27	13	22	27	20	15	25	0
	5+ years	14	21	18	35	26	38	27	32	33	0
	Unknown	5	4	4	1	2	1	1	2	5	59
	<b>Subtotal</b>	30	48	49	49	50	66	48	49	63	59
<b>Season<sup>2</sup></b>	Spring	40	57	56	69	43	68	45	58	50	50
	Fall	56	65	64	62	72	91	75	79	92	104
<b>Method<sup>3</sup></b>	Bait	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	1
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	35	40	40	36	36	50	45	51	54	84
	Incidental	2	7	3	4	3	3	4	4	5	1
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	56	72	74	88	71	101	68	81	81	67

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

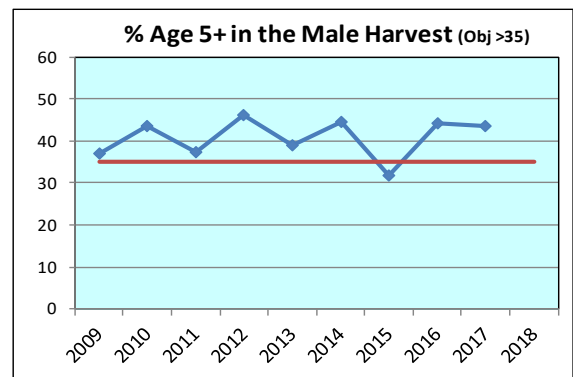
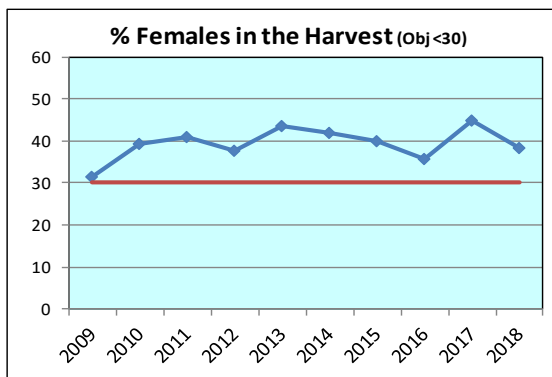
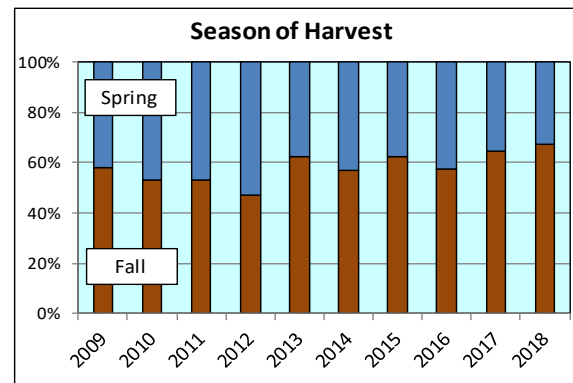
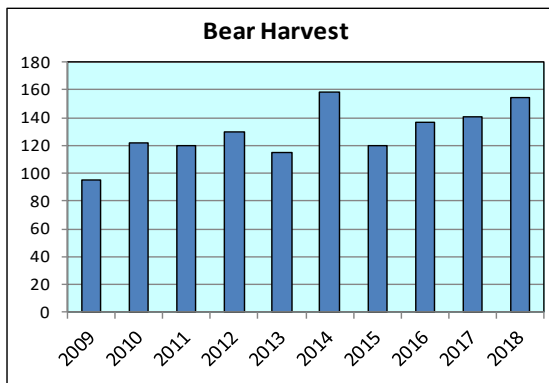


Figure 15. DAU1H Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

The majority of DAU 1K is forested public land administered by the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. However, sections of private agricultural land exists in the valley bottoms. A portion of the Treasure Valley—Idaho’s largest metropolitan area—is also within this DAU. 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 urban areas with high road density to roadless wilderness. Bear habitat in this DAU is considered moderately productive.

### **Management Objectives**

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

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No capture, radio-mark or telemetry studies were conducted during the reporting period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 harvest of 311 black bears is 5% above the previous 3-year average. About 73% of the harvest in this DAU in 2018 occurred during the spring season, which is just above the 10-year average of 72%. Baiting was the primary method of take; 48% of successful hunters used this method. The second most used method was still hunting (stalking), accounting for 25% of the harvest.

Thirty-eight percent of the harvest between 2016 and 2018 was female bears, meeting the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years in the harvest (2016–2017) was 35%, meeting the moderate harvest objective of 25–35%. (2018 age data was not available at time of this report). Age data indicate 0–4 year old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group, while number of harvested female bears ages 0–4 and 5+ were similar

### **Predation Issues**

Calf:cow and fawn:doe ratios were within normal parameters during herd composition counts in 2017 and 2018. Bear predation is likely not a population-limiting factor for ungulates in these GMUs.

### **Depredation Issues**

A few nuisance black bear complaints occurred in Garden Valley/Crouch area in 2018. However, education and garbage clean-up were successful tools used to alleviate major issues.

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. Livestock, orchard, and apiary depredations are uncommon, but do occasionally occur in this DAU. Wildlife Services reported that a black bear killed multiple sheep in GMU 43 during this reporting period. Conflicts with campers in the Fairfield Ranger District (GMU 43) have increased over the past 15 years. One bear was trapped during this reporting period after repeated contact with campers in the Five Points camping area north of Fairfield in GMU 43. The bear was relocated in the headwaters of Fish Creek because we were unable to confirm it was the offending bear.

### **Management Discussion**

Overall harvest in this DAU is up 14% compared to the 10-year average. This corresponds to similar trends observed in deer and elk populations since 2009. Percent females in the harvest are well within objective while percent males 5+ years old are at the upper end of the objective. This represents a healthy, robust black bear population in this DAU.

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



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,814	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	7.7	NA
	Percent Females	38%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	35%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	184	280	263	262	250	250	311	286	280	311
	0-4 years	82	102	105	115	97	108	119	108	113	0
	5+ years	36	54	62	41	42	42	61	59	61	0
	Unknown	1	9	5	8	8	2	5	3	4	197
	Subtotal	119	165	172	164	147	152	185	170	178	197
Males	0-4 years	41	50	35	48	54	47	68	58	53	0
	5+ years	23	57	53	43	41	47	52	56	46	0
	Unknown	1	8	3	7	8	4	6	2	3	114
	Subtotal	65	115	91	98	103	98	126	116	102	114
Females	0-4 years	41	50	35	48	54	47	68	58	53	0
	5+ years	23	57	53	43	41	47	52	56	46	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	119	179	183	194	178	186	240	233	214	227
	Fall	67	104	82	69	72	64	74	57	70	84
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	86	111	97	143	119	131	179	154	150	148
	BaitHounds	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
	Hounds	18	43	42	35	36	35	49	34	41	46
	Incidental	24	43	37	39	24	29	21	23	30	36
	PredCall	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Still/Stalk	48	81	82	41	69	55	59	72	62	79

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

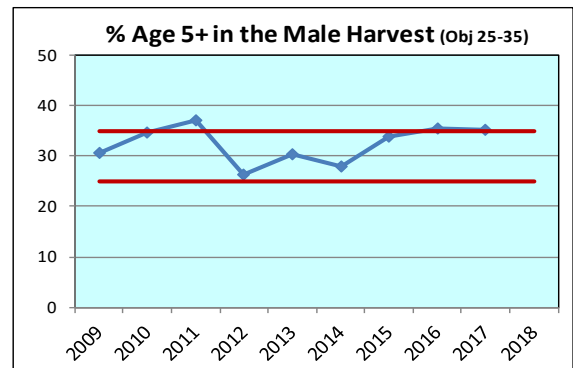
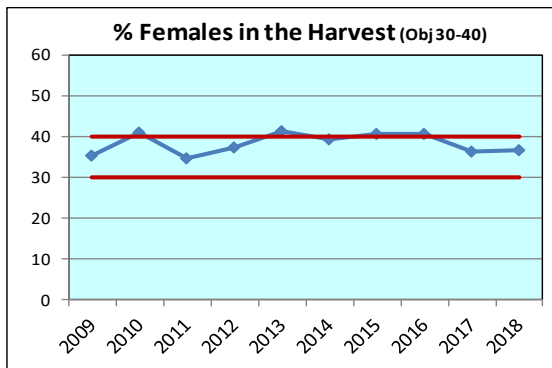
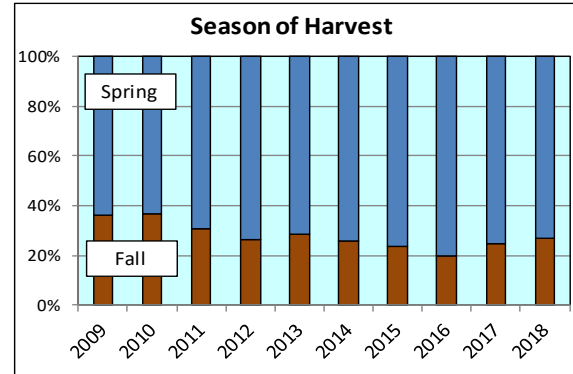
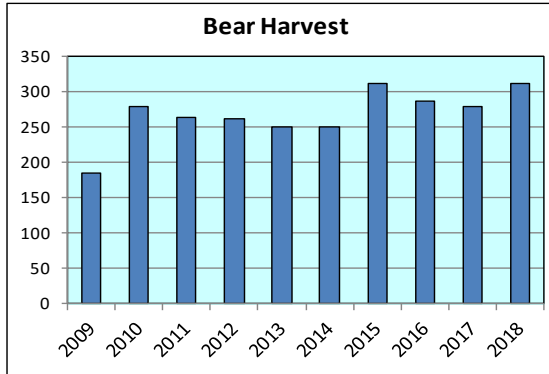


Figure 16. DAU1K Black Bear Status and Objectives



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

### **Historical Perspective**

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.

### **Management Objectives**

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

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No capture, radio-telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the reporting period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 harvest of 70 black bears is 9% higher than the previous 3-year average. The black bear harvest in this DAU was greater in the spring than in the fall season for 2018, consistent with 2013–2016, but a change from most prior years. Still hunting (stalking was the primary method of take of black bears in DAU 3B in 2018, accounting for 56% of the harvest. Baiting accounted for the vast remainder of the harvest (33%).

Thirty-five percent of the 2016–2018 harvest was female bears, within the moderate harvest target of 30–40%. The percent of males  $\geq 5$  years in the male harvest (2015–2017) was 54%, exceeding the moderate harvest objective of 25–35% (2018 age data is not currently available). Age data indicate  $>5$  year-old male bears were the most frequently harvested age group, followed closely by males  $<5$  years.

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

### **Predation Issues**

There are no known predation issues to report in this DAU at this time.

### **Depredation Issues**

There were no depredation issues in this DAU during the reporting period.

## **Management Discussion**

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%  $\geq 5$  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)



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,885	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		2.2	NA
	Percent Females		35%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		54%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<sup>1</sup>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>
	Males										
	0-4 years	13	12	13	20	22	16	23	18	17	0
	5+ years	20	17	19	18	9	20	21	23	24	0
	Unknown	1	4	3	3	2	1	5	1	2	41
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>
	Females										
	0-4 years	3	7	7	8	4	7	12	9	8	0
	5+ years	5	6	7	6	12	8	7	6	14	0
	Unknown	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	29
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Season<sup>2</sup></b>	Spring	12	17	26	19	28	35	38	30	18	38
	Fall	30	31	24	37	23	20	31	27	48	32
<b>Method<sup>3</sup></b>	Bait	12	13	19	19	23	23	40	17	18	23
	BaitHounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Hounds	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
	Incidental	11	10	8	14	7	7	9	9	21	8
	PredCall	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	15	23	21	21	21	24	20	30	23	39

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

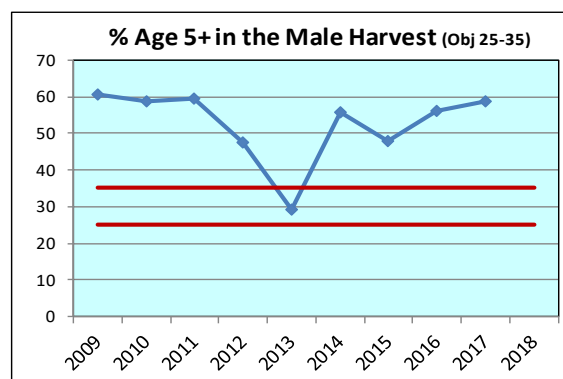
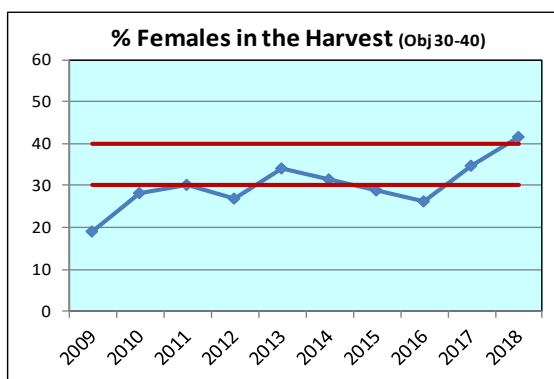
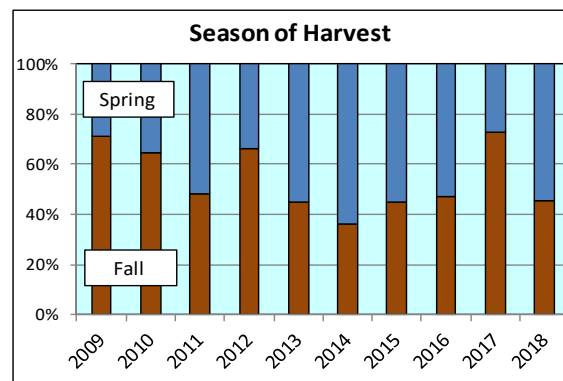
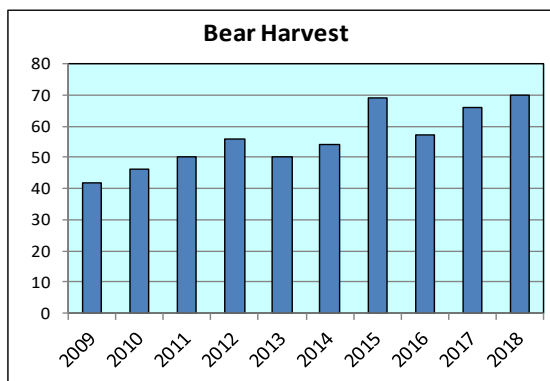


Figure 17. DAU3B Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **MAGIC VALLEY REGION**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

DAU 4A is on the southern edge of black bear range in Idaho. As a result 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.

#### **Management Objectives**

Management objectives in the 1999–2010 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.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Currently, population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

The 2018 spring and fall hunting seasons were unchanged from 2017. Both seasons followed frameworks adopted in the 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan (Appendix A). A standard dog-training season of 16 June–31 July was implemented in 2003. Fifty-six black bears were harvested in 2018, 8% less than the previous 3 year average. Seventy percent of the black bear harvest occurred during the spring season. Baiting, still-hunting, hound hunting, and incidental take accounted for 57%, 21%, 4%, 16% of the total hunter harvest of black bears in DAU 4A respectively (Figure 18).

The 2018 harvest was composed of 41% females, above the 3-year average of 36% which is just above the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure data indicates a relatively stable older male segment of the population. The 10-year average percentage of age 5+ males in the harvest is 28% and has fluctuated from a low of 11% in 2013 to a high of 42% in 2008. The current 3-year average (2015–2017) of age 5+ males is above the 10 year average at 36% (2018 age data is not currently available).

## **Predation Issues**

There are no known predation issues to report for this DAU at this time.

## **Depredation Issues**

Black bear depredation issues remain at manageable levels within the DAU. No livestock, orchard, or apiary depredations were received during this reporting period. Conflicts with campers in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (GMU 48) have increased over the past 15 years. Education and better garbage management practices were used to alleviate these conflicts. The recently implemented food storage order for campers on the SNRA should help reduce future conflicts.

## **Management Discussion**

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. However, recent harvest metrics have met the objectives outlined in the 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan. The trend in harvest may be indicative of a growing bear population; however, interpreting these data is difficult as interest in black bear hunting may be influencing harvest statistics.

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



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)			
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective
3,241	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	1.6	NA
	Percent Females	36%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	33%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	39	67	62	65	63	64	80	56	48	56
	0-4 years	22	25	22	29	30	23	33	25	17	0
	5+ years	5	11	13	6	4	13	14	9	14	0
	Unknown	0	3	6	5	1	1	2	1	3	33
	Subtotal	27	39	41	40	35	37	49	35	34	33
Males	0-4 years	6	16	9	17	16	13	16	14	6	0
	5+ years	5	11	11	7	9	12	14	7	8	0
	Unknown	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	23
	Subtotal	12	28	21	25	28	27	31	21	14	23
Females	0-4 years	6	16	9	17	16	13	16	14	6	0
	5+ years	5	11	11	7	9	12	14	7	8	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	26	44	39	46	37	40	61	44	37	39
	Fall	13	23	23	20	27	24	19	12	11	17
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	19	29	31	34	32	32	45	33	25	32
	BaitHounds	1	2	1	0	2	1	5	1	0	0
	Hounds	3	7	9	3	3	8	6	3	3	2
	Incidental	5	10	8	8	5	7	11	5	6	9
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	9	18	12	19	20	16	13	14	14	12

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

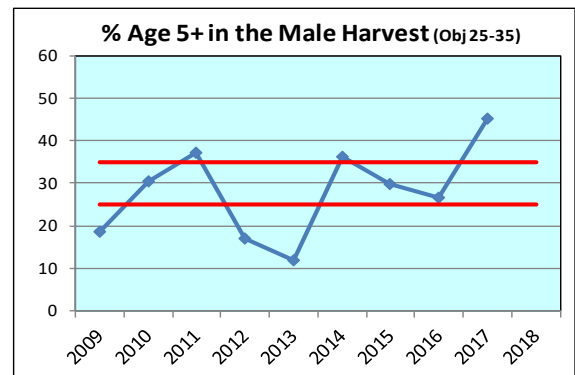
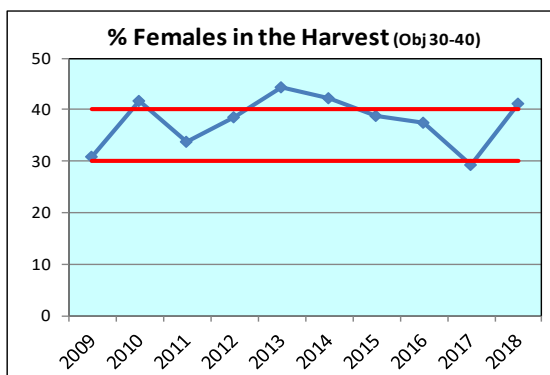
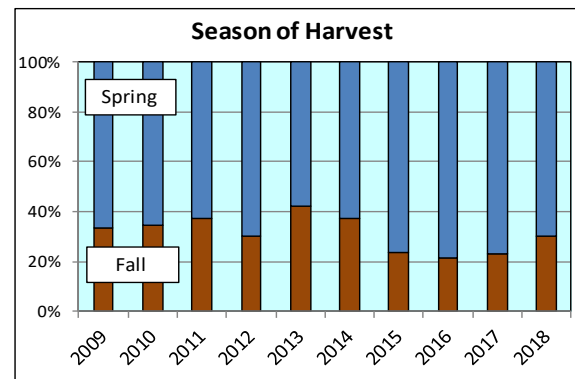
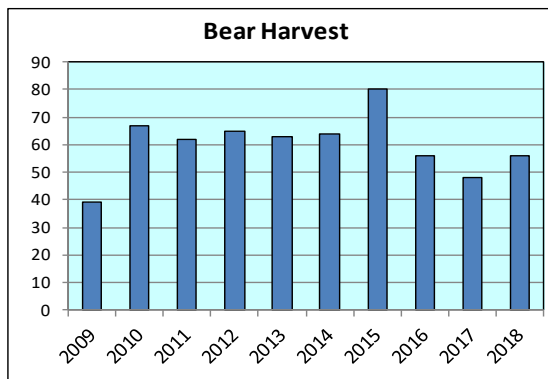


Figure 18. DAU4A Black Bear Status and Objectives

## **UPPER SNAKE REGION**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

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.

#### **Management Objectives**

The 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan sets management objectives for DAU 4B to maintain harvest levels consistent with the “moderate” harvest targets of 25–35% male bears  $\geq 5$  years old and 30–40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average.

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Harvest management criteria did not 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 2018. The dog-training season ran from 16 June–31 July in DAU 4B.

Hunters harvested 38 black bears in DAU 4B in 2018, which greater than the 3-year average for 2016–2018 of 58. The three year average (2016–2018) for females harvested was 51%, above the target of 30–40% females in the harvest (Figure 19). Analysis of age structure indicates a relatively old male segment of the population, with 33% of the 2015–2017 male harvest reaching age class of 5 or older (2018 age data is not currently available).

#### **Predation Issues**

Predation by black bears is not a limiting factor for ungulate populations in this DAU.

#### **Depredation Issues**

There were no black bear depredations on domestic livestock reported in this DAU in 2018.

## **Management Discussion**

The objectives for DAU 4B is to maintain harvest in the “moderate” range. Harvest for the 2014–2016 for males  $\geq 5$  years old was 43% (2018 age data is not currently available), which suggests light harvest. The percentage of females harvested (51%), during the 2016–2018 period indicates a heavy harvest. The discrepancy is likely due to the small sample size of bears harvested in this DAU.



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



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
3,955	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		0.9	NA
	Percent Females		51%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		33%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	42	52	45	36	43	42	50	36	30	38
	0-4 years	18	20	15	11	17	8	20	12	8	0
	5+ years	9	12	7	9	7	15	10	5	5	0
	Unknown	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	20
	Subtotal	28	34	23	21	25	23	30	18	13	20
Males	0-4 years	6	10	7	3	7	9	9	4	6	0
	5+ years	8	7	14	12	10	10	11	14	9	0
	Unknown	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	18
	Subtotal	14	18	22	15	18	19	20	18	17	18
	Females	0-4 years	6	10	7	3	7	9	4	6	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	34	35	33	29	26	34	39	33	25	32
	Fall	8	17	12	7	17	8	11	3	5	6
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	17	14	22	5	13	12	18	17	10	20
	BaitHounds	11	14	9	12	8	9	8	7	4	5
	Hounds	8	11	6	12	6	11	13	7	5	5
	Incidental	3	11	5	2	6	7	6	3	5	2
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	2	2	3	4	8	2	4	2	6	6

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

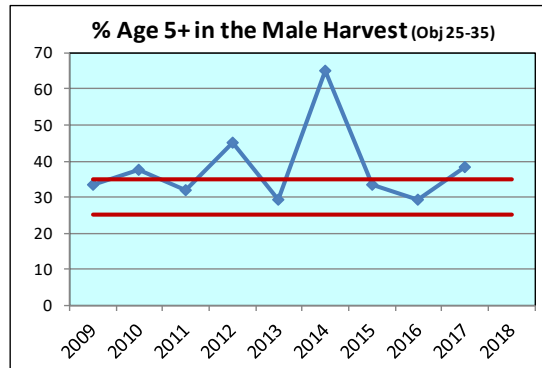
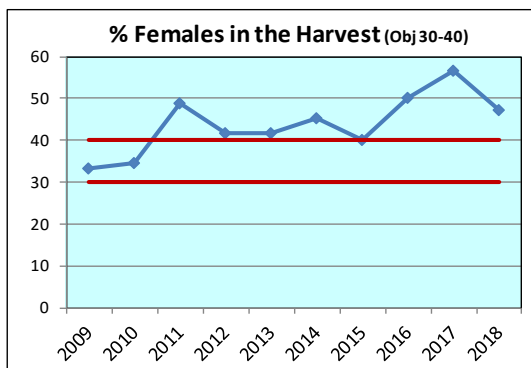
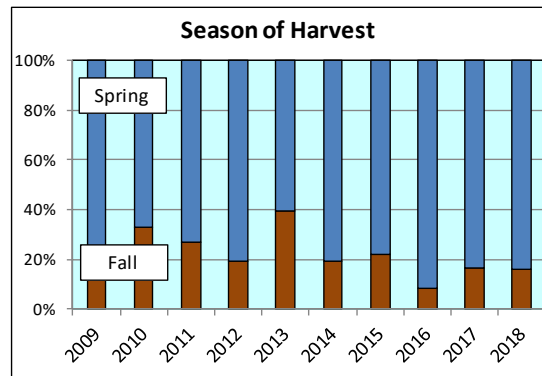
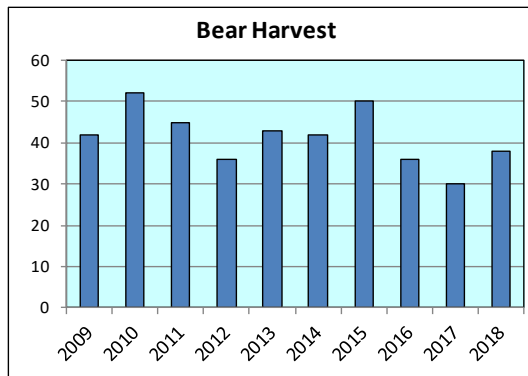


Figure 19. DAU4B Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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.

### **Management Objectives**

The 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan set management objectives for DAU 4C to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets of 25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30–40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average. DAU 4C includes part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which supports a grizzly bear population. This DAU is managed to protect that threatened population by prohibiting bait and use of hounds to hunt black bear within the grizzly bear recovery area.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

We did not conduct any surveys during the reporting period. Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Historically, a relatively small number of black bears ( $<30$ ) were checked from this DAU annually. However, the most recent 3-year average (2016–2018) of 69 bears from DAU 4C exceeds the  $\geq 30$ -bear criteria set forth in the 1999–2010 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 harvest relatively equally split between spring and fall seasons. 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.

Harvest for the 2014–2016 was 30%, within the desired level for males  $\geq 5$  years old ((2018 age data is not currently available). The percentage of females harvested (25%) during the 2016–2018 period indicates a light-moderate harvest (Figure 20).

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).

**Predation Issues**

Predation by black bears is not a limiting factor for ungulate populations in this DAU.

**Depredation Issues**

There were no black bear depredations on domestic livestock reported in this DAU in 2018.

**Management Discussion**

The objectives for DAU 4C are to maintain “moderate” harvest levels. Harvest for the 2014–2016 seasons was within objective for males  $\geq 5$  years old (2018 age data is not currently available). Harvest was below the level for percent females during 2016–2018, indicating a light harvest. This population is more lightly harvested than other DAUs in the region because of restrictions placed on baiting and hound hunting to protect grizzly bear in most of the DAU. In an effort to bring DAU 4C into the desired levels for percent female and percent males  $\geq 5$  years old in the harvest and to provide more hunting opportunity, the Fish and Game Commission extended the spring take season by 15 days in 2003. That change has increased the number of spring bears taken from an average of 14 during 1994–2002 to an average of 31 during 2004–2017.



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

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
1,966	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	3.5	NA	
	Percent Females	25%	30-40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	38%	25-35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest	TOTAL	40	50	64	91	60	86	80	76	79	52
	0-4 years	22	19	24	41	28	46	36	36	33	0
	5+ years	11	11	17	20	13	14	17	21	25	0
	Unknown	2	3	1	2	2	0	3	0	0	40
	Subtotal	35	33	42	63	43	60	56	57	58	40
Females	0-4 years	4	7	13	17	12	12	10	9	11	0
	5+ years	1	9	9	7	4	14	12	10	9	0
	Unknown	0	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	1	12
	Subtotal	5	17	22	28	17	26	24	19	21	12
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	25	27	26	44	28	49	39	39	39	24
	Fall	15	23	38	47	32	37	41	37	40	28
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	13	17	9	21	18	22	17	11	15	10
	BaitHounds	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
	Hounds	3	2	4	4	1	1	10	4	3	3
	Incidental	12	16	19	16	15	20	17	21	15	8
	PredCall	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
	Still/Stalk	11	10	30	47	23	35	35	38	43	29

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

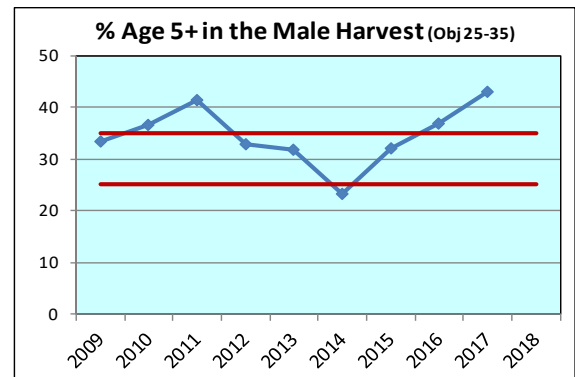
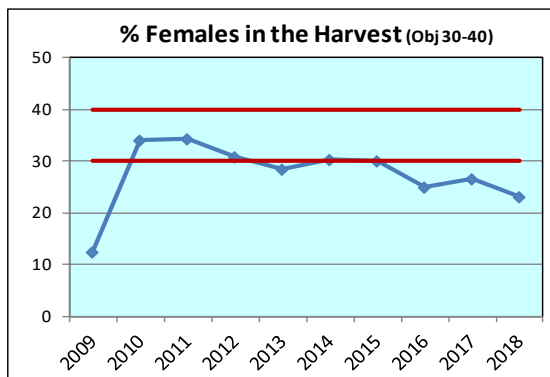
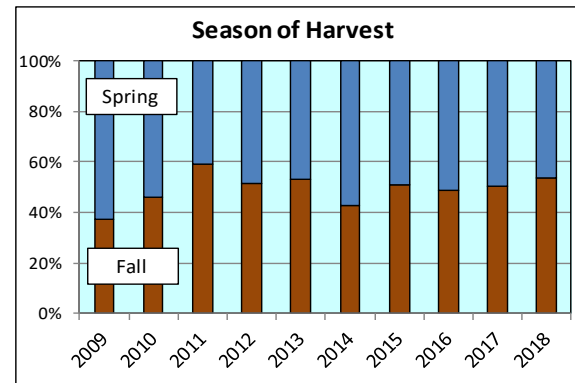
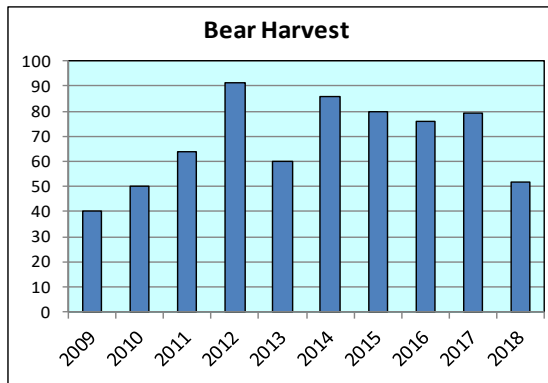


Figure 20. DAU4C Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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.

### **Management Objectives**

The 1999–2010 Black Bear Management Plan set management objectives for DAU 4D to maintain harvest levels consistent with “moderate” harvest targets of 25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30–40% females in the total harvest, calculated on a 3-year running average.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Current population monitoring consists of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

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.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

A total of 106 black bears were harvested from DAU 4D in 2017. Harvest has fluctuated from 50 to 116 in the last 10 years and is influenced by weather. The average annual harvest for the 2016–2018 seasons was 93 (Figure 21).

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

The 2016–2018 harvest was composed of 30% females, within the target of 30–40% females in the harvest. Analysis of age structure indicates a young male segment of the population, with 22% of the 2015–2017 male harvest reaching age class 5 or older (2018 age data is not currently available).

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

### **Predation Issues**

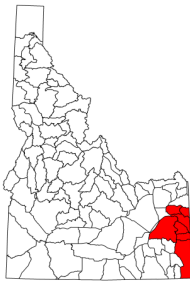
Predation by black bears is not a limiting factor for ungulate populations in this DAU.

### **Depredation Issues**

There were no depredations on domestic livestock reported in this DAU during 2018.

### **Management Discussion**

Management objectives in the 1999–2010 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  $\geq 5$  harvested during this reporting period indicate harvest levels fall within the recommended harvest levels.



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

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
4,449	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		2.1	NA
	Percent Females		30%	30-40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		22%	25-35%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	82	89	74	116	84	95	107	100	74	106
	0-4 years	37	42	23	49	41	38	56	51	40	0
	5+ years	21	17	16	14	8	18	16	13	12	0
	Unknown	0	3	5	3	2	2	3	3	2	75
	Subtotal	58	62	44	66	51	58	75	67	54	75
Males	0-4 years	17	13	17	24	16	22	16	18	15	0
	5+ years	6	12	12	24	16	14	15	14	5	0
	Unknown	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	31
	Subtotal	24	27	30	50	33	37	32	33	20	31
Females	0-4 years	17	13	17	24	16	22	16	18	15	0
	5+ years	6	12	12	24	16	14	15	14	5	0
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	35	27	16	50	38	62	63	50	44	68
	Fall	48	62	58	67	46	33	44	50	30	38
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	31	27	28	49	30	51	57	49	39	57
	BaitHounds	8	8	6	9	6	6	6	7	8	4
	Hounds	13	19	16	18	13	9	17	16	8	14
	Incidental	15	25	10	18	15	7	18	17	9	14
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	11	8	10	21	12	15	9	10	9	17

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

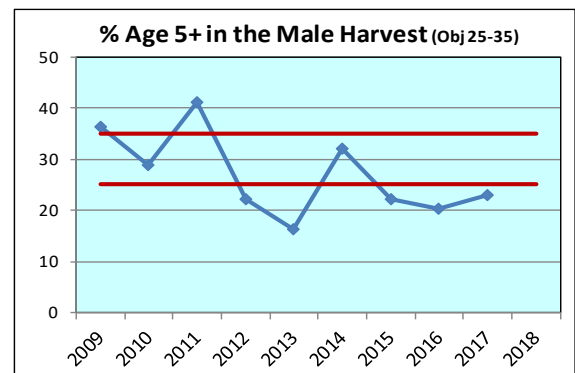
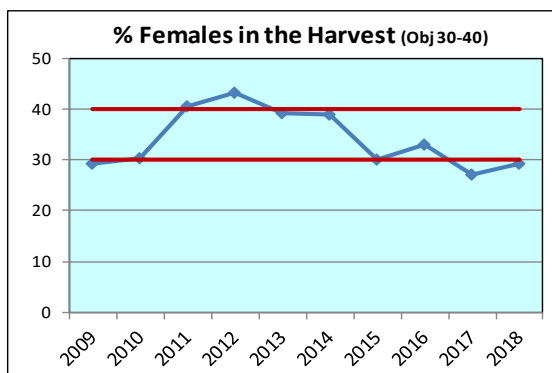
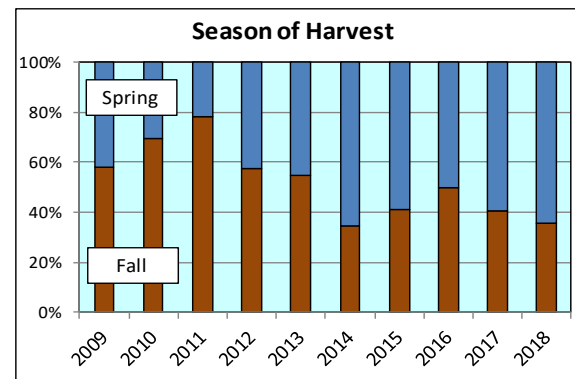
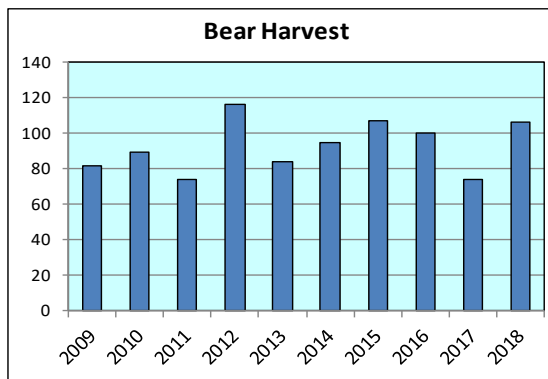


Figure 21. DAU4D Black Bear Status and Objectives

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

### **Historical Perspective**

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.

### **Management Objectives**

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 GMU in 2016.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry occurred in this DAU during the reporting period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and 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, 2016, 2017, or 2018 seasons.

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

### **Predation Issues**

There were no predation issues in this DAU during this reporting period.

### **Depredation Issues**

There were no depredations reported in this DAU during 2018.

### **Management Discussion**

The Department did not plan to offer an open season in DAU 5 during the 1999–2010 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 AND SOUTHWEST REGIONS**

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

#### **Historical Perspective**

DAU 11 is bordered by the Frank Church Wilderness on the north and includes part of the Sawtooth Wilderness in the south. Most of DAU 11 is administered by USFS (Boise National Forest and Sawtooth National Forest), with small amounts of private land in valley meadows. The area is dominated by high-elevation forest habitats with the exception of open valley bottoms in Stanley Basin in GMU 36. This area typically receives high snowfall and endures cold winter temperatures. Recreational use throughout the year is very popular. Black bear seasons run from 15 April to 30 June and 30 August to 31 October (Appendix A).

#### **Management Objectives**

Management Objectives for DAU 11 is to maintain a heavy harvest rate of <25% males  $\geq 5$  years old and >40% females in the harvest (Figure 22).

#### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

#### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

#### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Forty three black bears (30 males, 13 females) were harvested during the 2018 season (Figure 22). The 2018 bear harvest was right at the previous 3-year average (2016–2018; 43%). Most black bears harvested in this DAU were taken over bait, with 60% of bears harvested by this method in 2018. Other methods of take included hound hunting, still/stalk hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Seventy-eight percent of bear harvest in this DAU occurs in spring.

The current three-year average of female black bears in the harvest (2016–2018; 30%) is right at the prior ten year average (range = 17% to 43%). Female harvest on a three-year average basis has not met DAU objectives of >40% anytime during the past 10 years.

Age data for the 2018 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age from the most current analyzed years (2015–2017) indicated that 44% of harvested males were in the  $\geq 5$  year-old age class. This is above objective of <25% harvest of males in that age class. On average, 43% of male black bears in the harvest were 5+ years old during the past 10-years. Conversely, male black bears in surrounding GMUs in the 5+ year age range make up only 30% of the harvest.

## **Predation Issues**

Calf:cow and fawn:doe ratios were within normal parameters during herd composition counts in 2018. Black bear predation is likely not a population-limiting factor for ungulates in this planning area.

## **Depredation Issues**

There were no reported livestock depredations in the planning area during 2018. Chronic problems with bears getting into garbage in the same locations each year near Stanley were reported until 1994. At that time, the USFS provided bear-proof trash containers in some Stanley area campgrounds, which helped alleviate some problems. Bear problems in campgrounds near Stanley reached their peak in summer and fall of 2017, with 15 bear incidents related to human/bear conflicts. Several bears became aggressive and had to be removed, while others without aggressive behaviors were trapped and relocated. The risk to public safety prompted IDFG to work with USFS individuals to encourage permanent food storage containers at all campgrounds. In 2019, the Sawtooth National Forest accepted a rule requiring food to be contained in bear proof containers at designated campgrounds. Annual reports of nuisance black bears occur at Bull Trout Lake campground and around Lowman. In 2018, a problem bear at Bull Trout Lake campground prompted IDFG to trap and move the bear. Bears were also reported rummaging through garbage cans at the USFS complex in Lowman where bear proof canisters are not available.

## **Management Discussion**

The management objectives for this area is to maintain a heavy harvest rate ( $<25\%$  males  $\geq 5$  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)

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
1,871	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :		2.3	NA
	Percent Females		30%	>40%
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*		44%	<25%

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	30	46	37	51	48	42	42	46	39	43
	0-4 years	12	16	13	18	18	7	14	17	17	0
Males	5+ years	13	10	10	18	14	18	15	15	8	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	30
	Subtotal	25	26	23	38	33	28	31	33	27	30
Females	0-4 years	1	10	2	8	2	3	2	7	8	0
	5+ years	4	9	8	3	12	10	9	6	3	0
	Unknown	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	0	1	13
	Subtotal	5	20	14	13	15	14	11	13	12	13
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	23	36	25	46	41	33	38	38	28	33
	Fall	7	10	12	6	7	9	5	8	11	10
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	15	26	18	38	33	34	33	33	25	26
	BaitHounds	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hounds	1	5	3	4	6	0	3	6	1	5
	Incidental	0	5	6	3	3	5	3	3	6	5
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	12	6	8	6	6	2	4	3	7	7

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

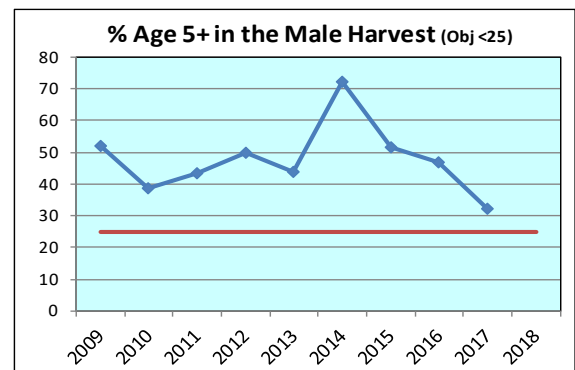
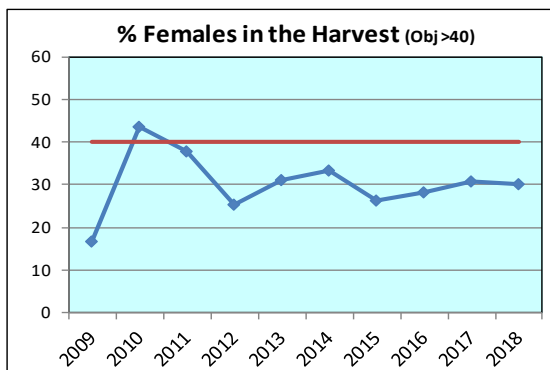
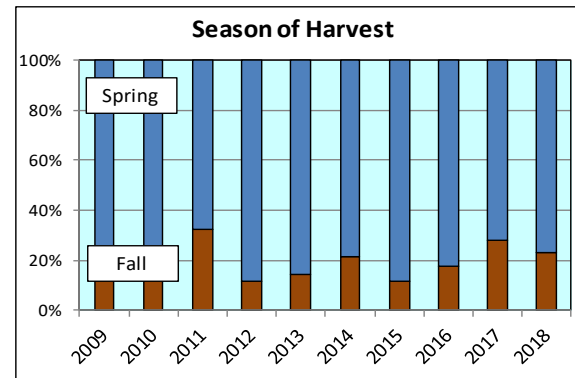
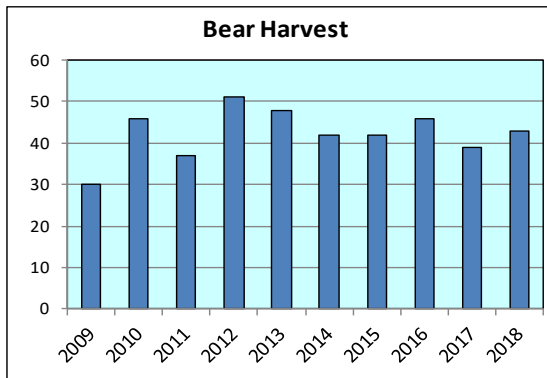


Figure 22. DAU 11 Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

### **Historical Perspective**

Land ownership in DAU 1J is 95% federally owned public and 5% private, with most private land occurring as agricultural and residential properties along valley bottoms. Approximately 11% falls within the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Elevations vary from 3,000 to 10,000 feet and include sagebrush grasslands, river breaks, mixed conifer forests, and sub-alpine habitats.

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 can vary considerably due to weather fluctuations that influence hunter access and food availability and distribution.

### **Management Objectives**

Management Objectives for DAU 1J are to maintain a moderate harvest rate of 25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30–40% females in the harvest (Figure 23).

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

One hundred three black bears (66 males, 37 females) were harvested in DAU 1J during the 2018 season (Figure 23). The 2018 harvest represented an 8% decrease from the previous three-year average harvest (2015–2017; 113). The current (2016-2018) three-year average harvest of 111 black bears represents a slight decline from the previous 3-year average, although harvest has exhibited an increasing trend over the prior 5 years with the exception of 2018..

Use of bait was the primary method of harvest for black bears in 2018 (61%). The remainder was taken either by the use of hounds, still hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Most bear harvest occurred during the spring season (76%).

Percent females in the harvest has exhibited a declining trend over the prior ten years but appears to have stabilized in the low thirties over the prior 4 years, with the current (2016-2018) 3-year female harvest averaging 32%. This harvest level remains within the DAU objective of 30–40% female harvest.

Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2015–2017) indicated that 40% of harvested males were in the  $\geq 5$  year-old age class. Harvest of male bears  $> 5$  years old

has exceeded the DAU objective on a three-year average basis (range = 38% [2012–2014, 2014–2016] – 50% [2009–2011]) over the prior 9 years of harvest data.

### **Predation Issues**

The IDFG Elk Management Plan 2014, indicates the Salmon Elk Zone, which is comprised of the same GMUs as the 1J DAU, is highly limited by predation, and black bears are known to be significant predators of elk calves. Likewise, black bears can limit mule deer populations through predation on fawns.

### **Depredation Issues**

Black bear depredation complaints in past years were primarily related to fruit trees along the Salmon River below North Fork. Since 1995 complaints have fluctuated widely from 0 to 23. Two complaints were received in 2018 related to property encroachment and fruit trees. There were no livestock reported killed by black bears in 2018.

### **Management Discussion**

Management Objectives for this area is to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old in the male harvest and 30–40% females in the total harvest). Three-year average female harvest has remained at the low end of the objective for the previous 4 years, which is due in part to the high proportion of bears (>60% over the prior 4 years) taken over bait which facilitates the selection for larger bears that tend to be comprised mostly of mature males. The current trend of relatively low female harvest combined 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)



2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
2,651	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	4.2	NA	
	Percent Females	32%	30-40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	40%	25-35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	92	101	84	81	89	101	107	110	121	103
	0-4 years	30	37	17	32	37	40	42	50	48	0
	5+ years	24	32	29	22	21	25	35	22	37	0
	Unknown	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	66
	Subtotal	55	71	48	54	59	66	77	74	87	66
Females	0-4 years	14	15	12	13	15	14	13	6	21	0
	5+ years	21	14	21	13	13	17	16	27	13	0
	Unknown	2	1	3	1	2	4	1	3	0	37
	Subtotal	37	30	36	27	30	35	30	36	34	37
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	72	68	64	64	60	71	83	90	90	78
	Fall	20	33	20	17	29	30	26	20	31	25
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	56	52	40	46	47	61	70	68	63	63
	BaitHounds	2	4	0	4	3	1	2	0	2	0
	Hounds	3	6	5	7	3	2	4	8	6	1
	Incidental	12	18	13	9	18	10	16	10	13	13
	PredCall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Still/Stalk	16	19	26	15	18	27	17	23	34	26

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

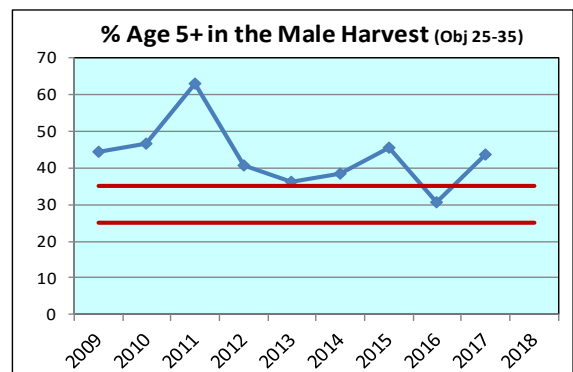
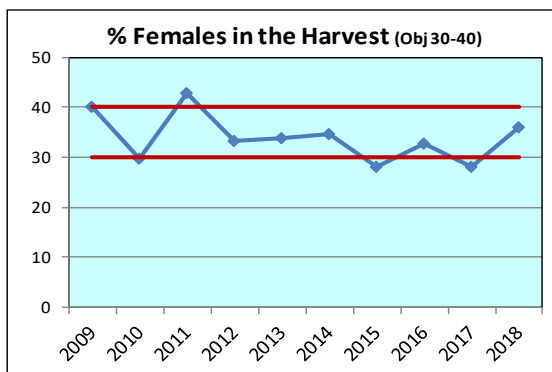
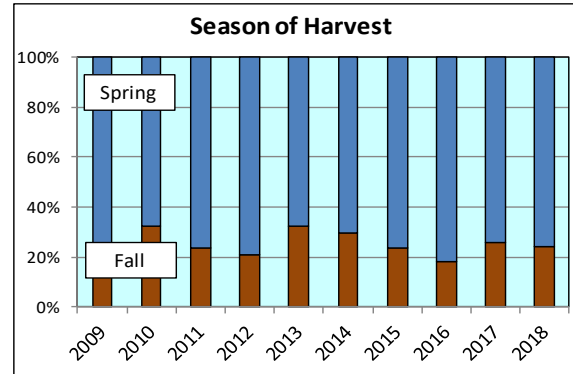
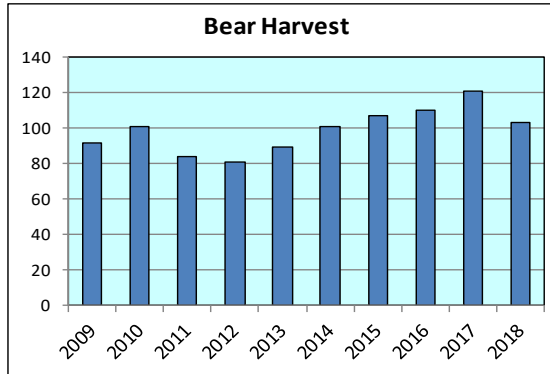


Figure 23. DAU 1J. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

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

### **Historical Perspective**

Land ownership in DAU 4E is 88% public and 11% private, with most private land occurring as agricultural and residential properties along valley bottoms. Approximately 9% falls within three Wilderness Areas in GMU 36A. 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).

### **Management Objectives**

Management Objectives for DAU 4E are to maintain a moderate harvest rate of 25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old and 30–40% females in the harvest.

### **Capture, Radio-mark, and/or Telemetry**

No black bear capture, marking or telemetry was conducted in this DAU during the report period.

### **Population Surveys and Monitoring**

Population monitoring consisted of monitoring trends in harvest demographics (sex and age obtained from tooth cementum analysis) via mandatory checks of all harvested bears.

### **Hunting and Harvest Characteristics**

Fifty six black bears (37 males, 19 females) were harvested in DAU 4E during the 2017 season (Figure 24). The 2018 harvest represented a slight decrease (5%) from the previous three-year average harvest (2015–2017; 59). The current three-year (2016–2018) average harvest of 55 black bears is consistent with a declining trend from the previous high of 75 bears (2009–2011), but has stabilized over the last 5 years (range = 55 [2012–2014, 2016–2018] – 60 [2013–2015]).

Use of bait was the primary method of harvest for black bears in the DAU (48%), with the remainder harvested with the use of hounds, still hunting, or incidental to other hunting. Most bear harvest occurred in spring (77%).

The current three-year average of female black bears in the harvest (2016–2018; 46%) has fluctuated very little (range = 43% [2010–2012] – 48% [2014–2016]) over the prior ten years of harvest data, and is currently exceeding the DAU objective of 30–40% females.

Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2015–2017) indicated that 40% of harvested males were in the  $\geq 5$  year-old age class. Harvest of male bears  $\geq 5$  years old has exceeded DAU objectives on a three-year average basis since the 2013 harvest season.

## **Predation Issues**

Predation limitation intensity is considered to be low for the 3 elk zones (Beaverhead, Lemhi, and Pioneer) that encompass black bear DAU 4E (IDFG 2014).

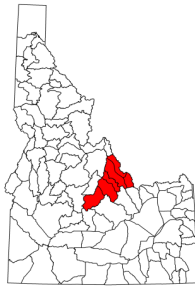
## **Depredation Issues**

Most black bear depredation complaints in this DAU have been related to fruit trees and beehive damage. Two complaints related to property encroachment and fruit trees were received in 2018. There were no livestock reported killed by black bears in 2018.

## **Management Discussion**

Management Objectives for this area are to maintain a moderate harvest rate (25–35% males  $\geq 5$  years old in the male harvest and 30–40% females in the total harvest). Female harvest has exceeded DAU objectives on an annual (with the exception of 2015 and 2018) and three-year average basis for the prior 10 harvest seasons. 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. Mean spring bear harvest declined from 49 (2008-2012) to 41 bears (2013–2018) after the season reduction, although female harvest declines have been modest. Female harvest has continued to exceed DAU objectives following the spring season length reduction on an annual (with the exception of 2015 and 2018) and three-year average basis, and may be indicative of heavy harvest. In contrast, the relatively high older ( $\geq 5$  year old) male bear component of the harvest is suggestive of light harvest rate. Future harvest will need to be monitored to assess trends in sex/age classes of black bears to determine whether female harvest is affecting overall harvest sustainability.





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

2018 Season (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)				
Square Miles:	3-Year Averages		Objective	
3,207	Harvest per 100 Mi <sup>2</sup> :	1.7	NA	
	Percent Females	46%	30-40%	
	Males: Percent 5+ Years*	40%	25-35%	

\* Within male harvest 2014-2016

Harvest Statistics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Harvest <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL	62	89	73	53	64	47	68	53	55	56
	0-4 years	18	42	21	13	23	6	25	10	18	0
	5+ years	14	5	18	16	13	14	15	10	10	0
	Unknown	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	37
	Subtotal	33	51	41	31	37	21	43	23	29	37
Females	0-4 years	11	18	15	11	11	10	4	18	9	0
	5+ years	16	19	15	9	13	15	19	11	17	0
	Unknown	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	0	19
	Subtotal	29	38	32	22	27	26	25	30	26	19
Season <sup>2</sup>	Spring	49	52	50	41	39	37	52	42	35	43
	Fall	13	37	24	12	25	10	16	11	20	13
Method <sup>3</sup>	Bait	37	39	31	25	30	20	35	25	23	26
	BaitHounds	5	2	5	6	6	7	7	6	1	7
	Hounds	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	7	13	6
	Incidental	7	23	12	5	12	3	9	4	8	4
	PredCall	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Still/Stalk	7	16	16	9	7	8	6	11	10	11

<sup>1</sup> Does not include unknown sex

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown sex

<sup>3</sup> Includes only methods reported

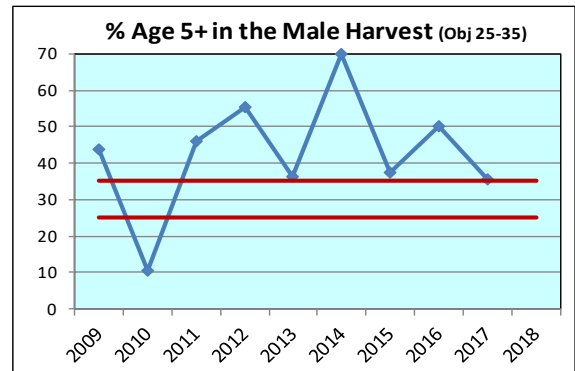
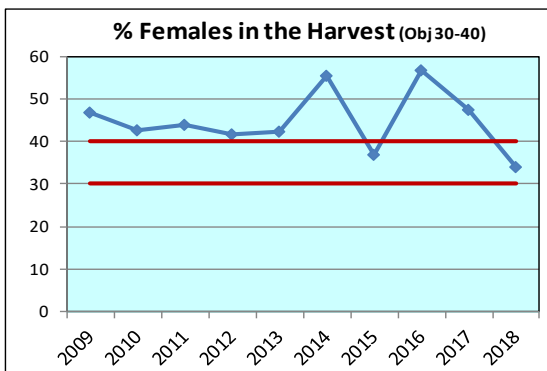
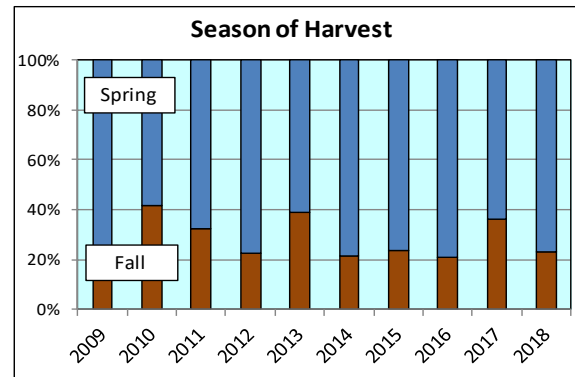
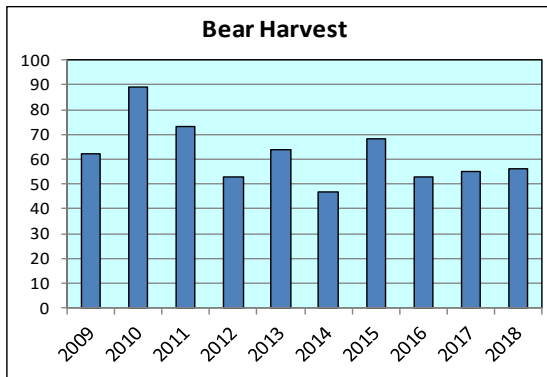


Figure 24. DAU 4E. Black Bear Status and Objectives.

**APPENDIX A**  
**IDAHO**  
**2018 SEASON**  
**BLACK BEAR RULES**

# Idaho Big Game

## 2017 and 2018 Seasons & Rules

2nd Edition, 2018

[Idfg.Idaho.gov](http://Idfg.Idaho.gov)



### **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 2017 - February 2018 & August 2018 - February 2019

Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2017 - June 2018 & August 2018 - June 2019

Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2017 - June 2018 & July 2018 - June 2019

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

## 2017 & 2018 FALL / 2018 & 2019 SPRING BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASONS



BEAR



### General Rules

**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.

**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.

**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. Staff members may not be able to check a frozen hide or skull.**

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.

### Controlled Hunts

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

### 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:**

- 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.

**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).

In all regions except the Panhandle and Clearwater regions, no bait site may be located within 200 yards from any maintained trail or any established roadway that is open to the general public for motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. In the Panhandle and Clearwater regions, no bait site may be located within 200 feet from any maintained trail or any established roadway that is open to the general public for motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles.

An established roadway is defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any government entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the tracks.

- No bait site may be located within one-half mile of any designated campground or picnic area, administrative site, or dwelling.

**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 site tag issued 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 at 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.

2017 & 2018 Fall / 2018 & 2019 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	Aug 30 - Sep 14 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>

2017 & 2018 Fall / 2018 & 2019 Spring Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
8	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
8A, 10A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	June 1 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
10, 12	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	<i>Second bear tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
11	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	None	
11A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
13	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	None	
14, 18	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - May 31	Oct 10 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - Apr 30	June 1 - July 31	
15	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - 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 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31	July 1 - July 31	
	Aug 30 - Nov 30 Apr 1 - June 30	Oct 10 - Nov 8	July 1 - July 31	<i>Only in designated wilderness portions of Units 21 &amp; 28, Second bear tag may be used and Electronic calls may be used.</i>
22, 31, 32, 32A	None		May 23 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited</i>
23, 25	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 7	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 8 - July 31	
24	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 7	Oct 5 - Oct 31	June 8 - July 31	
	June 8 - 15			<i>Portion of Unit 24 only. See note 1, Page 70</i>
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>

2017 & 2018 Fall / 2018 & 2019 Spring Black Bear Seasons (Females with young are protected!)				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Dog Training	Notes
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, 52	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 &amp; 52, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
50, 51, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 16 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 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 <b>only</b>	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited in Fremont County and east of Howard Creek in Clark County, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
62, 62A	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 30	Jan 1 - Dec 31	None	<i>Bait and dogs prohibited, Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered</i>
64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 76	Aug 30 - Oct 31 Apr 15 - June 15	Oct 1 - Oct 31	June 1 - July 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 66, 66A, 69 &amp; 76, See Pages 101 - 103 Caution: grizzly bears may be encountered in Units 64, 65, 66 &amp; 67</i>
75, 77, 78	None		June 1 - July 31	<i>Bait prohibited</i>

**Note:**

1. **Portion of Unit 24 only:** That portion of Unit 24 north of the following boundary: beginning on the western Unit 24 boundary at No Business Saddle on Forest Service Road 186, then east and south on Forest Service Road 186 to West Mountain Road, then south on West Mountain Road to Tamarack Falls Road, then east on Tamarack Falls Road to Norwood Road, then north on Norwood Road to West Roseberry Road, then east on West Roseberry Road to State Highway 55, then south on State Hwy 55 to Warm Lake Road, then east on Warm Lake Road to the Unit 24/25 boundary.

Submitted by:

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Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

  
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Martha Wackenhut, Asst. Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

  
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Toby Boudreau, 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.

