

**BLACK BEAR
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR: W-33-3

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NR: 17.0

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Regions 1, 2, and 3

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

PERIOD: 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2005

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the three regions involved in black bear survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

**The Status of Black Bear
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Prepare triennial report on black bear management.

Black bear management reports were written and submitted for each unit and subunit within the region. These reports provided updated harvest and management information through the spring 2004 hunt.

Activity: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

The Board of Game met in Juneau during November 2004. Staff prepared background material on black bear management within each unit where this species occurs and provided recommendations to the board for one proposal from the public to change harvest regulations.

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

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: Collect data, determine sex, and extract a tooth for aging 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. At least 813 black bears were presented for sealing in Region I during the period, including a minimum of 4 that were the result of road kills or other DLP circumstances.

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

Area biologists spent considerable time working with municipal leaders in towns like Juneau, Craig, Hyder, and Kake regarding black bears in their communities. In Juneau, the area staff spent significant time working with a city-appointed committee to address urban bear problems.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1C

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

Ongoing efforts by ADF&G biologists working with city officials and “bear committee” members resulted in metal lids becoming mandatory on all dumpsters within the city limits. These efforts resulted in immediate rewards as bears were no longer able to gain access into dumpsters. Further efforts are underway to encourage people to use tipper carts that have proven to be bear resistant as replacements to the standard 32 gallon trash cans.

Activity: Capture 1–2 black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts towards better refuse management.

A female black bear was captured and fitted with a GPS collar in September 2004 and relocated to a remote site. The bear subsequently returned to the urban area and ADF&G biologists were able to get a location via satellite every 15 minutes for the subsequent 2 months. This information gives us further insight into the movements of black bears within the city of Juneau.

Unit 3

Activity: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

During the report period nonresident hunters harvested a total of 102 Kuiu Island black bears, including 31 during fall 2004 and 71 during spring 2005.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$36.2

Submitted by: Dale L. Rabe – Region I Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Provide information to the Board of Game on black bear management.

Specific reports were provided the Board of Game at its March 2005 in response to proposals to change the season and/or bag limit on black bears. In preparation for the board meeting, overviews of black bear management were provided for all Region II units in which black bears are found.

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

See individual unit reports below.

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

Data was collected from bears presented for sealing by hunters in Units 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Activities by Unit

Unit 6

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

Males 291 Females 52 (15%) Total 345 (including 2 unknown sex)

We conducted surveys with 60 hunters from Unit 6D, including successful and unsuccessful hunters. Harvest rate was 0.4 bears per hunter.

Units 11 and 13

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

GMU 13	Males 95 (71%)	Females 39 (29%)	Total 134
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GMU 11	Males 7 (70%)	Females 3 (30%)	Total 10
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Units 7 and 15

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

Males 209	Females 68	Unknown 2	Total 279
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Unit 14

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

14A	Males–59	Females–33	Unknown–0	Total–92
14B	Males–24	Females–5	Unknown–0	Total–29
14C	Males–27	Females–11	Unknown–0	Total–38
Unit 14 Total:				
	Males–110	Females–49	Unknown–0	Total–159

Unit 16

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

16A	Males–48	Females–23	Unknown–0	Total–71
16B	Males–74	Females–27	Unknown–0	Total–101
Unit 16 Total:				
	Males–122	Females–50	Unknown–0	Total–172

Unit 17

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

The preliminary 2004–05 harvest was:

Males–13	Females–8	Total–21
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Stewardship Investment items purchased: None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$48.9

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate, Regional Management Coordinator

The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Prepare regional triennial black bear management reports.

Prepared triennial black bear management reports for Units 12, 19D, and 20.

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

Monitored harvest of 303 black bears through field observation, sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed this data.

Activity: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored and analyzed distribution of 126 bait stations.

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

Collected data, determined sex, and extracted a tooth for aging from 303 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Activity: Provide information to advisory committees and the Board of Game on black bear management.

Provided information to advisory committees throughout the Interior concerning black bear management; did not provide information to the Board of Game because no regulatory issues were considered by the board.

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$24.5

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$27.4

Federal share = \$82.2

Total costs = \$109.6