

ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

PROJECT NO. 17.0 Black Bear

PERIOD: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

PROJECT LOCATION: Region I

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes black bear survey and inventory activities. Activities are listed by game management unit.

TITLE

The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

Statewide

Activity 1: Prepare triennial black bear management reports based on the regional reports.

Accomplishments: The department is switching to a five-year schedule and is developing five-year operational plans and reports for survey and inventory activities for each species. During this transition period, three-year reports will not be written.

Activity 2: Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on black bear management.

Accomplishments: Information on black bear harvest and black bear management was provided to state and federal regulatory bodies as requested.

Region-wide:

Activity 1: Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on black bear management.

Accomplishments: Information on black bear harvest and management was provided to state and federal regulatory bodies as requested.

Activity 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Accomplishments: Regional management staff monitored black bear harvest primarily through

the sealing process, but also through conversations with hunters and guides and their own observations.

Activity 3: Collect data, determine sex, and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Accomplishments: Regional management staff recorded the full suite of data on all black bears submitted for sealing and including collecting a tooth for aging and determining sex from evidence attached to the hide.

Activity 4: Coordinate with community decision-makers on local bear issues.

Accomplishments: Regional management staff continued to work with local communities to address a variety of bear-related issues.

Activity 5: Reduce the number of nuisance bear problems and possible DLP kills resulting from improper refuse handling and disposal.

Accomplishments: Regional management staff continued to work with local communities, facility managers, and homeowners to educate people and resolve nuisance bear problems and minimize DLP killings. With the recent increase in homeowner's interest in keeping chickens, these activities now include advising people on how to keep chickens safe from bears, primarily through safe storage of feed and surrounding runs with electric fencing.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 1C

Activity 1: Capture one or two urban black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts towards better refuse management.

Accomplishments: No bears were collared during this report period. However, this is an ongoing effort, and we plan to collar additional bears.

Activity 2: Capture up to 2 bears at Gustavus as part of an educational and information gathering effort.

Accomplishments: No activity during this report period.

Activity 3: Work with USFS to capture and radio collar 1 black bear near the Mendenhall Lake Recreation Area as part of a study to learn more about how bears in this area use the available habitats.

Accomplishments: No bears were collared during this report period. However, this is an

ongoing effort, and we plan to collar additional bears.

Unit 2

Activity 1: Retrieve radio collars from black bears on Prince of Wales Island, investigate den sites, and radio track collared bears.

Accomplishments: The field portion of this study ended two years ago. During this report period the principle investigator, our Ketchikan Area Management Biologist, worked with the Research Coordinator, Management Coordinator, GIS analyst, and bear biologist to analyze data and produce a poster presented at the International Bear Symposium in Anchorage. The goal is to complete all reports during FY2018.

Unit 3

Activity 1: Monitor harvest of black bears by nonresident hunters on Kuiu Island.

Accomplishments: Kuiu Island black bear harvest by nonresident hunters was monitored through the drawing permit and sealing process.

Unit 5

Activity 1: Monitor the annual harvest of glacier colored black bears.

Accomplishments: Harvest of glacier phase black bears in Unit 5 was monitored by recording hide color on sealing forms.

Submitted by: Tom Schumacher, Management Coordinator

Date: September 2017

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

PROJECT NUMBER: 17.0

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT PERIOD: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes black bear survey and inventory activities. Activities are listed by game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region II**

Regionwide: Units 6, 7, 14C, and 15

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare information for 5-year regional black bear management operational plans.

Black bear management report was not due during the previous period. Staff collected information for future analysis and publication in new 5-year report and plan in 2019.

ACTIVITY 2: Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on black bear management.

Staff routinely interact with federal staff and discuss management of black bear relative to the respective regulatory systems.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

These are standard activities accomplished in each office. See area specific activities.

ACTIVITY 4: Collect harvest data, determine the sex from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

All bears taken in Region were presented to staff or appointed sealers for specimen collection and sealing. See area specific activities for additional information.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 6

ACTIVITY 1: Final data for 2014-2015 showed 122 harvested (73% males). For regulatory year 2015-16, the first year of registration hunt RL065, the preliminary total is 105 bears (76% males). For 2016-17, 170 bears were harvested (85% males).

ACTIVITY 2: In Unit 6D, collected teeth from approximately 137 black bears harvested to be sent to a laboratory for aging.

ACTIVITY 3: GPS collars were placed on black bears on two different islands in Prince William Sound as part of a collaborative project with USFS looking at Unit 6D black bear populations and movement.

Units 7 & 15

ACTIVITY 1: Preliminary data indicates that the 2016-2017 black bear harvest was 329 bears (230 males, 99 females). The 2015-2016 harvest was 137 males and 51 females for a total of 188. Harvest numbers are driven by take in Game Management Unit 15C.

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY 1: The preliminary 2016-2017 harvest was 17 males, 15 females for a total of 32. An additional 14 bears (7 males and 7 females) were taken by non-hunting related causes (6 by agency kill, 2 by natural mortality, and 6 defense of life or property).

ACTIVITY 2: Worked with local residents of Anchorage to reduce bear attractants within the municipality. Worked with local garbage collection agencies to provide bear-resistant tipper carts for garbage in areas where human-bear conflicts are common. Responded to multiple defense of life or property incidents and one black bear mauling.

Submitted by: Cynthia M. Wardlow, Management Coordinator

FEDERAL AID INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-20

PROJECT NUMBER: 17.0

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

PROJECT LOCATION: INTERIOR REGION (REGION III)

PROJECT DURATION: 1 July 2016-30 June 2017

REPORT DUE DATE: December 8, 2017

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Doreen Parker McNeill, Josh Peirce, Jon Barton, Tony Hollis, Bob Schmidt, Jeff Gross, and Jeff Wells

COOPERATORS: None

WORK LOCATION:

Briefly describe how Federal Aid funds were spent on each active job, listing the results achieved during this segment period. If a job was not accomplished as planned, explain briefly why.

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: Prepare five-year black bear management reports and operational plans.

OBJECTIVE 2: Monitor black bear harvest through field observations, sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters and analyze harvest data.

OBJECTIVE 3: Collect harvest information and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

OBJECTIVE 4: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

OBJECTIVE 5: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

OBJECTIVE 6: Provide black bear management information to state and federal regulatory processes.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD

Job/Activity 1: Harvest Data Analysis

Accomplishments

Monitored the harvest of black bears in Units 12, 19D, 20, and 25C through harvest reports, field observations, interviews with successful hunters and analyses of harvest report data during a 365-day season. Additionally, when bears were presented for sealing, harvest was monitored through information and data taken on 1) all black bears harvested in Unit 20B and 2) the black bears taken in Units 12, 19, 20A, 20C, 20D, 20F, 21, 24, and 25 by hunters who took their bear hides and skulls out of state.

Job/Activity 5: Assessment of Sex and Age Composition

Accomplishments:

Collected harvest data, including sex, from about 254 black bears harvested in Units 12, 19D, and 20 through harvest reports.

Premolar teeth for aging were collected from approximately 113 harvested black bears harvested in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

We obtained estimated ages of 155 black bears harvested during the previous report period in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25 by results of tooth sectioning and age analysis.

Job/Activity 8: Habituation from Garbage and Attractive Nuisances

Accomplishments:

Six area offices communicated and coordinated with local residents to reduce bear-human problems, improve understanding of defense of life or property (DLP) situations, and reduce need for DLP kills. Educated the public on bear awareness and safety, Use public education programs and/or increased communication with the public to improve understanding of hunting regulations and the value of conserving black bear populations, and to obtain better harvest data through increased harvest reporting. We also responded to 1 instance of human-black bear interactions and made recommendations.

Job/Activity 9: Questionnaires

Accomplishments:

We collected harvest data, including hunter effort, from about 254 black bears harvested in Units 12, 19D, and 20 through harvest reports.

Job/Activity 9: Write Management Reports

Accomplishments:

Compiled information and data in preparation for writing five 5-year Black Bear Management Reports and Operational Plans for Units 12, 19, and 20.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

As reported in the Region III project activities statement, we intended to provide black bear management information to state and federal regulatory processes. To that end, we communicated and coordinated with and attended meetings of 15 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee, the Alaska Board of Game, 2 Federal Regional Advisory Councils, the Federal Subsistence Board, numerous local village councils, Native corporations, and the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission to inform them about black bear management and to review and analyze biological implications of regulatory proposals for the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

IV. PUBLICATIONS (*List project-related publications prepared or published during this reporting period.*)

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT (optional)

Prepared by:

Doreen Parker McNeill
Management Coordinator

Date: December 6, 2017

ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

PROJECT NO. 17.0 Black Bear

PERIOD: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

PROJECT LOCATION: Region IV (Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17)

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Black bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes black bear survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Black bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region IV**

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

The triennial black bear reports were not due during this reporting period.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Bear harvests were monitored through the sealing program, where bear sealing is required, and through harvest ticket reporting in all other areas.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data and determine the sex of black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

	Males	Females	Unk.	Total
<i>Unit 9</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Unit 11:</i>	19	5	1	25
<i>Unit 13:</i>	116	45	1	162
<i>Unit 14A:</i>	27	10	0	37
<i>Unit 14B:</i>	19	8	0	27

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<i>Unit 16:</i>	148	80	6	234
<i>Unit 17:</i>	0	0	0	0

Submitted by: Todd A. Rinaldi, Region IV Management Coordinator

Date: 1 September 2017