

**BLACK BEAR  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** W-33-8

**PROJECT NO.** 17.0

**PERIOD:** July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Statewide (Regions I, II, and III)

**PROJECT TITLE:** Black Bear S&I

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**The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations**

**Region I:**

**Regionwide Activities**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial management report.

This report was not due during this period.

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

ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as Fish and Wildlife Protection Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed black bears harvested in the region. Area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends and collected biological samples whenever possible. Where appropriate, harvest was monitored to keep it within the guideline levels established by the Board.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data related to sex, age, body condition, and harvest location from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Black bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on every bear presented for sealing. Approximately 521 hunter killed black bears were sealed in Region I during the period.

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

In Juneau, biologists communicate almost daily with Arrow Refuse and the Juneau Police Department staff, as well as other municipalities such as Haines, Skagway, and Gustavus in identifying areas of bear activity and determining what types of structures are most effective in thwarting foraging bears. Biologists continue to work with the city-appointed bear committee to provide radio and TV news releases about urban bears and refuse management.

In Petersburg and Ketchikan, the area staff worked with the local police department and Department of Public Safety Troopers to coordinate responses to nuisance bear complaints within the community.

### **Activities by Unit:**

#### **Unit 1C:**

ACTIVITY 1: Reduce the number of nuisance bear problems and possible DLP kills resulting from improper refuse handling and disposal.

Biologists continue to work with the Juneau Police Department, Juneau city leaders, and the local refuse company to keep garbage unavailable to bears.

ACTIVITY 2: Capture one or two black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts towards better refuse management.

Biologists captured 2 black bears and fitted them with GPS radio collars during this report period. These bears are the focus of a cooperative black bear educational outreach program by ADF&G, USFS, and the city of Juneau. The goal of this program is to provide department staff, students and members of the community of Juneau with a better understanding of where, when, how and why bears use certain areas in the community. With a better understanding of these questions, we can learn things that can help us the community to minimize conflicts with black bears in this urban setting. Also, we hope this program will generate a greater appreciation of black bears that will prompt residents to accept greater responsibility in keeping bears from becoming human food conditioned.

ACTIVITY 3: Establish hair snare transects and conduct snaring operations in high density bear locations within the city and borough of Juneau.

No work was accomplished in this area.

#### **Unit 2:**

ACTIVITY 1: Collect genetic samples from Unit 2 black bears as part of a mark recapture effort using break away snares.

Tissue was collected from both snared bears as well as harvested bears. A total of samples yielded a unique identification of different bears.

#### **Unit 3:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.**

During the report period nonresident hunters harvested a total of Kuiu Island black bears, including 10 during fall 2009 and 47 during spring 2010.

**Submitted by:** Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

**Region II:**

**Regionwide:**

Activity: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

Collected and compiled data for report, but no report was due this year.

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

All bears harvested were sealed during this regulatory year.

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

	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
<i>Unit 6:</i>	404 (73%)	147 (27%)	0	551
<i>Unit 7 &amp; 15:</i>	411 (70%)	180 (30%)	2 (<1%)	591
<i>Unit 11:</i>	15 (56%)	12 (44%)	0	27
<i>Unit 13:</i>	89 (65%)	47 (35%)	0	136
<i>Unit 14</i>	97(64%)	54(36%)	0	151
<i>Unit 16</i>	269(69%)	118(30%)	1(<1%)	388
<i>Unit 17</i>	1(20%)	4(80%)	0	5

Activity: Evaluate the new harvest ticket reporting system.

Issuing harvest tickets for black bear provides some important information about the amount of hunting effort.

**Activities by Unit:**

**Unit 6D:**

Activity: Extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected teeth from approximately 250 black bears harvested. From these we will randomly select a sample of 30% for aging.

**Unit 14:**

Activity: Work with local home and recreational cabin owners and other agencies to reduce bear attractants and defense of life or property kills (DLP).

Worked with local home and recreational cabin owners and other agencies to reduce bear attractants.

## **Region II: GMU 17**

### **Regionwide:**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

*Unit 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17:* Triennial black bear management report not scheduled for this year.

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

*Unit 17:* Hunters reported taking 5 bears.

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

*Unit 17:* Collected data and determined the sex of five black bears presented for sealing by hunters. The breakdown was one male and four females.

**Submitted by: Mark Burch**

**Date:** September 8, 2010

## **Region III:**

### **Regionwide Activities:**

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor black bear harvest through field observations, sealing reports, community harvest reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyze harvest data.

Monitored preliminary harvest of 325 black bears through field observations, sealing reports, community harvest reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect harvest information and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected preliminary data, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from 223 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

ACTIVITY 3: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Obtained estimates of ages from approximately 223 black bears.

**ACTIVITY 4: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.**

Monitored and analyzed preliminary distribution of permits for 128 bait stations.

**ACTIVITY 5: Provide black bear management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.**

Provided information to 11 state advisory committees, 2 federal regional councils, and the state Board of Game concerning black bear management.

**Activities by Unit:**

**Unit 20A:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Determine the size and distribution of the black population in the Tanana Flats Training Area in north-central GMU 20A.**

Completed a DNA mark recapture estimate to determine the size and distribution of the black bear population in the north-central Tanana Flats in GMU 20A (research funding, no bears captured).

**Unit 25D:**

**ACTIVITY 1: Capture approximately 15 black bears to deploy radiocollars and maintain an adequate sample size of collared animals for surveys.**

Captured 20 black bears to deploy radiocollars, with no capture mortalities.

**Submitted by:** Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator